

to farmers are too risky; picture the wild delight of the farmer in the Northwest at the new opening. How uncontrollably impatient he will be to enter the new Paradise, there to weary heart and soul and physical being in an unequal struggle against adverse conditions, pioneering and waiting, waiting, waiting, for Canadian development to bring him relief.

Nor can we hope for any more enthusiasm from the farmers, or would-be farmers, of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.

Whence then, will the new settlers come? From the British Isles and Europe? Will they be men who know the conditions and requirements, or men who have to learn them by bitter experience? Will they be homogenous or a mixed horde of foreigners with no common ideals and owning no common tie save that of location? Will their advent mean a prosperous developing country, or a pitiable fight of willing men and women against irksome conditions, marked, from time to time, by the surrender of those unable to hold out longer, who lose all to the advantage of the later comer who may, or may not, end in profiting by his bargain.

Let us keep the Peace River Country in reserve and settle our vacant land contiguous to growing urban markets. Give our farmers, now breaking with the unequal conflict, good roads, conveniences, comforts, accessibility and save our nation the waste, losses, burdens and disappointment of opening and organizing the Peace River country and at the same time save the proposed settlers many heartbreaks.

### THE VANCOUVER CLEANUP

Just now the City of Vancouver is seeing an apparent renewal of an old political game. A "clean-up" of the City has been ordered. The Mayor is reported, in the press, as having gone in person into Chinatown to see that it is made properly law-obedient.

Two phases of the situation are well worn accompaniments of similar enterprises. First, an extravagant zeal, following a long period of lethargy, supineness and indifference. Second, the principal energy of the movement is directed against the Chinese.

For eight months we have had the usual, sleepy, monotony of ordinary routine at the Police Commission; the same usual lack of perception of crime conditions in the City; the same paltry efforts to "bluff" the average citizen into thinking that our laws are being enforced. Everyone, apparently, happy except the poor bootlegger, or dopester, who had to be punished to show that efforts to suppress crime were being made.

Now all is changed. A moral crusade is on. Vancouver must be clean! Do you doubt it? Ask the Mayor! With all the emphasis of a prospective candidate, seeking reelection and feeling that he must make a good showing here, or be beaten, he will assure you "Yes, sir! Vancouver must be clean."

And, with the worldly wisdom that has guided Police Commissioners for years past in Vancouver, the drive is against that section of the community most easily got atable, least defensible—the Chinese.

May we not ask the Vancouver Police Commission a few questions? First! Why the sudden activity? Why this new-born zeal for purity, law enforcement, and civic virtue? What new element of outstanding peril to our moral well being has, lately, entered our civic life?

Secondly, how many of the people of Vancouver does the Commission expect to hoodwink into believing

that any real, true, betterment will be achieved, or is, really, intended? Does the Commission, really, believe that any great percentage of the people in Vancouver have any confidence in, either, their intentions, or their ability to enforce our laws? If they do, self-deception is much easier with the Commissioners than it is with the man on the street.

Thirdly, why drive on the Chinese? Does it not look cowardly to hit where the least resistance is assured? Even here, are they sincere or has the really dangerous Chinese operator been warned that civic lightning might hit? Even this, will, doubtless, be suspected by those, who will see, in this latest move, only a political dodge.

Again, are the Chinese so bad that they, only, should suffer? No doubt they contribute, in certain degree, to our local crime. Taking them as a whole, however, and remembering how many hundreds we have here, without wives, family ties, home interests, are they not to be credited greatly with real virtue that their contribution to our criminal life is so small?

Again! what of the crime and lawbreaking outside of our Chinese section? Is our bootlegging so confined in its scope that an occasional arrest, accompanied by the seizure of a few dozen bottles of beer, constitutes a clean up?

Will the Police Commission point out one law that they have had uniformly, and rigidly enforced since January 1st, 1924?

Does the Police Commission of Vancouver deceive itself into thinking that conditions of law enforcement in Vancouver are as good—to say nothing of being better—as they were when the Commissioners took office in January last?

Is the Commission satisfied that our Police Force is properly constituted as it stands? Are the Commissioners convinced that it is an efficient crime-preventing, crime-punishing, organization? Yet the Police force is not to blame for the lack of law enforcement! They have things to contend with which renders their position difficult. Trenchant criticism of our Police under present conditions would be most unfair to them!

One obstacle and a big one to law enforcement, is a Police Commission, which, for eight months of its life, has been a blind, insensate thing, crawling around amid a tangle of the seaweed of the waters of lawlessness, incompetent, and incapable, and which, now, betrays its utter incapacity to grasp the real difficulties of the situation by "staging" the present drive. We need no spectacular byplay, but real, hard, earnest work; a complete severance of the Commission's efforts from all political and financial influences. We need a hard-headed effort that will hit and spare not whether politics or finance says "hold."

Meanwhile, we await the progress of the clean up, sincerely hoping we have, later, to admit ourselves mistaken and have to acknowledge the clean up was not wholly a farce.

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