IMMENSE WASTE IN TIMBER LANDS

R. L. Drury Scored Government's Criminal Negligence---Joint Meeting at Oak Bay Schoolhouse.

(From Friday's Daily.

The combination meeting of the electors of Saanich and the city, held at Oak Bay schoolhouse last evening, was a good one. While the attendance in numbers was not great, yet it was representative and comprised a large number of the voters of Saanich, residing in that district. There were five speakers in all—R. L. Drury, John Piercy, Richard Hall, J. D. McNiven and W. G. Cameron, and they were followed with the closest of interest.

Shortly after eight the meeting was called to order, and J. Macdonald nominated chairman. He first called on R. L. Drury.

R. L. DRURY.

Mr. Drury, in beginning his address, stated that he would avoid the beaten ground and would refer to a subject which, while it had not been given much attention during the present campaign, was, in his opinion, one of the most important issues, and fraught with the most momentous gravity to the province of any subject connected with provincial affairs.

He referred to that question to which J. A. Macdonald, the Liberal leader, has devoted the third plank in the brief platform, telegraphed to the Times. This was the question of adequate protection of forests.

Not a Party Question.

The question should never have been a party question. Fraught as it was with more real concern to the present and future welfare of the province than perhaps any other issue, Liberals and Conservatives should have united upon it. The question had been made a party one, through the apathy and neglect of the McBride government. It was only when the McBride government had positively refused to take any action in the matter, that Mr. Macdonald had made it a plank in his platform.

Premier McBride could have done no greater service to the country than in inaugurating an efficient system of protection for this, the greatest tangible asset of the province. The speaker had given the subject special attention, and had collected much reliable data upon the subject which he had privately given the minister of lands and works. He had not made capital of the matter on the floor of the House, but had privately drawn the attention of the minister to it.

At the recent forestry convention he had heard it stated without contradiction that there was more timber destroyed by fire in British Columbia than cut by mills. The data furnished the minister referred only to Vancouver Island, and had been given in tabulated form. It dealt with the location of the areas, their extent and the value of the timber annually destroyed by fire. The latter amounted to over $500,000 a year. The province has lost as revenue alone from the prospective royalties on this destroyed timber more than enough to pay for the protection of the timber.

As he had stated, the minister refused to act. He stated that the province had already a satute forbidding setting fire to timber.

When later the speaker had brought up the question on the floor of the House and had sought to have the minister include a substantial sum in his estimates for providing fire rangers, the minister had stated that the province could not afford it.

In Ontario they have an adequate system of forest rangers. In our own 40-mile timber belt, the Dominion government has rangers throughout the summer. There is scarcely any loss there during that time.

"I pointed this out to the government, yet was constantly refused," said Mr. Drury. "The government showed the most callous indifference on this question. They cannot say they were not warned. They were. Usually prolific in promises, they refused even to make any in this connection.

"Then, gentlemen, I think Mr. Macdonald has shown an appreciation of the situation and a grasp of affairs that entitles him to your support. He has made this question a plank in his platform.

Timber Speculators.

"Another matter in which the government has been negligent, criminally negligent, is in that they have not preserved our timber reserves from the speculators.

"I tell you, gentlemen," said the speaker, "there has been the greatest carnival of prodigality in this that any community has ever known. There is, there can be no contradiction of this statement. Nor do I make it unsupported by evidence. I have here the records of vthe House which prove it."

The whole system, continued the speaker, is wrong. In calling for a return on the subject at a recent session he had asked what steps he had taken to ascertain the value of the timber disposed of. He had known of valuable timber lands on this island sold for a mere song, which subsequently had been disposed of for thousands of dollars. Yet the man in office took no steps to find out the value of the limits that remain.

Surely it is time to take stock of our assets. What would one think of a merchant who permitted a customer to go in to his shelves and select an article and pay for it, when that merchant did not know the value of that article. This is not an exaggerated illustration.

Some Illustrations.

Mr. Drury referred to the records of the lands and works department—5,200 acres of timber land had been sold for $100. He had known of one case where 4,250 acres of timber land had been sold by the grantee for $60,000, a clear profit to him of over $55,000.

