

# Arthur Lineham

COMMISSION AGENT

CORNER COOK STREET AND DALLAS ROAD

Victoria, B.C.

(2)

farm I always take his remarks with a grain of salt. I know of old that he never lets his right hand know what his left is doing, when it comes to his particular hobby.

Your old "friend" Power, like the rest of us, is not doing much these days, in fact he looks rather down at heel, as he possesses no reserve. Bob Clarke too, is badly pinched, along with everybody else in the same game, as the town is like a morgue. During all the years I have been in business here I have never seen conditions worse, and the immediate future does not look much better.

You are aware that King, the Minister of Public Works is taking the same Portfolio at Ottawa, and that Farris has left the Cabinet. I doubt very much if "Honest" John and his band of thugs will carry these two constituencies when the elections come on. Really, old man, the way this Government has piled up the public debt by giving newly created jobs to the "Faithful", and Cost plus construction of the P.G.E. is awful, and I doubt if any of them could be elected for Pound-keeper if they went before the people at this time. The Conservatives are holding a convention some time this month, principally I think, with the idea of getting rid of Bowser, but he has a strong following, and it may not work out as anticipated and hoped for by a large number. The idea is to instal Simon Tolmie as leader, as he no doubt possesses a more magnetic personality, but when it comes to brains and initiative he is not in it with W.J.B. I wish a general election could be brought on before we are all put out of business.

Speaking about Bob Porter and the new Mayor. Bob would always follow the line of least resistance, and it was a general idea that Marchant would have ideas of his own, but my estimation of the new man, to date, is that he is no better. He is worse than Bob, inasmuch as he has no more initiative, is more obstinate, and has got his ear to the ground for the next election. Any man who has been a paid servant in a minor capacity all his life cannot but have a limited horizon, and lack the necessary qualifications to make a good leader. He is being severely criticized already.

Staneland and Marchant will play ball together on the Police Board and you will not hear much of Joe North in future. The Mayor has announced his intention of closing the town up tight, although he is using labour, and not religion as the excuse. Joe was silenced when he protested against this action. I quite agree with you, that Joe is not the right kind of man to hold office in any community, and there is no doubt he only went in there with the idea of getting even with those policemen who have arrested him in the past, at various times. Who is to blame, however,? Only the fool electorate.

I am awfully glad to hear that life is genial with you, and that you are getting out of it all there is in it. I was fifty one the other day, and every year counts enormously now. I often think, what's the use; and looking back, the whole thing seems like a ghastly joke. As a youth, when listening to sermon, I used to think the preacher was an impractical fool, when he told the congregation to pay more