

had things become that for at least a year before the collapse of the land

Personally, I would much prefer to remain silent tonight, but since I have been urged by my brethren to speak for them, I should feel myself a coward to let Mr. Cooke and the other five men, who signed 'The Crisis,' bear the brunt of the criticism which it has brought about.

boom our immigration chaplain invariably wrote to people who thought of coming to British Columbia to settle on the land, advising them to stay away as this was no place for an honest poor man who wanted to get a fair chance on the land. (Applause.) The result has been that all our splendid advertising of British Columbia in the old land has been wholly in the interests of the speculator as the people brought here received not even decent courtesy from those who represented the government when they tried to get on land where they would have a fair chance to make a living, and so they had either to turn to the speculator, go back home or over the line or on to Australia, which hundreds of them have done.

Language of "The Crisis."

As to the exact language of "The Crisis." It must be understood that where so many different persons are concerned there must be more or less compromise and the exact form of expression is that of the committee who revised and rewrote the pamphlet. There are some expressions used which may do injustice to some very estimable men and corporations and to them we express our regrets. No name is included merely to pillory the man or company named, but to illustrate the contentions which we make. We are prepared to believe that all those named were quite as much the victims of the system as they were responsible agents in its creation, but the fact remains that they with the connivance of the government have landed our province in a position where its very existence is threatened and ordinary measures are quite inadequate to deal with it. Noth, but the most thorough and far reaching investigation can apportion the blame and show who is a legitimate inventor and who a mere reckless exploiter of our resources, can show how far the government has been remiss in its duties and how far it has used its position to enrich its own members and friends and to impoverish the country. (Loud applause.) We believe that the whole

bargain which saddled this province with a crushing burden of debt on behalf of a railway which we did not need demands investigation. (Applause.) Why was that bargain made behind closed doors by two members of the government? We believe that the whole public works administration needs rigid investigation to show where the millions which have gone into the different municipalities have gone and how much value the country has got for them. (Applause.) We believe that the country's condition will go from bad to worse until those who are now here and those whom we hope to attract here know exactly what our circumstances as a province are and what is done with our resources. We cannot hope to attract money here so long as British Columbia is likely to be the bottomless hole which it has proven to be in the past. We cannot hope to attract settlers here so long as they are treated as they have been in the past. (Loud applause.)

The first step in reform is to know the facts. And the facts can only be known by means of an impartial investigation. We do not care whether that investigation is conducted by an imperial commission or a federal one or one appointed from among the judiciary of British Columbia, so long as it is fair and thorough going and will spare no pains to get at the truth. ("Hear, hear!" and applause.)

And we have a right to demand an investigation. The government is the servant of the people and we have not only the right but it is our duty to criticise where criticism is needed and to demand to know the truth where the truth is so evidently being concealed. (Loud applause.)

When we issued "The Crisis" we knew we were taking a serious step, but we felt that the situation was intensely serious. So long as the matter is only the petty differences of parties we have no interest in it, but when the moral and spiritual health of our people, when the very existence of the state as a free democratic institution is jeopardized by a state of affairs which has grown up among us, we would be less than men if we did not demand that everything should be done to rectify that condition. (Applause.)

We believed an investigation was needed when we issued "The Crisis." We believe it far more firmly now. After months of study the attorney-general made what he described as the best possible defense. I have shown you that in several vital points that defense breaks down. I believe you will agree with me when Mr.