British Columbia should have the same system as Ontario. True, surveyors are first sent out to block out the land. Reliable timber cruisers then go through and gauge the value of the timber. Thus when an application for a grant is made the government is well posted as the prospective buyer.

Other instances of grants made by the government since 1903 were: 25,800 acres sold for $500; 10,000 acres sold for $200; 5,200 acres sold for $100; 1,200 acres sold for $61.

The speaker knew of cases where men were negotiating for timber land grants upon which they would only have to pay 22 cents per acre, were already refusing offers of $3 per acre, and expected to get $5.

From 1903 to February 1905, in all 109,200 acres of timber land were sold for $11,360, or about 10 cents an acre. (Cries of shame).

The speaker alluded with pride to the stand taken by Mr. Macdonald on this question. In addition to urging an adequate system of forest protection, he advocated thorough surveys of crown lands.

The same condition of affairs existed in connection with the farming lands of the country.

If the provincial treasury had received half or quarter of the money made by speculators in this way, the province would not have to send around men to collect the head tax. The tangible assets of our province in the way of forests can be taken stock of. They are there to enhance the resources of the province and to alleviate the tax upon our people. Elect the Liberal government and you will secure this. (Applause.)

The McNiven Ballot.

Mr. Drury then referred at some length to the reform in the kind of ballot used, brought about by the Liberal opposition and particularly J. D. McNiven. The attorney-general had at first refused to make any change, despite the fact that the ballot was a poor one and was responsible in its make up for many being spoiled. The famous Fernie election case hinged upon this, and the speaker sketched the history of that cause celebre.

Mr. McNiven, Liberal member for Victoria, introduced a new form of ballot. The attorney-general said it could not be printed. Mr. McNiven had a plate made and proved conclusively that it was possible. Sample copies of the ballot were distributed, and the result was the new device for which the country could thank Mr. MrNiven, was adopted.

In concluding Mr. Drury referred to John Piercy, the Liberal candidate in Saanich, and congratulated the Liberals of Saanich upon their future representative.

JOHN PIERCY.

The next speaker was John Piercy, the candidate for Saanich. He assured his hearers that if elected he would give them no reason to be ashamed of him. He had large interests in Saanich and his interests were their's. If elected he would do his best to further the interests of the constituency and the province at large. He had no axe to grind. His business was successful and if elected he would go to the House unhampered by any interests other than those of the community at large. Mr. Eberts is making all manner of promises to the people at large. He himself was not making promises. He said "If you elect me I will go into the matter carefully, and if I consider it advisable in the interests of the community at large, I will support it."

"In another portion of my constituency in Saanich the people are unanimous in saying they do not want a lawyer, but one of themselves to represent them," he said. He was convinced the feeling here was the same.

His action would be more to the effect than his words were, when he was elected, as he was confident he would be.

RICHARD HALL.

The next speaker was Mr. Hall. In opening, he paid a tribute to Mr. Piercy, who was the representative the people of Saanich required. He was one of themselves and he knew what they required. The country had not been deceived by the Conservatives' statement that they had brought prosperity to the country. The Liberal government at Ottawa was responsible for this prosperity, and the country was well aware of this. It was for this reason that they had returned recently several Liberal members to Ottawa.

There was about to be a landslide on the Mainland. The Liberals would win in Kaslo, Similkameen, Ymir, New Westminster, three seats in Vancouver, one in Esquimalt, and in many other places.

People ask why we should have a change, in view of the fact that the country is prosperous. He defied the Conservatives to specify one act of the McBride government which had contributed to this. The government had borrowed $1,000,000, yet they had failed to even keep the province's public works in repair. They were saving the money in order to show a big surplus.

They, on coming into power, had said the province was bankrupt. They got settled, gave way to the bankers and paid 5 per cent. for money when Victoria and other municipalities were getting it for 3½ per cent. or 4 per cent.

The present government was like a man starting out to trade with a herd of cattle and coming back with a bag of potatoes.

Better Terms.

Take the question of "the fight for better terms." Whom were they fighting? Not Sir Wilfrid Laurier assuredly, for he had conceded the province's right to better terms.

