

# YE HORNET.

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This insect careth not one rap  
Who may despise or scorn it.  
'Tis full of fight and vim and snap—  
In short, a most pugnacious chap.  
You'll find the dandy HORNET.

## HUMMINGS.

THE HORNET is not surprised to find the Government of the Province trying to put the odium of the census-juggle upon the Government of the Dominion. Actions of that sort are characteristic of our Government, and of the class of politicians to which most of its members belong. It is also quite in character that the *World*, of this city, should lead in the dirty work. A few months ago, the organs of the Government were lavish in their complimentary references to Messrs. Lowe and Johnston. Loudly they laughed in scorn of any one who ventured to criticise the conclusions of these "able and experienced gentlemen, holding high positions, etc., etc." Now, alas! for these same gentlemen they have nothing better than "bungler," "blundering servants," and so forth.

The *World* declares it "has been conclusively proven," (probably the organ means "proved"), that the statement which gave the Island 2,241 more whites than the Mainland, arose from a bungling of the "returns" by the "Bureau," (with a big "B.") The thing proved by this statement of the *World's* is, that—so long as the supply of "juice" holds out—that paper is quite willing to write itself down an ass, and a very unscrupulous ass at that. "The returns" of the "Bureau" have nothing to say whatever about Whites or Indians, nor did the "Bureau" ever profess to give any such information. It gave the religions of the people, and the birthplaces of the people; but it had nothing to say as to whether these people were white, black, red or yellow. It tells us how many of our people were born in China, and we know that we shall not be far wrong if we set these all down

as Chinese. Again, it tells us how many of our people were born within the Province, and if we are fools enough to set these all down as Indians, is that the fault of the "Bureau?" Now, our Government did set them all down as Indians, and steadily refused to take it back until they had to do so.

The Insect requests that a special note be made of this last point—stick a pin in it. The root of the matter is right there. Away back in 1891, the Government sent to the "Bureau" a statement in which it insisted that the number of Indians in the Province was 37,416! And it so worded that statement as to lead one to suppose that it had the authority of the Indian officers here for making it. It quoted the Indian Report (1891) for 35,416 of the Indians, and added to them bands "situate in the Chilcat and Taku districts," "which," it added, "the Indian Department here estimate at 2,000." The Government did not press this statement—it was too smart for that. The statement was intended to create the impression in the "Bureau" that all the Indians in the Indian Report, and probably more, were in the census. Of course, no such estimate was ever made by the "Department here." That little flourish was introduced to blind the census officials, who might otherwise have made enquiries on their own account, which would have been distinctly awkward. Now, remembering that the "Bureau" never professed to give the number of Indians—did not concern itself about that point at all—and remembering that special pains had been taken by our Government to load it up with the idea that the Indian Reports were a trustworthy guide on that point, can we wonder that Mr. Lowe accepted that view without much examination, or, in other words, that he fell into the trap that had been so carefully prepared for him? Mr. Lowe's telegrams were echoes of the positive statements made by our Government fourteen months before.

As the row waxes livelier, the Government and its organs are amply demonstrating the truth of the old adage about the need of an excellent good memory as part of the stock in trade of people of a certain character. The *Colonist* produces in defence of the Government, an extract from a report made, at its own request, to the Government, by Mr. Gosnell, one of the census commissioners for the Province. The report is dated the 21st of April last. The extracts given by the *Colonist* prove several things. They prove that Mr. Davie knew somewhere about the end of last April, all he knows to-day, bar a few small and unimportant details, about the census. Therefore, when he told that yarn to the *Empire* correspondent in Ottawa, he knew that he was publishing a falsehood, and a most damaging one, about the population of the Province. They prove further, (for the Indian office in the Province is quoted as one of the authorities on which Mr. Gosnell's statement is founded), that Mr. Davie could have learned the truth about the Indians at any time, by simply stepping into the Indian office in Victoria and asking a few questions. This being the case, the whole plea of the Government falls to the ground. There was no reason for delaying redistribution. Not only that, but the whole series of false statements made by ministers in the eastern provinces is now shown to have been a deliberate slandering of the Province in the hope of making good their dodge to excuse their breach of faith.

Perhaps as a sort of preparation for what they will get at the general election, the Government is now receiving sundry kicks from various quarters whence that sort of thing is not to be expected. No one wonders when opposition papers attack the Government—especially such a Government as ours—but when the kept papers of the Government triumphantly lift up their italics (as the *Colonist* did the other day) to