

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor,

Sidney and Islands Review:

Let people say what they may, undoubtedly the crying need of the Province of B.C. is for better prices for farm and other produce.

Take the farmer. For much of what he raises, he receives between 30 and 40 cents only of each dollar the consumer pays for it.

Both wholesaler and retailer have to take toll for rental and help as well as a good percentage of profit.

If, however, better prices were obtained by the farmer, the land would quickly settle up, transportation facilities increase, and the increased production would lead to increased development in many other directions.

There is one way, and one only, by which the farmer can attain this object, and that is by selling retail to the consumer, and this, one man alone cannot afford to do, as the cost of marketing would eat up all his profits.

But the cost for selling the produce of a hundred farms would be no greater than that of one, whilst each individual would have to bear but one per cent. of it, therefore co-operation along these lines is imperative.

Unfortunately, co-operative schemes in the past have, through either ineffectual capitalisation or mismanagement, sometimes proved failures, although there is no instance recorded where a properly managed business of this sort has been unsuccessful.

But farmers, who have, under present non-co-operative conditions, to work very hard for their money, are suspicious, and fear to find in such an enterprise simply a means to get their money. But if the farmers control the business themselves, how is this possible?

A co-operative store in Victoria handling farmers' produce only should easily turn over \$500,000 a year, the total cost of running which, including interest on capital, would be 12 per cent, leaving

88 cents in the dollar for the farmer, or more than double the price he receives for most of what he raises.

But take the annual turnover as but half this, \$250,000, the cost for marketing this would certainly not exceed 17 per cent, leaving the farmer 83 cents. This is worth thinking over.

If with this co-operation in selling were combined, co-operation in other directions, as for development, how much greater would be the benefits. Furthermore, such a combine would be a very powerful political factor, and it would then be the farmers' own fault if the representative he sent to Parliament did not suit him.

W. J. L. HAMILTON.

Box 8, South Salt Spring.

### Slanders Damage Prestige of B. C.

Baseless and Reckless Charges of Mis-  
government Prove Injurious to  
The Province

The Liberal party in British Columbia is a party of opposition, and that is all it is. During the ten years and more in which it has diminished from a formidable organization, able to carry seven seats in a Dominion election, until it reached the vanishing point at the last Provincial election, it has been nothing else than an opposition party. It has opposed everything from the development of the Province to the maintenance of law and order. Its policy has been one of negation. For the Government to suggest anything was a sufficient reason for the Liberals to oppose it. It had one affirmative suggestion only, and that was the unique Oliver railway policy, which was in its way about the funniest thing ever advanced for the consideration of an electorate. Our good friend, Mr. John Oliver, whom everybody likes but no one takes seriously as a

politician, took a map of British Columbia and put marks on it; if some political supporter pointed out to him that there was a place where another mark would look well, straightway it was drawn upon the map, straightway it was times wondered since this fearful and wonderful production was spread out for public admiration, just what our friend from the Delta thinks of it. But this unique work of art had one merit. It purported to be an attempt to do something. Since then our Liberal friends have been content to oppose, and they have been absolute and indiscriminate in their opposition. It has extended to the Premier and his colleagues individually and collectively; it has embraced every aspect of Provincial progress. It has been even directed against the Province.

Mr. Brewster has, since he was made leader of his party, made several speeches, and in each one of them he has been careful to assert things that are injurious to the best interests of British Columbia, and the newspapers supporting him have given every publicity in their power to these injurious allegations, supplementing them with equally inaccurate statements of their own. At a time when it is desirable to attract settlers to the Province, and when they are coming in large numbers and taking up vacant Crown lands, Mr. Brewster and his newspaper supporters have been doing their best to persuade people that there is no land to be got, and that any man who wishes to settle in the Province must pay tribute to a soulless lot of speculators. We can understand that a party in opposition might criticize, and if they thought well to do so, condemn, the sale of Crown lands to any other than persons actually intending to settle on them and improve them. We do not think, and we have never thought this would be a good policy, but we can quite understand a political party adopting it. But the Liberals have not done this. They have simply raised an outcry that every acre of available arable land has been sold to friends of the Government, who are

holding up settlement. This is untrue, and, if it is believed, its effect will be to deter settlers from coming to the Province. To send out such a false statement broadcast is a very unpatriotic action. That the Liberals have done so shows that, having only a policy of opposition, they extend it to anything and everything, even to the welfare of the Province.

We know that the result of such a course on the part of the leaders and organs of the Liberal party has been to alienate the sympathies of many persons who formerly supported them, and who are predisposed to give their allegiance to a political party bearing that historic name. They have no desire to be associated with a political organization which confines itself to the vilification of its political opponents and to misrepresenting the actual condition of the Province, never by any possibility making a practical suggestion of any value.—"The Colonist."

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# PUBLIC MEETINGS

In the interest of MR.  
**W. W. FOSTER**

The Conservative Candidate

At BERQUIST'S HALL, Dec. 2nd

Addressed by Hon. W. R. Ross, Mr. R. F. Green, Mr. Foster, and local speakers

JOINT MEETING, PENDER ISLAND

Addressed by Hon. Wm. R. Ross, Mr. W. W. Foster and Mr. S. Percival

BERQUIST'S SMALL HALL, Dec. 5th

Addressed by Hon. W. J. Bowser, Mr. Green, M.P., Mr. Foster, and local speakers

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