

PURDY'S MAY BE SCARCE

It is quite likely that there will be a shortage of candy for the Xmas season.

Mr. Purdy says

he cannot see any loosening of the sugar situation.

Sugar has been promised and promised—still it is difficult to get.

**PURDY'S CAN GUARANTEE DELIVERY
ON XMAS CHOCOLATES IF THE ORDERS
ARE PLACED NOW.**

R. C. PURDY, LIMITED

Makers of Purdy's Chocolates

675 Granville Street Vancouver, B. C.

been subject to more severe criticism than W. J. Bowser.

In fairness to him we must ask why?

One answer is readily apparent. It is usually the strong, the purposeful who arouse the greatest opposition.

Another reason lies in those failings which are inseparable in one form or another, from humanity. A stranger to that suavity of manner so often used to dissemble one's real feelings, Bowser's natural frankness of character and speech is apt to be quick, stern and even harsh in its expression. His scorn of "botchery", of ill-thought-out plans and suggestions; of simulation, hypocrisy and deceit is too likely to be poured forth in stinging rebuke—the more stinging because deserved.

One illustration will suffice.

At one time when Bowser was Acting-Premier, Acting-Minister of Finance and Attorney-General (then his special Department) the writer met a well known Conservative coming from Bowser's office in no amiable mood. He expressed to the writer his opinion as to the necessity of Bowser being driven from the regions of political activity and in explanation said, "Why he asked me why I was not home at work instead of over here belly-aching." I never asked Bowser if he were correctly quoted, but when I learned the facts I would not have condemned a much harsher expression.

No Conservative need venture on a purely party consideration to waste Bowser's time over measures or projects which have not been put in some decent and intelligible order. Sympathy any supporter or friend may expect to receive, but he must not expect to have inefficiency pardoned on account of party allegiance or personal friendship.

Beyond doubt, further, Bowser was guilty of nepotism. Relatives were placed in positions by a regime in which his say was powerful—at one time all powerful. This was, perhaps, his greatest political sin. A kindly critic might venture a defence of some of these appointments. It is rather

my purpose to sketch him as I believe him to be.

Another cause of trouble was his unyielding pertinacity. In his younger days in 1896 this characteristic created in the federal election of that year a situation which had ill-effects on his own career and upon his party for years.

I have no personal knowledge of this matter, but I have been told by those in whose judgment I place confidence, that his inability to brook delay created the difficulties that less dogged determinedness might have obviated.

Humanity generally is forgiving to the frailties and faults of kindred humanity. No doubt, therefore, the opposition to him which was aroused by his real faults would and did, die out in the recognition of the virtues accompanying them.

There is one large class of opposition due to ignorance of men and affairs; to personal rancour; to careless habits of speech on the part of those who should be most careful in their references to public men and matters; to an infernal suspicion and distrust—deemed by many to be a sign of wisdom—which leaves "neither Lancelot clean nor Galahad pure."

Of this latter class of opposition Bowser has had much to endure. Men, ignorant of the fact that for over 20 years ago he was enjoying a lucrative law practice—one which continued to develop for many years and in which he is still a fortunate partner—ignorant of the wisdom and caution used by him in different successful commercial ventures, ignorant of accessions to his private fortune by bequests from deceased relatives, saw only a comfortably circumstanced politician. Distrustful of all politicians as "grafters," without knowledge; without investigation, they carelessly accepted even absurd rumours of his having profited in different speculations in provincial natural resources or of his having exploited his official connection with the government to increase his private fortune.

Some of these I did not trouble to investigate. Three or four which came from quarters that indicated a probability of their being founded in fact I enquired into as fully as might be. In every case I found that a careless attention to facts or an inexcusably coloured personal interpretation of situations was the cause of the complaint and not any wrong doing on Bowser's part. Let me illustrate.

A very well known lawyer was arraigning Bowser for undue favours to friends and mentioned a certain land-holding syndicate as an example. As I recall the facts they proved on enquiry to be these. Certain persons—all Liberals in politics save one former Conservative, then claiming to be a Socialist—had gotten a number of irrevocable (so-called) powers-of-attorney and by means of these had staked, surveyed and made a first payment upon, a large area of land—some few thousand acres in extent. This they were at the time the complaint was made still holding. I do not remember that any sales had been made by them.

Whatever one may think of legislation which permits—as it still does—the holding of large areas by speculators through such means, the simple question in that particular matter resolved itself thus: Should the government—on advice of the Attorney-General—grant persons holdings in regard to which they had duly fulfilled the requisite statutory provisions necessary to acquisition, or, should it say to them "You have done all we required, but you cannot have those lands? How would my readers answer the question? Was Bowser as Attorney-General, helping friends, or, was he seeing that the laws were properly observed? Let each person take the statutes in force in B. C. in 1912-13, and answer these queries for himself.

An interesting figure, fighting along in face of constitutional weakness; an indomitable worker; a true fighting man; may I trust that I have aroused some interest in and given a fair picture of the strongest individual force in Provincial politics today.