

to see that land when on his holidays, and therefore, not at the public expense, as a re-grading commissioner, as Mr. Bowser states. (Applause.)

Here is a letter published since the Orpheum speech of Mr. Bowser, published in the "Daily Province" of August 9th, by Charles A. Cox, former constable at Alberni, in which he flatly denies the attorney-general's reference to him and the land of Thos. Wall. He says: "I am the individual referred to, and I wish to deny absolutely ever staking an acre of land for Moses B. Cotsworth or any other Cotsworth, or ever acting as agent for Mr. Cotsworth, or anyone else, either directly or indirectly." (Loud applause.)

Here is a letter of 20th October, 1909, from the government agent at Alberni, advising Mr. Cotsworth that "In the past people have taken up pre-emptions and have held them for years and not paid any taxes or done any work, and if they sell for a good price they will pay up, but if not, they simply let them go until they are cancelled." It states that if he knows of any land "that is vacant or can be cancelled" he will let him know. On the same date he advised him that the pre-emption of Charles B. Noot had previously been cancelled and application had already been made to purchase it. But if Mr. Cotsworth had tried to cancel it, as stated by Mr. Bowser, he would have been perfectly justified, because Noot was living in Victoria and doing nothing whatever on the land. He would only have anticipated the action of the Department itself when it waked up later to the fact that the pre-emption laws were being evaded in hundreds of cases. Why, last year alone the inspection department cancelled 900 pre-emptions and notified an additional 800 pre-emptors that they were liable to cancellation. And this was only out of 3,600 inspected.

The Iistad Holding.

Now a word about Iistad's holding. This is another of Mr. Bowser's proofs that Cotsworth was an underhand robber of the poor pre-emptor. Mr. Cotsworth, like any man with an ounce of brains, wanted, if possible, to get the land for his family all together, so that it could be developed effectively. When he secured the first lots with the government agent's advice, he found he had no outlet whatever to the coast. Some pieces of land that were not being developed lay between him and the shore, amongst them a hundred acres applied for as pre-emption by Guy Iistad. None of the conditions were being fulfilled, and on Nov. 18th, one month after the government agent had advised him of

the methods of bogus pre-emptors, Mr. Cotsworth wrote the agent that Iistad had done nothing and was doing nothing whatever to secure his land, and gave notice that he wished to cancel it. Now Mr. Bowser says that this proves Mr. Cotsworth was trying to cheat a bona-fide pre-emptor out of his land. He does not tell us that when complaints were made on Iistad's behalf to both the government agent and Mr. Brewster, member of parliament for that district, Mr. Cotsworth fully explained the situation, and made this offer to Iistad if he honestly wanted to pre-empt the land. Here is his letter to Mr. Brewster, dated Feby. 11th, 1910. He says that if he buys the land he is "prepared to give Iistad every opportunity, as I would not allow injustice to anyone in my transactions." He will allow Iistad to "choose half of the water front and clear back what he can, and for every acre he can clear I will not only give him that acre, but also five others, thus giving him six acres for each one he effectively prepares by his own labor for agricultural use within four years, up to a distance of half a mile back." And he adds that if Iistad fails to make good in this way, he will pay him the value of any work done, as may be determined between them by the local member of parliament. (Applause.) Now, I ask if that offer made at the time is the offer of a dishonest man who was playing the cheat with both pre-

The attorney-general has repeated the offense in a desperate attempt to gain political advantage at our expense.

emptors and government? (Cries of "No!" and loud applause.) I repeat again that not only did Mr. Cotsworth inform the Ministerial Union committee of his having taken up these lands, but his correspondence proves that he acted throughout with the advice of the land department, and both he and the government agent acted honorably in the whole business. (Applause.)

Mr. Cotsworth's Record.

Ladies and gentlemen, listen. This Mr. Cotsworth is the man who was specially accredited by the McBride government to almost every government in this Dominion as the expert they were "employing for special work on account of his exceptional ability and experience." Here is the letter which so described him to Premier Roblin of Manitoba. I read it on this platform before. This is the man who assisted the Dominion government in the work of civil service reform and