Mr. Hall reviewed the series of events which had taken place at Ottawa. He deduced from the Premier's attitude that he had gone to Ottawa not to seek better terms, but an election cry.

It had been stated that the province paid $20,000,000 into the Dominion treasury and received in return not a tithe of that.

They forgot the fact that to-day there are larger sums devoted to public works in British Columbia by the Dominion government than ever before. In connection with the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific there will be more than $20,000,000 spent in this province.

The Premier had stood aghast at the additional expenditure the coming of that railway and the opening up of new lands would entail upon the province. He himself thought it meant a positive gain in revenue. Take the increase in the sale of lands, the taxation immediately accruing on the lands alienated and the revenue from the mining and timber lands opened up.

He concluded by expressing his confidence that the Liberal party would be returned.

J. D. M'NIVEN.

Mr. McNiven was the next speaker. He was sure Mr. Piercy was the right man to represent the constituency. He referred to Mr. Eberts' connection with the Columbia & Western land scandal. He was sure the electors would snow Mr. Eberts so deep he wouldn't recover for some time.

Mr. McBride's record would not stand much looking into. Mr. McBride would promise anything. Fulfilment was a different thing. With him he had associated men who had done wrong.

He referred to the administration of the department of lands and works and to Mr. Green's resignation, and asked if it did not appear as if there was something rotten in his record, or he would meet the people and justify it.

The government could not make Mr. Green their scapegoat. Even now there had been another scandal unearthed. It was unnecessary, even unfair, to refer to that at present, but the country was prepared to believe anything of that department of lands and works.

The Liberals were as anxious to secure better terms as the Conservatives. Had Mr. Macdonald gone to Ottawa, British Columbia would have had better terms. Mr. McBride went to Ottawa to secure an election cry. Three years ago Mr. McBride had threatened Sir Wilfrid to make better terms an election cry. This showed Mr. McBride's attitude—his antagonistic attitude—to the Dominion government on the matter.

Richard McBride said there were more railways being built than at any time since the completion of the C. P. R. Mr. McBride could not claim credit for one mile of this. It had been built by the efforts of the Dominion government.

One sample of McBride's railway policy was the Midway & Vernon, when Mr. Tatlow in Montreal had blocked its construction because it competed with the C. P. R.

There had been no change in the mining laws. It was well that he did not. He had let it alone, and with all the industry let alone by the provincial government it had done well.

If the people had had no government at all it would be better off than it was today. Take the timber legislation. Timber to-day is dearer than ever. The timber is in the hands of the speculators. The poor man could not cut timber. The hand-logger's license is virtually gone. He is limited to a jack screw where formerly he had a donkey engine.

Mr. McNiven also referred to the school law, where the government by pernicious economy had marred the efficiency of the provincial schools. This was one of the reasons why Mr. Tatlow had a surplus. There were 200 permits issued to unqualified teachers as a result of the government's school policy.

The tax law was also referred to by Mr. McNiven and its enormities pointed out.

"It is time that we had a change," he said. "We are going to have a change. British Columbia is tired of the McBride government and the clique which it carries with it."

He trusted the electors of Saanich would work for the return of Mr. Piercy. He trusted the electors of the city would vote the solid Liberal ticket.

W. G. CAMERON.

The next speaker was W. G. Cameron. The fact that it was possible for the two neighboring constituencies to hold a joint meeting showed the good spirit existing amongst the Liberals. The country had to choose between stagnation and advancement. To achieve the latter the Liberals must be elected.

He urged them to see that everybody should vote. He pointed out the necessity for this.

The people realized that it was time for a change. There was going to be a landslide. The people understood the situation and realized the government's faulty administration.

He cited one case. The Premier had come to Victoria to run, and yet was standing for another municipality. He agreed to consolidate the taxes of Dewdney and to lend it $16,000 at 3½ per cent. while he was paying 5 per cent. for the money he had borrowed. This was not business.

With an appeal for their support, Mr. Cameron concluded.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman and with cheers for the candidates.

