

in drafting the Canadian Annuities Act. This is the man who was selected by English chambers of commerce and the British government to assist them in railway legislation, and who is author of the greatest book on "Railway Rates" in Great Britain today. This is the man who was elected to a fellowship in their ranks by the Geological Society of England; whom the British Association for the Advancement of Science delighted to honor with a place on their programme in 1906; and whom Premier McBride chose to set forth the claims of British Columbia in this souvenir booklet presented to the members of that association when they met in Winnipeg in 1910. Yet Mr. Bowser has nothing better to say of him than that he is "a very meddlesome old man," "an adventurer from London," and insists that he has stultified his whole career by suddenly becoming a dishonest grafter, a looter of the public domain, and an underhand thief of the rights of the honest settler.

This is the man who has travelled the globe in his researches into ancient and modern systems of time, and whose work on calendar reform was endorsed by the Royal Society of Canada on the motion of Sir Sanford Fleming and Dr. Wilfrid Campbell, the poet. Here is the late Sir Sanford Fleming's original letter stating the facts and congratulating Mr. Cotsworth on his success. (Applause.) The whole council of the Royal Society met Premier Borden on June 7th, 1912, secured his endorsement of the scheme, and the governor general was requested to bring the matter before the imperial government as "a benefit of the utmost importance to the whole civilized world." I quote from the petition of the Royal Society. Other great men such as President Hadley of Yale, Camille Flammarion, the famous astronomer of Paris, Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir Norman Lockyer, Lord Avebury, and other great scientists of Europe have advocated this reform, but the massive genius of the attorney-general of British Columbia dismisses the whole subject with the sneering remark that it is "a change in the Westminster Almanac" needed to give Mr. Cotsworth more time to steal land from pre-emptors. (Laughter and loud applause.) Mr. Chairman, you will pardon me for spending time on these points, but I think it is due to ourselves, as well as to Mr. Cotsworth, to state the actual facts. (Applause.) Mr. Bowser has seen fit to demean himself and the provincial government in a most contemptible attack on a man whom the greatest brains of the world

have chosen to honor, and who, but for his sterling integrity, could have been as wealthy today as some of our British Columbia aristocracy. (Laughter and applause.) That attack has been used as the 'last weapon of political desperation because the "spokesman of the government" dared not face the real issue. Mr. Bowser has been forced to admit that Cotsworth is not the issue, but he drags him in because he says the character of the witness affects his evidence. That is true, but the effect is directly opposite to what Mr. Bowser tries to produce. It is just because the character of Mr. Cotsworth is right in line with his great ability that we are prepared to stand by him, and it will take much more than the cowardly and contemptible attack made on both him and his family to discredit him or to upset the mass of evidence he has placed in our hands. (Loud applause.) So I advise Mr. Bowser to say nothing more about Mr. Cotsworth in this discussion. If he and his colleagues have no other arguments to bring forth, let them henceforth never mention the name of Moses. (Laughter.) The one way to prove their case and upset the evidence against them is to give the investigation we demand on behalf of the people of the province. Since the Orpheum speech of Mr. Bowser there

Our claim is that we made the strictest investigation possible to us and even in this case we were and are still prepared to "substantiate the statements made."

is no other method left open. (Prolonged applause.)

"Best Possible Defence"

And now to show the value of this "best possible defence" the government can make, where it touches the details of our pamphlet. For I want you to notice particularly that Mr. Bowser avoids the main issues and discusses only the details we have used as illustrations of our intentions. I begin with the land department.

Take first, what seems to be the most damaging refutation of our statement regarding the work of the agricultural commission. On page 17 of his speech the attorney-general flatly contradicts what we have said about the returns made to the commission by the twenty-nine assessors of the province. Now just what is our charge in this matter? On pages 4 and 26 we show that the statement made by Mr. Ross, minister of lands, that there are 4,500,000 acres of land