

This arrangement, if carried out, would, of course, be the softest kind of "snap" for the City, and the tightest sort of "squeeze" on the stockholders. Equally of course, no one blames a private individual, in the transaction of his business, for taking advantage of his neighbor's need, and getting goods from him at the cheapest possible rate. The shibboleth of the mart, "business is business," is stretched to cover a multitude of pretty mean methods of trading. But the case is entirely different as between the City of Vancouver and the stockholders who form the Electric Light and Railway Company. The latter projected and built the road, and put the system of lighting in operation, at a time when the success of the scheme was problematical, and even the ultimate growth and development of the City itself was *in nubibus*, or, at least, a matter of mere conjecture and speculation. The City, at that time, could not have undertaken the work, or incurred the necessary expense, and these men stepped forward, put their money in the project, perfected the system, gave the citizens of Vancouver all the convenience and comfort to be derived from an excellent tramway and electric light service, and, by their own exhibition of confidence in the future of the City, inspired similar confidence in other capitalists, thus adding immensely to the value of city property, and attracting millions of outside capital for investment right here. In so doing, they, most undoubtedly, acted as genuine benefactors to the City and its citizens. So did those who, taking up the burden when it became too heavy for some of the original shareholders to carry, put their money freely into the enterprise, backing, with their hard cash, their confidence in the progress of the City, and trusting to be recouped from the returns to be made by the road in the future. Judging from the proposition now made to them, it was well for them that they did not look for their recompense to grateful appreciation of their efforts at the hands of their fellow-citizens. If they had done so, it is abundantly evident that they would have got very badly "left."

Of course, our morning contemporary is strongly in favor of the road being sold to the city on such conditions, and a number of articles have appeared in its columns strongly advocating the carrying out of the proposed arrangement. The reason—or rather reasons, for there are two of them—are not hard to discover. The gentleman who inspired, or wrote, the articles in question, took, if we are not misinformed, five shares of the stock of the Company when it was organized. As, however, he did not see fit to respond to the "calls" made on those shares, the late president, Mr. McKee, very properly cancelled them. Since that time he has lost no opportunity that presented itself of "knifing" the Company, and he, doubtless, thinks that the present is the best chance he has yet had. Will the people of Vancouver allow themselves to be made a tool in his hands to vent his spite withal on the Company? We think and hope not.

The other reason that influences him, in urging on the completion of the purchase, is that he is interested with the gentlemen who are acting as receivers of the road at present, and, as a matter of course, if the road should be sold to the City, those gentlemen would be entitled to, and would, no doubt, receive a handsome commission on the transaction, which they would be instrumental in completing. Then, the writer in the *News-Advertiser* would come in for his share and be made happy. This, of itself, would be amply sufficient to account for his enthusiastic approval of a bargain which would be, on the part of the city, little short of discreditable, and would certainly be neither just nor generous.

THE HORNET flatters itself that it is justified in congratulating itself, and in expecting congratulations from its readers, on the excellence of the cartoon presented on the opposite page. The entire credit, both of conception and execution, is due to Mr. Innes, THE HORNET'S talented artist, and it is hardly necessary for us to point out how forcibly the true situation of this unfortunate Province is shown in the picture. It speaks for itself, and that is the reason why the

Editor did not deem it necessary, or even desirable, to put any legend under it.

British Columbia hangs suspended by the wrists to the totem stick of a non-representative Government, of which Davie is the *tyee*, while the billows of a sea of coming troubles are drawing ever nearer to overwhelm her, and birds of ill-omen hover around, as if impatient for the time to arrive when they can gorge themselves on her lifeless body. Herein, surely, is an object lesson that ought to make "the red blood leap in a' the veins" of every leal-hearted son of British Columbia, so that he will register a solemn oath to rescue her, at whatever cost and at whatever risk, from the bonds of political trickery and dishonesty by which she is tied to the stake.

The artistic skill, shown in the drawing of the picture, it would, to our thinking, be superfluous to praise. It appears to us to be very near, if it does not actually reach, perfection.

Our readers will, no doubt, most of them, have heard of the manifesto recently issued to the *habitans* of the Province of Quebec by "Count" Mercier, the notorious hoodler and dishonored ex-premier. Its object is, manifestly, to give its author a chance to "get even" with the English-speaking element in the population of the province, by inciting the priest-ridden and bigotted French-Canadians to open revolt against English rule. Of course the document—which, by the way, has been widely circulated where, from Mercier's point of view, it would "do most good"—is full of the usual demagogic claptrap of protest against alleged "tyranny," appeals to race prejudice and religious fanaticism, and a raking up of all the acts of oppression and outrage committed by England against the Frenchmen generally, from the time of Joan of Arc down to date. Those who know the man to be what he is, a knave and a swindler of the first water, may feel inclined to make light of his pronouncement, notwithstanding that it is an incitement to open rebellion which is just as likely to be successful in causing an uprising as was Louis Riel's appeal to the half-breeds and redskins of the Northwest; but those who know how wide the chasm already is which separates the French *habitans* of Quebec from the English-speaking portion of the community, are fully aware of the serious significance of this action of Mercier's, and of the grave consequences that may follow. No doubt the French-Canadians are plucking up courage from seeing the prospect of success which appears to be about—at least, partially—to crown the efforts of the Irish to get Home Rule; and no wonder if they, too, begin to hug the delusion that they may get the same measure meted out to them. At the bottom of both movements there is traceable the influence of the clergy, who, after the manner of their kind, are impatient of the limitations—slight as they are in Ireland and almost nonexistent in Quebec—which the Government sets to their power. "Home Rule," disguise it as they may, is simply "Rome Rule," and we are no prophet if, in both countries, very drastic measures will not have to be adopted before the malcontents are brought to their senses. Meantime, in order that the poor dupes of the priests and of traitors like Mercier may not be enticed and wheedled into overt acts of rebellion, it might not be a bad scheme to make an example of "the man of the manifesto" by giving him the chance to dance a *pas seul* at the end of a taut cord. An Irish traitor would, naturally, do a jig under the same conditions.

Anything more speciously fraudulent than the two main contentions, made on behalf of the United States, by Mr. Phelps and Mr. Coudert, counsel before the Behring Sea tribunal, could hardly be conceived by the brains of the most unscrupulous police court pettifogging shyster. Mr. Phelps contended that "the three-mile limit is the minimum, not the maximum, line of national self-defence," and Mr. Cou-