

the vicinity of the saloon. The play-ground is a more forceful factor for good than the Sunday school text or the eloquent exhortations of the pulpit. This city should insist that the boys should be given every chance to build up strong, healthy constitutions, and it is essential, therefore, that the Beacon Hill grounds be kept in proper condition. Tempt the boys from street corners into inviting parks, and crime will be reduced to a minimum, for the field of play engenders higher associations, and will render the coming generations of Victorians a credit and honor to any country. The duty of the City Council is only half completed when the Beacon Hill grounds shall have been put into proper shape. Victoria West is in need of a park, and other portions of the city should be similarly treated. Who will be the first alderman to bring this question up in a comprehensive manner, and earn the thanks of citizens present and future?

British Columbians should be thankful although the Opposition party is not by any means above reproach in Kansas, which is described as "run by lawyers without clients, doctors without patients, by preachers without pulpits, by women without husbands, by farmers without farms, by financiers without finances, by educators without education, and by statesmen out of their job."

It appears to me that the move made by the Cleveland administration looking to the suppression of anarchists is one in the right direction. According to *Street's*, information is being received from the United States government relative to the movements of anarchists abroad, and that this is part of an arrangement which the state department has entered lately. A system of interchange of such information has been for some time in operation between the European governments, and some time ago, it is reported, the American diplomatic representatives abroad were directed to indicate the willingness of the Washington government to exchange such information with the governments abroad. According to the report the arrangement above referred to was then entered into.

By the demise of *Single Tax* the followers of Henry George in this Province have lost a worthy champion of their cause. While I do not agree altogether with the taxation theories advocated by *Single Tax*, I nevertheless read the paper with a great deal of pleasure. If for no other reason, the little sheet has rendered a valuable service to the community in exposing the fallacy of our present unequal system of taxation. It is understood that

Mr. Louis Post, during his recent visit to this city, urged the discontinuance of the publication, particularly as it was a losing investment for those financing it. Mr. Post took the logical ground that a newspaper could support a fad, but a fad will not support a newspaper. This self-evident proposition he qualified with the remark that single tax could no longer be regarded in the light of a fad—it was now a living breathing factor in the social and political economy of all the civilized nations of the earth.

I have noticed that different forms of entertainment at the theatre will attract different audiences. The opera is frequented by musicians and ladies, tragedy by people who like to hear themselves talking, melodrama by sentimentalists and farce comedy by fat men and those who enjoy a hearty laugh. It never occurred to me, however, until last Saturday night that negro minstrelsy was in high favor with the members of the legal profession. In one row alone three prominent lawyers were seated. Many other faces, familiar at the Bar, were observed beaming with smiles in other parts of the theatre. The true significance of the old saying, "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men," most emphatically manifested itself on the occasion to which I refer.

The announcement that has frequently been made, but this time on apparently good authority, that Mr. A. W. Ross, M. P. for Liagar, will be appointed Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba, after the close of the present session of the Dominion House of Commons, will be received with much pleasure by his many friends in this Province. Mr. Ross was a resident of Vancouver for many years, and, if I mistake not, retrieved to a certain extent the fortune which he lost in the Winnipeg boom.

Brown Bros., grocers, Victoria, have closed out.

The Trescott Packing Co., fish exporters, New Westminster, have sold out to the Fraser River Fish Co.

TO THE ELECTORS.

—OF—

Victoria City Electoral District.

Gentlemen:—The general election now being near at hand, and being a candidate for re-election, I wish to place my views on some of the questions commanding your attention, as well as to intimate the line of action which I shall take and the measures which I shall, if opportunity permits, support and maintain. The party now in power have practically held office for over eleven years. Their policy has been an indefinite one on many of the

questions requiring consideration. At the last general election the Opposition advocated reform in the land laws of the province, and have been able to make some important changes.

The privilege of allowing speculators and non-residents to take up large tracts of land has been taken away and the lands are now available for actual settlers.

By the efforts of the Opposition the assessment of the wild land has been much increased; the ad valorem principle of assessment according to the land value, is now the law.

There are two essential matters yet to be carried out in connection with encouraging of agricultural settlers. First, the surveying of available lands for such a purpose and giving the necessary information by the Lands and Works Department; second, the making of roads to such settlements, so that the farmer may be able to bring his produce to market—such a policy as this must be adopted in order to develop and encourage the farming industry of our province. By so doing we shall add much to our wealth and prosperity.

The railway policy of the Government has not been a business-like one. From the time of the grant given to the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway down to the Nakusp and Slocan deal, the interests of the province and the welfare of the people have not been well guarded. On the one hand a corporation receives a large subsidy and an immense tract of land, free from taxation forever; on the other, a private company is subsidized by guaranteeing the bonds to the full cost of the road as well as interest on the same for twenty-five years. One cannot but come to the conclusion that a Government policy of such a character is likely to bring the credit of the province into disrepute.

Monopolies of any kind are to be deplored, but monopolies backed by Government aid and support are often the most difficult to overcome. Government aid to such an extent as has been given in the instances referred to precludes other roads from being assisted or built. As an instance of this we recognize the difficulty of the British Pacific Railway will have in dealing with the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway and its existing rights. Thus by the action of the present Government in the past it looks as if the province were at the mercy of ringsters and monopolists who are despoiling the people of their heritage.

I am opposed to the executive using its power to make large appropriations of money by special warrant for roads, streets, bridges, and public works, without first submitting such to the Legislature. Such a course of action leads to favoritism and corruption and is not in accord with the principles of constitutional government.

I have advocated, and will continue to do so, the reduction of taxation on improvements, and the abolition of taxes on mortgages. The latter impost presses doubly hard upon the borrower, and the repeal of this law would be in the interest and for the advancement of the province.

The practice followed on the eve of a general election of promising aid to public works and institutions by members of the executive should be condemned, as it is attempting to bribe the electors, with their own money. The independent electors should answer this by sending men to the Legislature who will do their utmost to remove such ministers from power.

During the past four years legislation has been brought about, chiefly by the Opposition, in reforming the School Law. The residents of the cities have now greater power over the management of their schools, and more is yet desired in this particular. I shall use my best endeavors to bring this about, so that our schools may be free of all political influences.

I have also advocated further restriction on Chinese immigration and the employment of Chinese by any company seeking charters or grants from the Legislature. I have advocated and still maintain that a clause should be inserted in all bills giving such privileges or aid to prevent the employment of this class of labor.

I also have advocated the necessity of employing residents of the province instead of non-residents or foreigners in the prosecution of all works or contracts let by the government.

It is impossible in an address of this kind to touch on all questions affecting the province. I hope, however, before long to have the opportunity of addressing the electors in public meeting, at which time I will refer to matters more extensively.

Hoping that my past record as a representative in the Local Legislature has been acceptable to you, I again seek your votes and support.

I remain, yours respectfully

G. L. MILNE