On most of the desert islands the governments of the world have put a store of food, clothes and tools for the use of shipwrecked sailors. There are tinned soups, dried meat, rice, flour, and sugar, dried peas, beans, tobacco, knives, nails, matches, shovels, buckets, hatchets—all a shipwrecked mariner could need.

HE HATH NOT "PROVED" IT.

McBride:—"As a forger of weapons, Tatty, you are 'the worst ever.' That weapon of Macdonald's will hack this to pieces."

J. W. DeB. FARRIS,
Liberal Canadidate in Vancouver.

ADMISSIONS BY THE PREMIER

DUNCAN ROSS SCORED AT OKANAGAN MEETING

Vain Endeavor to Offset the Work of the Liberal Leader, J. A. Macdonald.

Vernon, Jan. 24.—As the campaign in Okanagan proceeds, the supporters of the McBride government are becoming desperate in their attempts to regain the lost ground.

Their attempts are too dishonest on the face of them to do much harm except to themselves. As a sample of the stories being industriously circulated by Price Ellison and Premier McBride by back door methods is one that the Liberals are pledged to create separate schools.

Premier McBride has been called back to Okanagan in a vain endeavor to save the day and offset the grand work of J. A. Macdonald, the Liberal leader. Duncan Ross met the premier and was given but half an hour. He scored the government heavily showing among other things conclusively that the McBride government was the tool of the C. P. R., the allies of revolutionary Socialists and the "knockers" of the Midway and Vernon. Mr. Ross received a splendid reception, and was greeted with three times the applause the premier was received. The premier in following spoke for about two hours. He was very tame seemingly realizing that the defeat of his government was certain. However, he made a dogged fight like a man determined to die game. He completely changed his ground on several matters given at his last meeting here. He did not deny that the C. P. R. owes several hundred thousand dollars in taxes, but said he had not had time to look fully into the question, but would do so.

This caused a very loud smile. He dared not deny the charge that he had endeavored to give the C. P. R. sixteen hundred thousand dollars for the Nicola road, and he did not this time have a word of praise for poor Green. His better terms as a case against the Ottawa government was a complete failure.

The Liberal candidate in spite of the fact that a most corrupt and unscrupulous fight is being put up against him will capture Okanagan with a handsome majority. Mr. McBride speaks in Vernon to-night.

—Canadian-Australian liner Moana has left Vancouver for Union to take on bunker coal. She is not expected back until the beginning of next week, when she will discharge 600 tons of raw sugar which she brought from Fiji on her last voyage.

