

British Columbia up in Arms.

THAT MISLAID LETTER.

The "Anglo-Saxon" Receives Abuse, but the Lost has been found.

The editor of the *ANGLO-SAXON* has had a hard trial of it during the past month, owing to a slight inaccuracy which appeared in our last issue. We may, however, before proceeding any further assure our friends that he has survived the terrible shock, and now comes up again quite serene as though no conflict had arisen—in other words "the lost has been found."

The following paragraph was inserted in our last issue under the heading "An Apology to the Grand Secretary—An Important Letter Misaid"—

"Through the interchange of copy between the editorial and composing rooms an important document from Grand Secretary J. W. Carter became lost. The document in question was a letter from a brother in Victoria, B.C., warning persons not to go to said place, as the most dire distress prevailed there owing to a pretended boom in lands by the advertising of land-grabbers and speculators. The brother writing says he had to assist over forty emigrants within one month. There are plenty of mechanics and laborers to do the work required. He says anyone coming after this warning has themselves to blame if they find themselves cast in a desert land with starvation staring them in the face. Should the mislaid document turn up we will publish it in our next issue."

The wording of our apology was as near the text of the then lost letter as would naturally be expected under the circumstances, seeing that memory alone had to be depended upon; but the grave error of substituting VICTORIA for VANCOUVER was unfortunately committed. As the result of this mistake we received the following communication which speaks for itself:—

HOUSE OF COMMONS, April 5, 1889.

To the Editor of the *Anglo-Saxon*:

DEAR SIR,—In the March issue of the *ANGLO-SAXON* I see a paragraph headed "An important letter lost," in which it is stated that dire distress prevails in Victoria, B.C., and warning workmen to keep away from there. I was much astonished to see this, as I knew Victoria was enjoying a period of great prosperity. As I have the honor to be representing that city in the House of Commons, I telegraphed to the Mayor of Victoria advising him of the paragraph, and asking him to let me know the true facts of the case. His telegraphic reply was as follows:—"Victoria City never enjoyed more solid commercial prosperity than at present; no poor people here; advancement rapid; no undue speculation exists; mechanics in building line scarce; wages high; contradict positively report of distress. (Sd.) JOHN GRANT, Mayor." Now, sir, I trust you will make amends to the people of Victoria by emphatically denying the assertions made by your correspondent, and will give the denial the utmost publicity possible. I am convinced you must have made a mistake, and substituted the name of Victoria for that of some other city.

Hoping you will give this matter your kind and immediate attention,

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

EDW. LAWLER PRIOR.

We sincerely regret having erroneously announced that depression existed in the gilliant Colonel's constituency, and are therefore particularly desirous of drawing the attention of our readers to the fact that VICTORIA, B.C., is MOST PROSPEROUS at the present time, and, we hope, may continue to improve in its present most happy and prosperous condition. We also hope that this apology and correction will prove satisfactory to Col. Prior, M.P., and John Grant, Esq., Mayor of Victoria, B.C.

The editor has been accosted upon the public streets, abused in his own sanctum-sanctorum, and goodness knows what he has been compelled to put up with owing to a slight change in a name. It is an old saying "what's in a name," but we can assure our readers that the editor of the *ANGLO-SAXON* has now been convinced that there is a great deal in a name.

The *London Times*, *Lloyd's Weekly*, the *Belfast News-Letter*, and all the leading daily and weekly newspapers of the motherland are now, it is stated, urging the British

Government (in consequence of our announcement) to prevent the great steamship lines from carrying any more of their subjects off as emigrants to British Columbia. This we regret very much, as we are firmly convinced from the tone of Mayor Grant's epistle, that there is room for hundreds of thousands more yet, and then there will still be plenty to spare.

A MARKED COPY.

We were also favored with a marked copy of the *Vancouver Daily World*, and judging from the tone of its editor he must have had a terrible time hitting right and left at that immense cavity—space—and ultimately fell down exhausted, when he gave vent to the following:—

Utterly Untrue!!!

"An Ottawa despatch to *The Colonist* says: 'Col. Prior telegraphed Mayor Grant relative to a statement made in an issue of the *ANGLO-SAXON*, a local weekly, to the effect that dire distress prevails in Victoria, owing to the collapse of the boom created by land speculators, and that scores of workmen are out of work. Since Col. Prior's despatch *The Colonist* representative interviewed the editor of the *Saxon* and found that Victoria was a misprint for Vancouver.'

"*The Anglo-Saxon* is a very obscure sheet, and we imagine it is unnecessary to give its name publicity by stating that its information, as far as Vancouver is concerned, is untrue. It will be amusing to the people of this city, who are now enjoying one of the most prosperous periods in their history, to learn that "the boom created by land speculators" has "collapsed," and that "scores of workmen are out of work." So far from this being the case every man in the city, capable and steady, is earning a day's wage that would fairly startle the sleepy old fogies of the Federal capital. If the *ANGLO-SAXON* came out to Vancouver just now, it is more than probable its columns would not be made the medium of gross misrepresentation of a city that is to-day the wonder of Canada. Its growth and success are simply unique in the history of the Dominion. Somebody has been stuffing the *ANGLO-SAXON* badly."

Fortunately for us the lost has been found, which throws the blame off from the shoulders of the editor of the *ANGLO-SAXON*, and strikes a blow right home to that would be sarcastic but ill-mannered quill-dipper of the *Vancouver World*. It is as follows:—

March 13th, 1889.

To the Editor of the *Anglo-Saxon*:

I have received a letter from a brother in Vancouver, B.C., and I think the following portion of it should be read by our members. I therefore send it for publication:

"There are quite a number of persons here who for their own selfish ends are using every endeavor to flood this market with workmen of all kinds.

"Now, the supply of workmen and mechanics in this town is vastly over the demand, and large numbers of men are walking about idle. One of our most influential members in the lodge last night assured the meeting that he received an average of twenty men per day during the last week applying for work on his contract, and many of these persons were in such poor condition as to offer to work for any wage that would supply them with the bare necessities of life.

"The real estate speculators here (and their name is legion) are attempting to force a boom, and to succeed in that they want lots of mechanics, so as to play one against the other and thus get their work done for next to nothing.

"Now, as to wages, they are not high here, whatever may be said to the contrary. The lumber mills are paying \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day for laborers, and some really first-class mechanics are earning only \$2.25 per day, and not constantly employed at that. The commonest board costs from \$5 to \$6 per week, and a very poor house rents for \$10 to \$12 per month. The railroad is going to put on cheap trips from Toronto and Montreal, and doubtless these will be widely advertised. Will you please put these facts before the brethren, and then, if after having been warned, they will persist in coming, they must take the consequences."

Yours fraternally,

JOHN CARTER,
Supreme Grand Secretary S. O. E.

The *Vancouver World* and our correspondent can now fight it out, and we feel satisfied our correspondent is able for him. After the battle is over we would be pleased to hear from the *World's* editor as to "who has been badly stuffed," as he alludes in his issue of 2nd of April.