

the nation. If he does, the nation has both the right and duty to compel him to do, or to have done for him, what the good of the country requires.

Have the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company managed their Land Grant for the country's good? Ask the farmer, who sees his children leaving the country in search of bread; that country with thousands on thousands of fertile acres—reserved; stolen by private greed from the use of the people. Ask the poor prospector, who, after the months of expense and toil, finds himself held up to the tune of \$130 down and as much more in short order—or robbed of his hard won finds; sheer wrong, for be it clearly known that so far as one can tell the E. & N. have no more right to demand that payment than any bully on the highway. They rely on the high hand, and on the ignorance and helplessness of the poor people. Ask the dwellers in the towns whose natural growth is checked and every enterprise blighted through being backed, not by a thriving and growing farm country, but by an encroaching waste. Ask the land itself. For eleven years the Company has had a full control, unhampered by interference, unbridled by law; time enough to have made the country a network of thriving homes. And what is it now? Go through the back districts of the Island, and you find cabin after cabin deserted and ruined; the little clearings relapsing into forest; the wild beast prowling through the dwellings of men. How long will the country stand such wickedness? How long shall we sit tamely by, and allow this corporation to plunder our poor people and desolate our homes? The remedy is straightforward and clear. Have the Land Grant managed for the country's good, and give the E. & N. Railway Company as much of the proceeds as they are entitled to.

We have a ready standard as to how the Land Grant should be dealt with, in the way the Crown lands are managed. The Crown lands are avowedly dealt with according to the best wisdom of the nation to raise the greatest revenue consistent with the development and with the best interests of the country.

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