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# OUR MODERN LAND LAWS

AND KINDRED SUBJECTS,

Dealt with in the Light of the Past History  
of British Columbia,

BY

PHILIP FEWSTER,

VANCOUVER, B. C.

October, 1901.

## TO MY GENERAL CRITICS.

This first article on foregone subjects I offer to the public, and beg to ask them to suspend their judgment until they have seen the criticisms of those versed in the land system and land laws of our Empire.

And to the farmer class and capable critics—those who have been about land, as renters, from their childhood—I beg them not to spare me, but to state their views fairly and fully, over their own known names, then in fairness we should expect and trust that together we may be of some service to our fellow-countrymen and to our own land.

But those who have not been so engaged about land I challenge, because I consider them incapable of doing me or the question justice; and this also I submit, that, for no other reason or motive except on the ground of the common law of Justice, to which appertains political economy, do I hope or expect to gain any credit from any of my readers.

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## TO MY GENERAL READERS.

This first pamphlet is written and published from necessity, principally because the public press of this city seems to be overdone with news of a private nature, from which standpoint the managers regard all written matter which appears in their papers. They, therefore, cannot take the land question up.

In contrast to their private way of doing business, I beg in this manner to introduce these foreknown questions to the public at large, not as if they were ignorant of the leading question or that it was entirely unknown to them, but because it has been kept in the background by interested parties up to the present time, until the people have almost been led to believe they have no part in the matter. For the rules of justice, which is equity common law, have ceased to be the regulations concerning the bread-producing land, and these high things have been entirely set aside and overlooked; and so disarranged has any previous good plan become that even to speak of the land question as having already been arranged is offensive to the landlord class and land holders; and so long have the people been accustomed to this imbroglia condition to which the land question has descended, that many good men have almost become cynical on the matter and are ready to give up in despair, but notwithstanding, they consider the question as without any doubt whatever proven, but impossible of betterment. But it is not so regarded by the great majority of people, but rather, it is looked upon as a matter to be settled finally, and is not so difficult as some would make and have it appear.

But in these last years the reasonable rules of justice and equity in parting out the land have ceased to be the regulations in placing it out to family and commercial use. In fact, all such high matters have been entirely set aside and overridden.

But this and the following pamphlets have and will be sought to be written in plain English, therefore will interest the plainest of men; and the writer ventures to hope that all who have any interest in the land will read the articles.

The remarks made by Lord Strathcona on Immigration, as reported in the press, have led me to jot down a few things relat-

ing to immigration and immigrants which have come under my notice while in Canada.

I emigrated from England sixteen years ago, and have been in British Columbia—a continuous resident in Vancouver—for the past fifteen years.

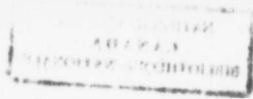
I am in my 68th year; was born an agriculturist, at Copyhold Farm, Whitechurch, Oxon., and never owned a foot of land in England, either in fee-simple or fee-tail, nor did my fathers before me to my knowledge. I was raised among the poorest of farm laborers, and this is the reason my sympathies are with them and my desire is their benefit.

Whatever may have been the assistance rendered by Lord Strathcona in inducing speculators to contribute towards the trans-continental railway, is a matter the space in all newspapers is not yet given to discussing, but experience and history have always taught that large speculation in food growing land is the bane of civilization, a curse to the people and a drawback to sound industry. This fact my lord does not recognize, and would *appear* to induce the very poor of the old land to come over, while he virtually tells those who have a little money *to come over here* and speculate with it, and would leave the real tillers of the soil where they are.

His statement, which he evidently propounds as an example of the bad effects of state-aided immigration, is fallacious in the extreme. What does he mean by "fulfilling their obligations"? If he wishes to know the facts and truth of the whole matter, let him write in the first place to John Silvester, Bella Coola, B. C., then he will know the particulars.

