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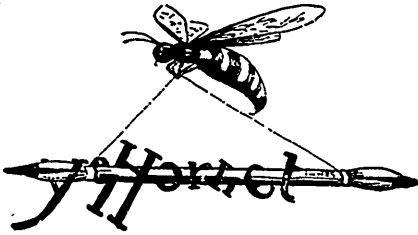
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This insect careth not one rap  
Who may despise or scorn it.  
'Tis full of fight and vim and snap—  
In short, a most pugnacious chap  
You'll find the dandy Hornet.

### HUMMINGS.

If the Premier thought that, during his missionary trip to the Kootenay country he would be regarded as "the biggest toad in the puddle" and welcomed as such, the delusion was speedily dispelled and he came back convinced that he was not rated as much to brag of even as a tadpole. This was too bad after he had gone to so much trouble to shroud his movements in mystery and steal a march on all political opponents who might follow and trip him up. He looked for enthusiasm and lo, an abundant lack of it. He piped—on a very small reed, by the way—to the voters of Kootenay (to a few of them, that is, at Revelstoke,) and they would not dance. We cannot blame them. His speech, so far as it can be judged of from the report in the *Kootenay Star*, was a mingled jumble of excuse, misrepresentation and drivel. The excuses were made for his former hasty hegira to Montreal, and of exceedingly thin texture they were. He was not sufficiently candid to admit that he ran away because he feared to cross blades with Mr. Kitchen, but tried to make a merit of his undignified departure by saying that it was due to his sudden recognition of the urgent need of settling up the matter of the Arrow Lake Railway and impress on Mr. Van Horne the importance of a road to connect Nakusp and Carpenter Creek! These matters of importance had been matters of common discussion for many months before, and yet the Premier only recognized their importance simultaneously with the fact of his recognition that Mr. Kitchen was in pursuit of him. Then, indeed, he did run well. Who did hinder him?

The misrepresentation cropped out all over the speech, but was more noticeable in the statement "that the

Government regards all parts of the Province alike and would deal with all alike when opportunity offered and the necessity arose." Could anything be conceivably more inconsistent with the policy which the Government has actually pursued? Has the rule not always been "Victoria first, last and all the time?" Has not this been so notoriously the case that it is not possible for the Government supporters to mention a solitary instance where a concession has been made to the Mainland or any part of it which the Government was not either shamed or forced into making, whereas not only were the actual needs of Victoria promptly supplied, but ingenuity exercised to devise grounds for loading her with the most palpable superfluities. Then consider the saving clauses "when opportunity offered and the necessity occurred." Verily, to judge from the past methods of the Government, every such "opportunity" will be dodged and every "necessity" ignored—at least until after Victoria, which is like the daughters of the horse-leech—has been satisfied, or rather, surfeited. And that day will not come in a hurry.

Again consider the degree of misrepresentation contained in the assertion that "all who have looked into the matter concede that Victoria should be the seat of the Government!" It is just those who have looked into the matter who concede nothing of the sort. On the contrary, the more they look into the matter the more convinced they are that it is only a question of time until a removal of the capital to a point more central and more easily accessible to the majority of the people of the Province will become inevitable. Nay, the fact that this eventuality is clearly perceived and appreciated by the Government itself—it, no doubt, has "looked into the matter" too—is proved by its taxing the Province \$600,000 in order to "anchor" the Capital at Victoria! What then is the use of quibbling as the Premier did at Revelstoke on this point? Does he hope to throw dust in the eyes of the voters by such palpable misrepresentations which are only springes to catch woodcocks withal?

He judiciously said but little on the Census matter, for he knew, as did everybody else, that he himself, every member of the Government who meddled with it, and both the "organs" had stultified themselves over it in the most egregious fashion. In this case silence was golden and the Premier was very properly mum. He pursued almost the same policy of silence on the matter of redistribution, and it is not at all impossible that we shall see another case of "scuttling" out of the "promise," reiterated by one of the organs, of honest representation for the Mainland, at the next session just as we did at the former. With our shifty Premier, nothing in the shape of "backing out" of pledges would surprise us.

The "drivel" in the speech does not appear in spots. It is all over the body of it like eczema. The speech is unworthy even of Mr. Davie as a barrister, not to say a statesman. True, he had a "bad case," but he did not seem able to make the best of it. Did he, perchance, not make much of an effort, under the impression that the people of Kootenay are easily fooled and that it would be a waste of oratorical ammunition to expend it on them? If so, he will, if we do not greatly err, find out his mistake at the polls. He may find that the voters of Kootenay are just as intelligent and as worthy of being treated as thinking men as any of the enfranchised in the pocket borough of Cowichan.

The ex-President of the United States, Benny Harrison, has been airing his eloquence before the Grand Army of the Republic in Indianapolis. He made a plea for pensions and against the administration of Cleveland, as represented by