

on to other countries because we have nothing to offer them in the way of land upon which they can make a living, and which they can obtain at a reasonable price—and yet we are sending from two and a half to three millions out of the country every year for food stuffs which could be raised here on our tens of thousands of acres of fertile land, which is lying unused. Is it any wonder that times are hard? (Applause.)

He had also declared himself in favor of the restriction of Chinese immigration, and they knew the stand he had taken on the subject. The question presented serious difficulties, and it was one, unfortunately, which readily lent itself to the vote-catching politician and his tricks. He looked upon the restrictive clauses put into certain Acts during last session as one of the most important steps in advance in this matter during the whole of the present Parliament.

The Redistribution Question.

Another matter—the thing that had been, indeed, of the very essence of politics at the last election—was redistribution. He confessed his surprise to hear men in this part of the country professing themselves satisfied with what they had got in this matter. The proportion all over the Province was about one member to two thousand population, but everyone agreed that the upper country constituencies were entitled to larger representation than this would give them. That being allowed, it followed that other parts of the Province must have a less proportionate representation, and had that rule been applied to all the lower country—Island as well as Mainland—the redistribution would have been fair, as far as that was concerned. But as it was, the Island had been given the undiminished Provincial proportion of a member for two thousand, while the lower Mainland had to put up with a member for three thousand or over. When examined, the boasted fairness of the division between Island and Mainland, turned out to be only a smart trick to rob this part of the country of its just voice in legislation—he said this in no sectional spirit, there were hundreds of good men on the Island—but, in his view, a Government that perpetrated tricks of that sort was unworthy of support. He would say nothing

about broken promises and delays in this matter. That was an old story, which his hearers knew as well as he did. As to details, they all knew what a hotch-potch the Act was. Mr. Brown here gave a few instances of the irregularities of the arrangement.

Not a Straight Government.

Another thing, Mr. Brown said, which he had promised was that he would be found a supporter of a straight Government. He was sorry to say that he had not had a chance to fulfil that promise. Before a man could support a straight Government, there must be a straight Government to support. A Government might fail to be straight, and yet be honest as far as overt acts went. A straight Government was one which governed in the interests of the people—and that was what the present Government had entirely failed to do. "Failed" was not the right word, for the fact was that they had not tried to do it. The autocratic tricks which they attempted to play in school and municipal legislation—to give just two familiar instances—showed what spirit they were of. In these and other matters they had been compelled to back down, but the retreat was a forced one, and was not carried out with a good grace. Then such schemes as the Crofter Deep Sea business—the Canada Western—the Nakusp-Slocan—to say nothing of the Parliament buildings matter—indicated ideas about the administration of the affairs of the country which stamped this Government as essentially a bad one for the Province and the mass of its people, although there were some individuals who found the Government good enough for them. (Applause.)

He and his friends in the House had been roundly abused in certain quarters, but he had the knowledge that their actions were approved by the bulk of the people, as the coming elections would show. He confessed that the abuse had troubled him very little, nor did he mean to say much about it now. There was one point that was worth noticing, if only to laugh at it. He would read a statement from one of the Government organs:

The House has been prorogued after sitting within one week of three months, and now we wonder what excuse the Oppositionists will give to the electors for their continued oppo-