

"the truth and the whole truth." Reliable accounts from Fraser River, must be sent to those who have to do with shipping. Those interested in commerce must be told every particular about its Bar, and the facilities for steam tugs towing vessels to Westminster. Point out Burrard Inlet as an excellent harbor. Admiral Baines' opinion is known on the subject, and the advantages which the Inlet offers should be widely known.

Private enterprise is already demonstrating the advantages of *direct commerce* between New Westminster and San Francisco. Why should not this step be made a *stride*, and the Governor learn through the public, and the British Government from yourselves directly that, we believe in the advantages of British Columbia, *maritime and commercial* as well as auriferous, and demand from both, more public recognition of the fact.

Who have governed the Colony of British Columbia? A Governor and *time-serving* Allies, whose hearts and homes have not been in our Colony. A Governor and his *time-serving allies*, whose self interest, personal aggrandisement and predilections are appreciated almost as much in Vancouver Island as in British Columbia.

WHERE HAVE THEY BEEN? Where our Queen and our Country never intended. Our country's gold is endued in certain cases with rare adhesiveness, when earned with the least trouble and anxiety.

But while you blame selfishness and absence of patriotism; Fellow Countrymen, give all honor to those who have earned it. While you point from the Governor of British Columbia to Judge, Attorney General, Treasurer and Colonial Secretary as unanimous Absentees, do not forget that our Lieutenant Governor and Collector of Customs (in spite of not a little influence brought against them, if rumor is true) have proved themselves worthy of honor, in a matter which you have not regarded as unimportant.

You are told "they are coming." Let those who have so pertinaciously declined to fulfill their duties, *where they ought to have fulfilled them*, convince us of the change. A change in the "marching orders," we are informed has gone forth, but there is a very significant silence if such orders have been received.

When *Absenteeism* in a Governor and all connected with the Government of British Columbia is at end, common justice will only be rendered to a Colony which had a claim to other treatment from its first establishment. Traders, Merchants and Lot-holders, you must one and all, feel the benefit of an altered state of things when such an abuse is removed, why has it lasted so long? Why were small debt courts not created before? Why did so many debtors abscond? Representations were ignored; the luminary of justice was absent. He knew as much of the wants of our Colony as he cared for its interests. Plausible arguments are palmed off. But it won't do! Come and do your duty, say we to absentees, and perhaps you may find British Columbia is not such "a barren and desolate land" as a renegade Attorney General characterized it; but don't forget how much our capital has lost in wealth, position, and influence by *unblushing Absenteeism*.

Fellow Countrymen, you have shown exemplary patience under more drawbacks and abuses than those I have yet alluded to, you have shown praiseworthy patience under TAXATION.