

Cowichan Election.

Duncans, Dec. 18, 1898. Dear Sir—A vacancy having occurred in the representation of Cowichan district in the legislative assembly by the resignation of W. R. Robertson, Esq., we, the undersigned electors of above constituency, having known you and of entire approval, would respectfully request you to allow your name to be placed in nomination as our representative, and we hereby pledge ourselves to use our best endeavors to return you as our member. (Signed) Thos. A. Wood, and seventy others.

Duncans, Dec. 13, 1898. Gentlemen—I have received with deep gratification your expression of approval of the last two legislatures, and have much pleasure in acceding to your request to contest Cowichan at the forthcoming election as supporter of Mr. Semlin's government.

I do not think it necessary to go in detail into the various questions that will come up for solution. I wish other members of the opposition, assisted by Mr. Semlin in drafting the statement issued by him in July, 1897, of the principles for which we are contending, and I cordially endorse each one of the planks of that platform.

I venture to hope that the electors of Cowichan will give their votes on the 28th inst. place me in a position to assist the present government in carrying out the policy for which I struggled with them when in opposition.

Independent of any other reasons, the electors of Cowichan can by their votes on that day show that the attempt made to prejudice them against myself, a former representative of a mainland constituency, has wholly and deservedly failed.

C. B. SWORD.

THE DOUKHOBORTS.

For some months back the funny men of the Tory papers have been fairly censorious and scintillating with witty remarks complimentary to the Russian Spirit-Wrestlers, the Doukhoborts, a large party of whom the department of the interior is assisting to found a settlement in the Northwest Territories. Those Tory Twains have also been awfully funny at the expense of the minister of the interior for his action in encouraging the Doukhoborts to come to Canada.

My Aylmer Maude, a wealthy Englishman who has become deeply interested in them and is willing to back up his sympathy with thousands of pounds, says they are most industrious, peaceable, cleanly and honest. They are of a deeply pious turn of mind; they abhor war in any form; they are practical socialists in that they are perfectly willing to share and to share alike, although burdened with no nonsensical beliefs as to the beauty of absolute equality.

They are very intelligent; excellent farmers; drunkenness is unknown amongst them; their aim in life appears to be freedom to work and worship as they please, and that is exactly the cause of the trouble between them and Russian officials. No people have suffered more from the brutal tyranny of the unenlightened of a nation than the poor Doukhoborts. They have been treated in the last few years in much the same manner as the Jews were treated in Spain before Torquemada did the worst service to his country any Spaniard ever did, by procuring the expulsion of the Jews. The only parallel to the shocking injustice heaped by the Russian government is the atrocious conduct of the Pekin government towards the trading Chinese.

The Doukhoborts have determined to leave Russia forever, and seek some country where they may go their own way in peace and security. Many of them are going to the United States; the Dominion government has also offered asylum for the exiles, but the Tory press says: "No, we don't mean it when we say Canada is free; it is only a joke. We don't want those Russian refugees as settlers in the Northwest, we would much rather have a few more batches of the knickerbocker emigrant brigade, they are so useful in giving the country tone and decorating the platform of the C. F. R. station when the trains come on." Those Doukhoborts won't vote Tory; they seem to be thinkers and workers. No, we don't want them.

Sound and unanswerable Tory argument that. Now, there is another phase of the matter that is causing some talk. We have observed that the Doukhoborts are opposed to war. It is alleged that the government have undertaken to free them from military service. We do not know whether this is the case or not, but if true it is not right, and we imagine the Doukhoborts themselves when they came to understand Canadian affairs properly, will not ask the government to exempt them from the duties of a national defence. Even the Quaker will fight to defend his home, and no doubt those Russians would do the same; as their intelligence would soon show them that not to do so would be the greater crime. But this may be another Tory joke; nothing seems to be too extreme to serve the purposes of their spite and misrepresentation.