CANDIDATES NOMINATED

Constituency.	Liberal.	Conservative.	Independent.
Alberni	H. Brewster	W. Manson	James Cariwright (S.)
Atlin	Capt. John Irving	Dr. Young	
Cariboo	H. Jones	C. Wilson	
		L. F. J. Champion	
Columbia	W. C. Wells	G. H. Parsons	
Cowichan	J. N. Evans	W. H. Hayward	
Comox	J. B. Bennett	Robert Grant	
Cranbrook	Dr. J. H. King	J. A. Harvey	Thos. E. Kelley (S.)
Chilliwack	C. W. Munro	S. A. Cawley	
Delta	John Oliver	Frank J. Mackenzie	
Dewdney	R. Jardine	Hon. R. McBride	
Esquimalt	John Jardine	C. E. Pooley	
Fernie	Wm. Dicken	W. R. Ross	W. H. Moore (Soc.)
Grand Forks	Herbert W. Gregory	E. Miller	John McInnes (S.)
Greenwood	G. R. Naden	E. G. Warren	
Islands	T. W. Paterson	A. E. McPhillips	W. J. Ledingham (S.)
Kamloops	J. D. Swanson	Hon. F. J. Fulton	
Kaslo	John Keen	Neil MacKay	
Lillooet	M. Eagleson	A. McDonald	
Nanaimo		Dr. R. F. B. O'Brien	J. Hawthornthwaite (S.
			H. Shepherd (Ind. Lab.)
Newcastle		J. B. Cairns	Parker Williams (S.)
			D. Thomas (Ind. Lab.)
New Westminster	F. W. Howay	Thos. Gifford	J. S. Rainey (Soc.)
Nelson	Dr. G. A. B. Hall	John A. Kirkpatrick	Frank Phillips (S.)
Okanagan	Dr. K. C. McDonald	Price Ellison	F. W. Logie (Soc.)
Revelstoke	R. Cayley	T. Taylor	W. W. Lefeaux.
Richmond	J. W. Weart	F. Carter-Cotton	
Rossland	J. A. Macdonald	L. A. Campbell	A. Berry (Soc.)
Saanich	J. Piercy	D. M. Eberts	
Similkameen	Smith Curtis	L. W. Shatford	F. Winkler (Soc.)
Skeena	Dr. Kergin	W. R. Lord	
Slocan	A. S. Dockstader	William Hunter	
Vancouver	T. W. B. McInnes	Hon. R. G. Tatlow	E. T. Kingsley (S.)
	Alex. Henderson	A. H. B. Macgowan	A. R. Stebbings (S.)
	R. F. McLennan	J. F. Garden	R. F. Pettipiece (S.)
	T. F. Neelands	W. J. Bowser	J. H. McVety (S.)
	J. W. DeB. Farris	Dr. G. A. McGuire	J. E. Dubberley (S.)
			F. Williams (Lab.)
			A. E. Perry (Lab.)
Victoria	R. L. Drury	Hon. R. McBride	Dr. E. Hall (Labor).
	Rich. Hall	H. B. Thomson	A. Johnson (Labor).
	W. G. Cameron	H. F. W. Behnsen	W. H. Marcon (Lab.)
	J. D. McNiven	Fred. Davey	J. Watters (Soc.)
Yale	Stuart Henderson	C. A. Semlin	
Ymir	J. Fred. Hume	J. H. Schofield	J. Houston (Ind.)

ANOTHER TYPICAL TORY ROORBACK

The Colonist this morning charges that resolutions had been passed in Dawson by the Yukon Territorial Liberal Association and the Young Men's Liberal Club demanding that Sir Wilfrid Laurier recall Mr. McInnes; that Sir Wilfrid had promised an investigation and that the return of Mr. McInnes to Ottawa was the result.

Mr. McInnes wires the Times from Vancouver to-day:

Have not seen Colonist story. It probably refers to a document sent to Ottawa by two disgruntled reprobates whom my business administration did not please. The Liberal Associations of Dawson as soon as made aware of the personal attack repudiated the same and expressed the highest confidence in me and took steps to expel the authors.

I will deal with the matter at the public meeting here to-night.

W. W. B. M'INNES.

A special dispatch to the Times from Ottawa to-day says: Last July two men forwarded to the premier, in the name of the Yukon Liberal Association, complaints against the administration of Commissioner McInnes. This was promptly repudiated by the association, who sent to Sir Wilfrid Laurier a resolution to that effect, unanimously passed by them.

The resolution was that "McInnes has during his tenure of office endeavored to conscientiously and to the best of his ability conduct the affairs of the territory in an honest and business-like manner, and that it is the opinion of this association that Mr. McInnes has created new confidence of the people in the administration of affairs, and he has in this regard taken the people of the territory into his confidence in a manner quite new to the administration of affairs in this territory."

The men who sent the false charges to Sir Wilfrid Laurier were vigorously condemned by the association, before which neither appeared to defend their action.

Commissioner McInnes' administration of the Yukon has won for him golden opinions at Ottawa.

FRUIT GROWERS.

Annual Meeting of Association at Nelson—Election of Officers.

At the annual general meeting of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association at Nelson there was a large attendance of delegates from the Coast and outside points. The reports presented show the association to be in excellent shape, financially and otherwise, and much good work will be accomplished this season. In addition to the reading of several important papers on fruit growing subjects, much routine business was transacted.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, James Johnston; vice-presidents, J. Ritchie, J. C. Metcalfe and T. A. Brydon; secretary, R. W. Brandrith; executive, R. M. Palmer, J. Johnstone, S. Bartholomew, H. Kipp, W. J. Brandrith.

It was resolved that the April quarterly meeting at Kaslo, and the October meeting at New Westminster.

