

hickspittle worshipper in the temple of Rimmon, like some certain people whom we could easily name. Hence, no doubt, the enmity with which he is regarded by the "hired men" in the political household of Davie. On the occasion which called forth on his head the ribald abuse of the *World*, Mr. Maxwell had the courage to stand up for the working-man and impeach the Government, and we honor him for it. Had he reversed the process, no doubt, Mr. McLagan would have patted him on the back and lauded him to the skies, even if he had to do so "at the expense of truth and honor."

"Clergymen," says Mr. McLagan, "are generally supposed to be men of education, men of refinement, and men of truth, the latter being an essential ingredient in their mental make-up, and characteristic of the Gospel which they preach." What arrant, unmitigated, unmodified, undiluted cant this is, coming from the pen or lips of "the ostensible editor?" If there are any three subjects on which he is absolutely incapable of rendering an opinion, they are education, refinement and truth. Of the first he has but little, of the second none, and the third "is not in him." As to the characteristic features of the Gospel, of which he prates so confidently, we take leave to doubt if his acquaintance with the Book which contains that Gospel could be classed even as superficial. He is absolutely ignorant of the *spirit* of the Word, and knows but very little indeed of the *letter*. At any rate, we are not able to recall a single instance where a passage of Scripture was cited in the *World* where it was not misquoted, and we are willing to risk a small bet that Mr. McLagan cannot, without preparation, repeat one of the shortest verses in the Bible—say the Seventh Commandment, for example—without making a mess of it. And yet he has the congealed gall to measure a minister by a standard, of the use of which he (Mr. McLagan) is sublimely ignorant, but in the *abuse* of which he is, from long practice, perfectly *au fait*!

It would be an exceedingly hard thing to estimate to what extent the interests of this Province are ruinously affected by the course pursued by the present Government. Everybody knows that the taxes raised on the Mainland are being squandered systematically for the benefit of Victoria; that the money which ought to be expended for the opening up and development of the Mainland is being diverted from its proper and legitimate purpose, and is to be expended on the erection of an unnecessary palatial building in the Capital, with the acquiescence of an utterly unrepresentative Legislature, and that, not only the clamant needs of the portion of the Province on this side of the Straits, but even the ordinary convenience of its people are ignored. These facts are notorious to all who care to take cognizance of the policy of the Government; but few are aware, and few will be prepared to accept the statement as true, that the system pursued by the Provincial Land Agents—acting undoubtedly under instructions from the Government—is such as, not only not to encourage settlement on Crown lands, but actually to deter settlers from attempting to take up those lands, in spite of the inducements to do so which are held out to them by the Dominion Government. Yet such would seem to be the fact. A gentleman named W. J. Proud, of Coquitlam, during a recent visit, extending over a period of four months, to the Okanagan country, found sufficient proof to justify this charge against the Government Land Agent at Vernon. Mr. Proud states that three intending settlers, from across the boundary, came to the Vernon district, in the early part of the present month, and, having selected suitable lands, back of the Aberdeen estate, Guisachan, they proceeded to the Provincial land office to take them up in the usual way. How were they received? Were they welcomed as a desir-

able accession to the population of the Province? Were they given every facility to acquaint themselves with the conditions under which they could secure the lands and establish homes for themselves? Not by a good deal. On the contrary, "the Agent talked roughly to them, and asked if they had come into the country to jump claims." Such impertinence, from the Jack-in-office, naturally enough, offended the intending settlers, and they concluded that a country, where they were met with such a left-handed welcome, was a good one to stay away from. This is no mere rumor, got up by "designing politicians." It is a true report of what actually took place, and Mr. Bruce Prayther, of Vernon, who was present when the interview between the intending settlers and the Agent, took place, is prepared to attest its correctness. No wonder that the tide of immigration flows but tardily into British Columbia when it is thus damned by the very officials who are supposed to encourage and facilitate the settlement of the vacant lands of the Province. Is it conceivable that the Government, whose appointees those agents are, endorse their action? Is it credible that settlement is discouraged until there be time allowed for the grabbing of all available lands by the creatures of the Government? Surely such a conclusion is inevitable, and will be held to be correct, unless the Commissioner of Lands takes steps immediately to bring those impertinent underlings of his to their senses, and makes sure that, in the future, those who wish to make their homes in our fair Province shall be received with a cordial welcome and not with rude and wanton insult—with open arms and not with a slap in the face.

One is tempted to ask, in the premises, whether such a reception would have been accorded to those three settlers, had they applied for lands on the Island of Vancouver instead of on the Mainland. The answer to that query would undoubtedly be in the emphatic negative, if addressed to any one familiar with the frantic efforts which have been made by the Government to secure additional settlers for their own pet portion of the Province—doubtless with an eye to the subsequent formation of a few more of those handy "pocket boroughs" whose representatives so readily wheel into line with the solid Government contingent. Truly, "for ways that are dark and for tricks that are vain," the Heathen Chinee has not much the best of the practical exponents of the political gospel according to Davie. The only question is, how long will the Province stand it?

The difference between the "guarantee by-law," which a sapient majority of our excellent City Council threw out, last Monday night, and the "purchase by-law," of which the sagacious Towler has given notice, can be readily put thus in a nutshell. By the guarantee by-law the City is not asked to pay a nickel; while, by the purchase by-law, the City will have to pay \$360,000 on the nail. Of course, in the latter case, it will have to borrow the wherewithal in the meantime, and go on paying interest on the bonds until such time as it is able to redeem them. By the terms of the guarantee by-law, the City has not to pay a cent, but simply to guarantee the interest on \$400,000 bonds of the Company, which interest is a first charge on the earnings of the system, and consequently will not have to be paid by the City at all. In return for the guarantee the City obtains a controlling interest in the road, and can regulate its operations as it sees fit, receiving, meanwhile, the lion's share of its earnings. By the time the bonds mature, the earnings of the road will have, to a moral certainty, provided amply for their redemption through the sinking fund, and, at the end of five years, the whole system will become the absolute property of the City, at a maximum cost of \$99,000—a sum which, if Vancouver