While we do not approve of the Dominion government giving too much encouragement to Eastern European races to settle here, those people are evidently quite an exception. Besides, they have raised over \$25,000 for their own travelling expenses, and English philanthropists have contributed large sums; so that our government will actually be put to very little expense in settling them. We would rather see the Northwest settled entirely by Canadian, British and Scandinavian people, but Canada cannot shut her

doors in the face of a persecuted race seeking shelter, and who come with an excellent certificate of character. There are not enough of the Doukhoborts to affect Northwest affairs one way or the other.

OUR POACHERS AND SMUGGLERS.

Yesterday the Times published an article respecting prevention of smuggling on the British Columbia coast. The suggestions therein contained were good enough so far as they went, but they did not go nearly far enough. No plan for protecting this coast from the depredations of these pests can be satisfactory that calls for a mere sitting down to wait for them; they must be vigorously hunted on the broad highway of the sea, pounced upon and taken red-handed if the nuisance is to be put down at all. This can be done only by means of a smart revenue steamer of say fifteen knots speed, which could patrol the coast. She would have to be exclusively commissioned as a fishery and revenue cruiser, with power to act in all police duties. Smuggling prevention is, of course, not the only duty this vessel would have to attend to; our magnificent fisheries urgently require the services and protection of a steamer of this kind. During the fishing season all our important rivers from the Fraser northwards should be visited and assistance rendered to the local guardians in examining licenses and other necessary work. No fisherman could possibly escape the fishery officials if a revenue steamer were cruising the coasts, and the number of licenses would, therefore, be largely increased.

Another point, any dispute arising among the fishermen could be settled on the spot by the commander of the vessel, who would be, of course, a fully-commissioned fishery officer. The Quadra has done and continues to do, most efficient work on the coast, but her time is so much occupied with buoy and light-house duties that other highly important work cannot be attended to. Our sealers, too, require help and attention in their season, and here also the Quadra and her commander have done the greatest service; for as regards the sealing of the coast, a three-mile boat, or those who are thoroughly qualified to express an opinion on the subject, the sealing captains themselves.

We have also learned lately, and the matter has doubtless ere this been made the subject of strong representations to the department of marine and fisheries, that foreign vessels are constantly to be seen fishing off Cape Scott and adjacent waters, far inside the three-mile limit, that limit is to those impudent poachers a dead letter, and they carry on their illegal operations with the utmost impunity as far as Dixon Entrance, robbing our splendid fishing grounds of finny wealth that should yield good living to our Canadian fishermen and revenue to our government. No shore stations can guard those fisheries; only by means of a steam, well-equipped, good sea-boat, able to stand the rough and tumble of our west coast waters can those poachers be reached and punished or frightened off.

While the appointment of officers to be stationed at various points along the coast is a capital idea, it is quite clear that without a cruiser to keep those stations, which are in some cases more than one hundred miles apart, in touch with one another, and to visit the unprotected stretches of coast, those officers can be of little avail in checking the smugglers and poachers. Something better than a canoe is required for the work of visiting the coast contiguous to the stations.

Our fisheries, our coast dwellers, our seafarers, our manifold interests upon those seas demand that the most effective means possible should be adopted for their protection, and we again earnestly urge upon the attention of the honorable minister of marine and fisheries the necessity of placing a revenue steamer upon this coast as soon as possible.

DEARTH OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

Winnipeg Commercial complains of the scarcity of domestic servants in Winnipeg and throughout Manitoba. This question seems to be a burning one everywhere; it is so in Victoria, as many of our citizens can tell. The Commercial says the young women of Manitoba will take almost any kind of work but domestic service, notwithstanding high wages and immediate employment, with many privileges in the way of evenings or Saturdays off. Competent girls in Winnipeg will act as servants in private families can earn as high as sixteen dollars a month and board; that is, as much as a man earns in the east. We may quote from our contemporary this interesting schedule of woman's wages as paid in the prairie metropolises: "Dining room girls get \$18 a month, cooks \$20 to \$25, kitchen girls \$12 to \$15, laundresses \$15 to \$20, chambermaids, \$12 to \$15, servants in private families \$20 to \$30. In all cases these wages include board."

