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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

WERE ONCE IRISH KINGS.

WHEN we buy our provisions at Mr. O'Brien's it never occurs to us that his ancestors were once kings in Thomond, though Mrs. O'Connor herself knows well enough that her family were heirs to the kingdom of Connaught. Mr. O'Neil never takes the trouble to boast that his home is the most honored and aristocratic in the annals of Ireland, and Mr. McCool, once the redoubtable commander of the Fenians—an organization which met the Romans in the field and yielded, not to nobler valor, but to superior military science—neither prints a crest on his note paper nor insists upon precedence at municipal banquets. It is indeed a case of "how the mighty have fallen."

Let us take the case of the O'Neils. Little do their acquaintances in America dream what a prominent figure they once cut in the world, yet never was a name more truly loyal. The great Neil, the founder of their family, carried his arms into Britain itself; but chasing the British could not content such a man as he was. He crossed swords with many enemies, and it was in France, in an expedition directed against the far distant valley of the Loire, that he met his death. And his sons were worthy of him. Those who did not share in the paternal inheritance carved out for themselves a kingdom in Ulster, and centralizing at Derry, administered the Ulaid for centuries.

There are few names more common, yet few names more worthy of commem-

oration than that of Moore. Away back in the dim past when history was just settling itself into authenticity. Owen Moore expelled his opponents from Munster and established in Desmond a monarchy which he transmitted to his posterity for nearly a thousand years. He must have been no common man who could lay the foundations of such a stable government—indeed, the writer recalls no other such case in the history of the world. They were a doughty race of warriors, and the vicissitudes of a thousand years brought them many enemies but they possessed the true Irish genius of riding the storm and they held on to their little kingdom manfully. Their disrowned descendants will do well to reflect that there never was a knightlier name than theirs.

The heart of every Irishman should beat the faster when he "remembers the glories of Brian, the brave." He presents to them the great tragedy of their nation; he is their Wellington, their Washington, their Von Moltke. The Danes had been settled in Ireland for nearly three centuries—and Greeks and Trojans never fought more bitterly than Danes and Irish—but the victory on the field of Clontarf shattered their power forever. And Brian was as wise as he was valiant. It is said that in the reign of Alfred the Great, king of England, the laws were so strictly administered that a man might drop his purse on the road and return a week later and find it, for no one would presume to pick it up. So, too, Brian with a wisdom beyond his times, dispensed justice so righteously and firmly that crime almost disappeared. It is to the safety afforded travellers on the public highways in days of universal brigandage that Moore refers to in "Rich and rare were the gems she wore."

When we meet Mr. Leary on the street we may not remember that his ancestors ever wore the royal diadem; but it was to the court of King Leary, that St. Patrick repaired, and it was during his auspicious reign that Christianity was first preached there. The story is told how one morning at sunrise the daughters of Leary went to the well to perform their ablutions, and met on their way the saint and his assistants robed to the feet in their white surplices; they thought at first the holy men were fairies come down from the hills, but the good saint speedily turned