

formed us that he himself is the largest holder of these leases. We did not previously know he was so deeply interested. He pleads that the business has never paid, and that he has gained nothing by it; an argument that we have heard before from Hon. Price Ellison in defence of his investments in cattle. (Loud laughter.) But Mr. Bowser's real reply to our charge is that these leases were granted and the reductions made before he entered the government; also that the government decided to lease large areas at 50 cents an acre and small areas at a dollar, evidently on the principle that it is public property and the more you take the less it costs. Now, I shall answer both charges in one breath. Mr. Bowser entered the cabinet in 1907, and folio 272 of the provincial lease ledgers shows that on April 6th, 1908, Messrs. W. Ellis and L. Kemp secured a lease of 55 acres at 50 cents an acre, which is held in care of Bowser, Reid & Wallbridge. This is one of the smaller leases, yet it costs half what Alfred Markham of Esquimalt paid, the year before, for 56 acres, which is not handled by Mr. Bowser's firm. It was granted the year after he entered the cabinet. But he assures us on page 16 that "Messrs. Ellis and Kemp and M. G. John have had no connection with our office at all." Well, ladies and gentlemen, here is the abstract made direct from the ledgers by Mr. Cotsworth. (A voice: "He's a liar!" and interruption.) Gentlemen, please allow me to do the talking and I'll answer all your questions and objections before you put them. (Loud applause.) Here is the abstract made direct from the provincial ledger by Mr. Cotsworth, and here is another one made by another gentleman quite independently, and both give Ellis & Kemp as "care of Bowser, Reid & Wallbridge," and Matilda G. John as holding, not an oyster lease, but a clam lease, which is properly leased at 50 cents per acre. Both these abstracts prove that every oyster lease handled by Mr. Bowser's firm has been cut down to half the usual rental while all others large and small are the full price of \$1.00. (Applause.) "We have spared no pains to verify the statements made." Which of us has done so? (Loud applause.)

Worthlessness of Attack.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I have, I think, already thoroughly exposed the worthlessness of every direct attack the attorney-general has made on "The Crisis in B. C." and shown that he seems thoroughly incapable of discussing this most serious subject as it must be discussed. (Applause.) But be-

fore sitting down, I want to show you how completely Mr. Bowser has missed the whole point of the discussion, and avoided every main issue we have raised. I will point out in briefest possible manner some things in "The Crisis" that he has entirely failed to deal with.

I have shown you how he has juggled with figures, and dodged from one set of statistics to another in everything he said on the land question. But the two strongest arguments we have set forth on this point he has not attempted to touch. Let me vary things a little, and show you one or two pictures. Here is a folder which I showed you at both our previous meetings. I will let you see it on the screen. (Picture shown.) Read the title page from top to bottom. "Free Surveyed Lands. British Columbia, Canada. Surveyed lands for settlers. Room for Thousands along the Railways. Free Surveyed Lands." Now open it up and see these two maps of the railroad areas of the province. On each we read "Surveyed lands colored red," remembering this is a publication dealing with "Free Surveyed Lands for Settlers." It has been issued since the House of Assembly closed last March, and every acre of land ever surveyed in this province is here printed in red, no matter to whom it belongs. Now fix that red area in your mind, and then look at this pre-emptor's map of Fort George district. On this map we are told that "Lands open to pre-emptors are coloured red." The white area is land that is already taken, and you can see that practically everything that was in red on the maps in the Free-Surveyed-Lands folder is snow-white in this. (Laughter.) It is "surveyed" all right, and "free for settlers" when they pay from 10 to 100 dollars an acre to the speculators who have cornered the best of it with the full consent of the McBride government. (Applause.) Here is the Bulkeley map which shows the very same thing, and proves that practically every foot of surveyed land was already seized when this map was printed. Here also is the Nechaco map, with the same artistic results, and the self-same exclusion of the bona-fide pre-emptor. Everywhere he has been pushed back by the land-grabber. Ladies and gentlemen, I challenge any man in this province to find in this speech of Mr. Bowser one word of explanation about this "All red folder" which we have correctly characterised as the "most deliberate and cruel piece of misrepresentation ever perpetrated on prospective settlers." (Prolonged applause.)

In the second place, we have printed