There is much in the remark of the Commercial that "there is certainly room for immigration work in bringing in domestic help." To many families in Victoria this disinclination of young women to undertake domestic service is a very serious matter, and in not a few cases they have to fall back upon Chinese labor, and here a singular thing is to be noted.

It seems, a white girl who can cook and do all the work for a small family will not receive the wages that a Chinese cook will demand. Upon enquiry we find that twenty dollars a month with board and lodging is the highest a white girl cook gets in Victoria, while a Chinese cook gets twenty-five dollars. We should think that an intelligent white girl who had learned the profession of cookery in a school devoted to the art, under qualified instructors, and who could also turn her hand to general household work, would be able to command at least as much as if not more than a Chinaman, whose chief idea of cookery is grease, who knows how to prepare only a few dishes fairly well, can perhaps bake a decent loaf and maybe turn out a pretty good cake or pie, but

whose methods would not bear inspection by a white lady.

The white girl who graduates from the cooking school ought to be paid for her work as it deserves, and certainly ought to be preferred by any man of any taste or refinement to a Chinaman. But, unluckily, the white girl and her mistress in Victoria do not seem to jog through life with that serene harmony which is so desirable as an ingredient of domestic economy. The mistress seems to find in John or Sing or Ah Sid the very article she requires for aide de camp.

In the large cities of the United Kingdom also this question has reached an acute stage. Girls there are equipping themselves for business and succeeding at what is an alarming rate to the young man. They actually rent offices of their own, take orders for typewriting and shorthand note-taking; they run photograph galleries, dabble in stocks and shares, act as clerks, bookkeepers and secretaries, get letters in railway and telegraph offices, and in fact have penetrated all parts of the business world. They take lower wages than men, but yet live well in their spinsters quarters, laugh at the idea of marriage; snap their fingers, indeed, at the wooer, and tell him:

"Why, my dear boy, I'm having a splendid time, with my typewriter, and an extra enough to keep me in perfect comfort, give me a delightful vacation every summer, attend the opera in the evening, buy the books I like, and go to the theatre, and I can do all this with the exquisite taste that you behold. I have my girl chums, and we visit one another's quarters, and we have a royal time. Marry you, my boy? Marry you and have to give up all that to cook your chops, shine your boots and wash the dishes, and put up with my superior—oh, no Freddy; not by a long chalk."

Woman, in short, is taking full advantage of her recent emancipation, her opportunities for education and special training and she is rapidly building up a problem that may be a very serious affair to solve in the times that are coming.

PUBLIC MORALS.

To all who have sent us, over their own signatures, gratuitously, words of encouragement in our endeavor to arouse the slumbering conscience of Victoria we say thanks. To all who have blamed us and warned us to desist we say thank. These monosyllables are all we have to say to our critics.

The end of another week finds this great question in the same condition exactly as it was when we began to speak upon it. What is the condition? A board of commissioners, who are to act as much use in checking the enormities which are going on in the city as an itinerant Italian's trayful of stucco images would be in fighting the battles of their own country. A chief of police afraid to do his duty, a man lost to his opportunities; one who knows all about those things, but will not or can not act to put them down—a hat with a badge, and with other such incidents thereto as are necessary to be used for the getting of the ore. (I. Plowden.)

When the title of the crown and the title of the subject concern the crown title shall be preferred. In regard to gold or silver being found in a base mine, that is a copper or lead mine, Mr. Mills holds the view that the crown's property cannot be held in jointure with the subject, and the crown property, though given to the subject, is not to be held in jointure with the subject. Mr. Mills then said:

"I do not understand that the honorable the attorney-general or Hon. Mr. Carter Cotton claim any rights in violation of the terms of the grant to the E. & N. Railway Company, but that the rights of the company are not to be affected by the rights of the crown, which are not accessories of the land granted to the E. & N. Railway Company, but by the terms of the grant, which have been declared to belong to the crown, they intend to administer these rights in the public interest. Apparently the attorney-general is of the opinion that the crown's property is not to be affected by the rights of the company, which are not accessories of the land granted to the E. & N. Railway Company, but by the terms of the grant, which have been declared to belong to the crown, they intend to administer these rights in the public interest. 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