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MR. RITHET, M.P.P.

The remarks of Mr. Rithet in moving the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne in the Provincial Legislature on Thursday, were an able pre-emptive, such as might have been expected from a business man—not a mere partizan politician, but one who had considerable at stake in the country. He thought, and very properly expressed the opinion, that the responsibility of permanent works to prevent the possibility of such disastrous floods as had taken place in the Fraser River valley lay upon the Dominion; nevertheless he intimated that the Province would not be behind in doing its part.

Mr. Rithet, we are sure, did not say what he did because it was his mission to do so; but because he had facts before him on which to base his observations. He, moreover, expressed his deep interest in and cordial sympathy with the work of colonizing the country, as the Norwegians up at Bella Coola are now doing, and further signified his gratification that the subject of further railway extension for the development of the Province and its resources is one to which attention has been called. He added significantly, "As a firm believer in our country, and from an intimate knowledge of its varied resources, he did not hesitate to say that it is well worthy the investment of the capital necessary for its development, and can well afford to bear the outlay required without unnecessarily burdening the people."

Mr. Rithet well explained that our country remained practically undeveloped for want of facilities, adding that we must be progressive: we must not remain stationary, or retrogression will follow. A man like Mr. Rithet would not have delivered himself as he did had he not been assured of his facts and had he not had confidence in the country. The same sentiment was shown by the other speakers who spoke from the Government side of the House, while with Mr. Semlin, the Opposition leader, and his following, there was but little to warrant any hopefulness. Still they remain in the country.

What for? Is it to endeavor to ruin the Province, to oust the Government, and fatten like vultures on the remains? We take it they will have to wait a long time before they reach the treasury benches by their present sinister route.

AN UNFORTUNATE OMISSION.

At a meeting of the British Columbia Board of Trade on Tuesday, a discussion took place on the omission from *Bradstreet's* report published in June last of the British Columbia ratings, the opinion being given that on this account an erroneous impression had been given that the entire business of the Province had been paralyzed by the recent floods. A resolution was in consequence passed denouncing that report as "unfair and misleading," and the company was requested to take immediate steps to alter the same, the attention of the various Boards of Trade throughout the Dominion being specially drawn to the matter.

The omission was certainly a most unfortunate one; but it has since been explained that *Bradstreet's*, with their headquarters in New York, and the means of communication with British Columbia being broken, could not be expected to know that the reports of "the great destruction" were exaggerations, and therefore they concluded not to print the names of the British Columbia merchants. Moreover, it is well to remember that towards the end of July a supplement revised to July 1, and containing the British Columbia list was issued, while a still later edition was issued on September 1.

We commend the members of the British Columbia Board of Trade for drawing attention to this matter, even though it may appear to have been somewhat late in the day, since there are many who make it their business to do all they can to injure the interests and destroy the business of this somewhat far-away Province. We have no doubt that *Bradstreet's* acted in the best of faith; but unfortunately their omission of the British Columbia merchants was made use of to the disadvantage of the trade of this Province.

THE U. S. ELECTION.

That "the overwhelming defeat of the Democrats means that the people of the United States are not prepared to accept free trade" may be the interpretations put upon the outcome of the recent elections. But there is more in it than that. It means that there must be a big change in the general conditions of the country, before it will again settle down. The outcome of the elections was one of the first results of that agitation which

has been going on for some time for changed conditions. No one is satisfied; the advent of the Cleveland administration and the adoption of the Wilson Bill have not accomplished what was expected. In fact they have not had time to do much. It was only recently that the Wilson Bill—which was not endorsed by President Cleveland—went into effect and partially because it had accomplished nothing those who were already dissatisfied followed in the wake of the Republicans and gave the Democrats the beating which they received. They were ready for any change and will continue to occupy the same position until matters either adjust themselves or are adjusted into more normal conditions.

We have previously said that a powerful cause of the Democratic defeat was the general dislike and distrust of Tammany, and until that element be removed from its commanding position in the party so long will it be a most serious cause of weakness, for which no policy, however good, can make up. At present the States have no policy on which to unite them. What suits capital is displeasing to labor. The north and the south the east and the west require different methods of treatment; the railways, and the magnates who control them, want bringing to their bearings, and all these and numerous matters combine to divide and unsettle the voters who, at the next elections, will not improbably be found going off at as wide a tangent as they did when it was supposed they had abandoned the Republican party in the interests of free trade.

Meantime, interest centres in President Cleveland's forthcoming message to Congress, which, it is said, will be devoted to the financial system of the country, of which he will recommend a radical revision. He is understood to regard the existing condition of the national finances as a mere makeshift, a thing of shreds and patches, which does not represent the views of the leading men of the country. It is not, however, anticipated that his recommendations will lead to any immediate financial legislation in the direction indicated—a prominent change recommended being the abolition of the system government banking, leaving that to private individuals. Meantime it is expected that what the President may say will lead to thoughtful consideration of the subject. It is said that the Canadian system commends itself to many financiers, and certain is it that it appears better able to stand the test of financial crises.

The idea of the formation of a Citizens' Improvement Association is one which we heartily endorse, the fact being that the best advertisement which Victoria can possibly have is to make it attractive and healthful in every respect.