LABOR CONFERENCE OPPOSES SOCIALISM

Belfast, Jan. 25.—The labor conference has overwhelmingly rejected the proposal to transform the party into an avowed Socialistic organization.

The opponents' proposition declared that it would create irreparable dessension, as the trade unionists were opposed to pledging themselves to Socialism.

CONCERT AT DUNCANS.

Choir of St. Andrew's Spent Enjoyable Evening and Were Entertained at Supper.

The concert given at Duncans last Wednesday by the choir of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church was an unqualified success. The opera house was well filled and every number was received in a manner most gratifying to the artists taking part.

Among the numbers receiving the most enthusiastic applause were Mrs. Staneland's solo, a vocal duet by Mrs. Staneland and Miss Bishop, a violin solo by Miss Brooker, a violin duet by Miss Brooker and Miss Greenhaigh, a vocal solo by Mr. Richardson, and Mr. Taylor's inimitable Scotch songs.

After the concert the choir and orchestra enjoyed a supper at the hotel during which Mr. Staneland, on behalf of the choir, extended to Mr. Longfield their hearty appreciation of the work he has done in arranging and directing the series of concerts given by the choir during the winter. Mr. Longfield replied in a few well chosen words, thereby ending a most enjoyable evening.

—A special meeting of the Liberal district committees will be held at the central committee rooms this evening.

Stockholm, Christiana, Berlin and London are the most healthy of European capitals.

CANADA'S TRADE STILL GROWING

RETURNS FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS

Increase of Over Forty-Three Million Dollars Compared with Same Time in 1905.

Ottawa, Jan. 26.—Canada's aggregate trade for the six months ending with December was $43,051,776 greater than for the same time in 1905. There was an increase in imports of over thirty millions, and in exports of over twelve millions.

There was an increase of over seven millions in forest wealth and a decline in fisheries of over two millions. There was a decline in agriculture and an increase in animals and their produce. Manufactures increased about $400,000.

THE MURDER OF MERCHANT.

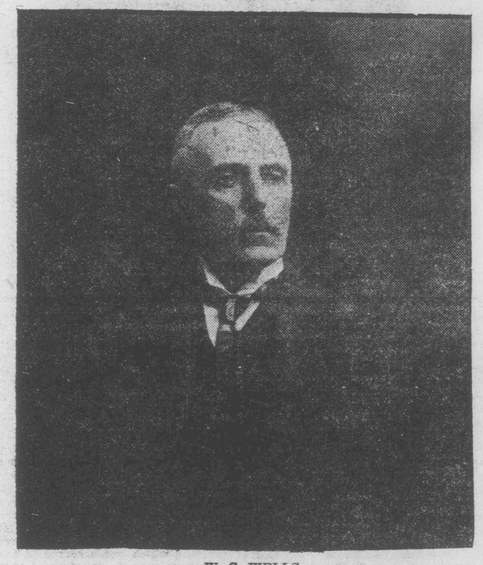
Man Who Shot W. Whitely Identified as Horace George Rayner.

London, Jan. 25.—The police have identified the murderer of William Whitely, the aged merchant, who was shot yesterday, as Horace George Rayner. He is supposed to have been a schoolmaster, but recently was unemployed and lived in a cheap hotel at Bloomsbury. He told the proprietor of the place that he was the son of a wealthy London business man hailing from Yorkshire, from which part of the country the late Mr. Whitely came. The doctor believes he will recover. The motive for the crime is still a mystery.

THE IRON BOUNTIES.

Question Was Discussed at Government Caucus To-Day.

Ottawa, Jan. 25.—There was a government caucus to-day when the bounties on iron were discussed. The position taken by some of the members from Ontario, who brought the matter up, was that no effort was being made to develop Canada ore. Just what was best to be done under the circumstances was a question for the government to work out. There should, in their opinion, be more encouragement for Canadian ore. At present there was no development. The present bounties and the tariff did not seem to meet the difficulty. Some representatives of agricultural constituencies call out against the bounties. There is not likely to be any change from that already presented to parliament.



W. C. WELLS,
The Liberal Candidate, Columbia.