

Foreign Fingers in Our B. C. Pie

(Concluded from page 12.)

construction on the Canadian side. As an illustration of the profits made by the operation of timber-carriers from Pacific seaboard ports, it may be cited that the first of the motor-driven windjammers launched since the war in the United States, carrying lumber from Oregon to Australia, netted the owners \$40,000 on the one trip.

Whether Government control of shipping would be a good thing for Canada it is difficult to say. But this fact stands out above all others: That more home capital must be invested in B. C. shipbuilding and that, instead of laying down ships for foreign countries—even though it is a profitable business—our Pacific shipyards must be given sufficient inducement to build them for our own Empire. Such is the geographical situation of British Columbia, such the nature of her industries, that a great mercantile marine for her is a necessity that cannot be overestimated.

Regarding the problem of population, British Columbia will have to exert every effort after the war to bring settlers within her borders and care must be taken to have them of the right type. In order that her industries may be enlarged and perpetuated, the province must have the people—people who are enterprising, persevering, willing to go into the unsettled districts and till the soil and who, above all, are devoted to their country. It is realized that when the inevitable flow of post-war immigration from east to west begins, there will be all sorts and conditions of people in the pilgrimage. To make them prosperous citizens will be British Columbia's first care.

BRITISH COLUMBIA needs population more than capital, for the right kind of population makes capital. If B. C. had a population corresponding to that of Ontario on the basis of area, she would boast of 4,250,000 people. There is no doubt that that will be a thing in fact within a few years, but so far British Columbia is far behind the mark. In spite of her enormous area of 38,000 square miles, she has barely 400,000 people—only one-tenth as many as she should have according to the ratio in Ontario.

The checking of the immigration of Orientals, which is now just as serious as ever before, is a duty that the province must carry out, but the problem involves too many complications to be dealt with here. Encouragement to European settlers and to white labour seems to be the best course and, if properly accomplished, should be the one way of avoiding the "yellow peril" without ill-feeling or bloodshed.

The war has proved to us that industrial prosperity alone does not make a nation prepared for foreign aggression. To have British capital monopolize our industries and to have those industries extensive are essential achievements for British Columbia, as well as any other section of Canada, but while we are striving to attain them the people must not lose sight of the importance of increasing the effectiveness of the coast defences to a corresponding degree.

Who knows what the national commercial and military situation may be in, say five or ten years from now? We cannot count too strongly on alliances of to-day. The shadow of the Far East—the Orient—is becoming steadily more pronounced over the Pacific Coast, both in Canada and the United States. We know that China is awakening from her sleep of centuries and will some day assert herself in no half-hearted terms. We know that the shipyards of Japan are working day

and night, turning out merchant ships with which she hopes one day to control the trade of the Pacific. The Orient is gradually coming to a true appreciation of her power, and is preparing. Canada will be neglecting her sacred duty if she does not also prepare. Our Pacific Coast must be ready to meet any contingency.

Canada has been playing the part of a mariner who launches his ship into a gale without taking life-saving apparatus with him. The impending hurricane is in the offing, but it is approaching. Can the bark withstand its fury?

In case of an emergency, Eastern Canada has the vast fleets of the

Motherland within her beck and call. Her position is not nearly so precarious as that of the West. In case of an attack our Pacific Coast must wait for weeks for assistance, and those weeks might prove fatal.

Canada's part in the present war will be worth while even if the only result were to be the realization of the helplessness of the West Coast and the need for adequate defence.

It is ridiculous to suppose that British Columbia can be rendered safe by the provision of one second-class cruiser to patrol her 630 miles of coastline, and a handful of garrison soldiers and a few ancient small-calibre guns to guard her area of over 383,000 square miles.

Wealth worth developing is worth keeping.

A Political Vacuum Cleaner

(Concluded from page 8.)

crossed out a lot of many individualistic suggestions and compromised on the most important—prohibition, electoral reform, higher standards of public life. We had no specially eloquent speakers, but our campaign literature was of the very highest quality and appeal. It won us a hearing with fair-minded men and it gave us the power we asked for. Three things stood out in my mind as essential. Electoral crime in certain aspects had reached a climax. I determined to prevent its recurrence. There should be no more impersonation—no more spending of the people's money at elections—no more delay in the trial of Controverted Elections.

"We have passed laws which may need amending as time goes on, but it is pretty safe to say that the way of the impersonator has been made very hard. Edward Brown should have been a member for Winnipeg if he had not run up against this evil—any man will have a square deal now.

"Several of those who contested elections swore that their expenses were nil—they at least did not pay out any money—said others might have spent something in their behalf, but they knew nothing of it. Well, we've set a limit to such expenditure—\$500 and \$750 for town and country. A man running for election here-

after must be prepared to swear that no more than this was spent. We consider this amount legitimate.

"And hereafter the 'preliminary objections' by which trials in Controverted Elections may be delayed indefinitely, will be swept aside.

"Prohibition has been in the main successful; there will be no turning back."

The Attorney General welcomes the advent of women into public life; their appearance in the Legislature even would have no terrors for him, nor would it surprise him very much. (By the way, on the very day of my interview the Winnipeg Telegram published an item with this head-line: "Conservative candidate for Roblin may be chosen from the 'weaker sex'"; this is the constituency rendered vacant by the resignation of F. Y. Newton; "there is talk in the constituency," according to the Telegram informant, "of a woman being placed in the field by the Conservatives.")

Mr. Hudson says that in the matter of women's suffrage Ontario has been the biggest surprise of all. "Why, a little while ago I was talking with some public men of Ontario and they spoke of us here as wildly radical! There are dangers in the West, no doubt, in regard to the foreign element, but I don't see why the objections would be any greater to the wo-

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