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Because the Government failed to bring in a redistribution bill as promised last session only shows a lack of care in the preparation of the legislative programme. Whether the postponement of the measure was due to a desire to gerrymander the constituencies as opponents of the Government claim or to the absence of proper information in relation to the census does not from the standpoint of this article cut any figure. Whatever the cause it was simply a delay not a refusal to bring about redistribution.

But seriously, what harm has come of the delay? and how far has it affected the general welfare of the Province? Without going into particulars it would be interesting to know just what injury has been done or will be done to the Mainland by the erection of New Government Buildings at Victoria. It is exceedingly doubtful whether the originators of the separation agitation could make out the slightest pretext of a case in its favor when answering these questions.

At this time when the credit of British Columbia stands high in the money market, it is to be regretted that any disturbing influence should have been needlessly created. Our rising cities at the present time are frequently requiring to effect loans for improvements. Our mines and other industries need capital for development, and it was suicidal on the part of citizens to throw doubt upon the stability of our institutions and thus injure our credit which undoubtedly the cry of separation was calculated to do. The only excuse for desiring separation of Mainland from Island would be some irreparable injury done by one to the other. Has any such injury taken place? None whatever. When it does it will be time enough to talk of separation.

It is gratifying however to note that the cry of separation is now little heard in the Province, and attention would not be called to it at this time, except as a warning against any such needless agitation in the future. Outsiders should know that inside the Province of British Columbia there is certainly keen rivalry between parts thereof, but no actual disunion.

MR. WARD'S REPORT.

The report of Mr. Robert Ward from the standing Committee of Finance of the B. C. Board of Trade, may be regarded as speaking hopefully of the business conditions in this province. British Columbia has shared to a certain extent in the general depression, but the very fact, as Mr. Ward points out, of few failures or difficulties of an important character having occurred in our midst speaks well for the stability of our business men. Trade it is true has been dull and merchants have felt the pressing effects of this, the banks have been obliged as a measure of precaution to deal with credits more conservatively than usual, but when the whole situation is narrowed down it will be found that the affairs of merchants and traders in the province are as a rule satisfactory. Mr. Ward sounds a note of warning on two very important points, the waste of money in wildcat real estate investments and the tendency of municipalities to borrow money for the purpose of aiding unproductive works. Although there has not been the same amount of wildcat speculation in land and town lots in British Columbia as with our neighbors south of the boundary line, yet this province being on the eve of great development there is a danger of all sorts of schemes being attempted by speculators to entrap the unwary. Mr. Ward's warning is therefore opportune.

With regard to the granting of municipal aid for the purpose of encouraging legitimate enterprises it is in some cases a wise thing to do, but certainly a municipality cannot be too careful in probing the stability and productive nature of the work before granting such aid. It may also be said that only in very special cases should municipalities come to the assistance of undertakings because