#### VIEWS ON THE NEEDS OF CANADA.

The flattering and fulsome praise flung as it were by the "Montreal Witness" at the feet of My Lord Strathcona as he retired from the breakfast table at his beautiful home on Dorchester street, a few days ago, was suggestive, as the epicure would say, that his lordship was then about "to seize the pleasures of the passing day," and it further confirms that view by stating that "His lordship looks remarkably well and still sustains the splendid optimism which has been one of his noted characteristics all through life." These remarks somewhat spoiled the effect of what he said on steamship matters, and rendered a



little nugatory the enthusiasm displayed by him on the need of faster Atlantic service direct to and from Canada. But he may be assured of this, that from whatever source advancement may come in this direction, the men of Canada will not despise the master minds who promote the scheme, providing the capital which it represents is fairly borrowed and faithfully laid out.

But in connection with the scheme, Canada must be numerically considered, as the High Commissioner should be aware, and who should stand in wonderment and surprise if not he, that the shortness in the number of people, as shown by the census, should be so marked, but he himself partly, if not wholly, accounts for the reason, by wrongly stating that the cities have monopolised the State aided immigrants, and he blames the cities for it. But why does he do this and wonder, when he knows they have been forced into their present position because the bread-producing land has been parted out into piecemeal blocks and lots to speculation, which speculation wrests the land from accomplishing the purpose for which it was intended, and plays the fool with legitimate commerce, for Canada is a rich possession, as far as the goodness of the soil is concerned, but is wasting strength by producing to a large extent weeds, thistles and other rubbish, instead of food for the people, as well as numerous other productions to trade with, while the speculator cries, "hands off the land, that's my goose which lays me golden eggs"? This state of things prostitutes legitimate commerce, humbles the agricultural and other laborers and puts to shame the State.

Our High Commissioner and other agents have without doubt sent out, in error, some who are altogether unfitted to take up land for themselves, but a properly chosen agent would know the class of man and the element to select from. But many of the former have been induced to come from their homes under the impression that they would be given every opportunity to get an easy and honest living out of the land, but the honorable minded fellows among them, what have they found? Let them tell their own tale, for most of them are well able to do that, for they have acquired their experience from actual hard labor in hewing and grubbing their way into the woods, or building shacks on the prairies.

To optimism has "My lord" been a subject all his life. Could he really have thought that the foregoing experiences of these

honorable and honest minded fellows might have been his lot had destiny so willed it! Had he not been such an optimist, surely then he would not have missed the one grand opportunity of his long life—the rescuing of the food producing land from the conditions of speculation, and to have given himself up to such an object as this alone would be reason enough for hoisting him to the upper house of his country, and no one of his kith and kin would grudge him the honor.

Is the High Commissioner become uncertain in his mental vision, that he cannot perceive that a free people must have free land, otherwise they are not free?

If the best of his characteristics and abilities have been displayed with such poor results, what can be said when he comes across and condemns the policy of his respective employers? Should he not rather long ago in his official capacity, have recommended a more correct policy, which the sparsity of the population of Canada has always shadowed out? The examples which other Colonies have set in the matter of their general policy, was continually before him while in his London office; could he not have picked out from their policy something which would have suited his own Colony?

Is it fair for him to say of the would-be immigrants, to whom he has been lecturing, that because they have not believed in his land policy, "They had become conservative in their habits, they had been in the same locality for generations, they were slow to be moved, they had inherited certain methods of life and habit, and they did not care to pull up stakes and face a new country of which they knew but little; they were content as they were, and for the most part they were deaf to the advantages which might be theirs in Canada," etc., etc.?

With such a disparaging indictment against them as this, what can our brethren in the Old Country think? Can they ever think of entrusting any more of themselves to our tender mercies? Does it not follow in sequence that they would naturally be despised out here? Consequently, they have been all along, and are now turning their steps to other parts of the Empire, there to make their homes.

This is one of the causes for the shortness of numbers proven at the last census.

Can the following be one of the dark and obscure lessons which "My lord" would impress on all would-be immigrants, as well as the crofter and agricultural classes who have already settled out here, if these are taken as one class, and they should be, all must be included in his startling and emphatic declamation, "That they should be taught to be self-dependent and to fulfil their obligations."

If it can be inferred that the High Commissioner considered that somehow or other the immigration funds could be paid out in a secret way, it would be a very hard task to disabuse a rich man's mind from the idea, but the money was always intended to assist the needy and worthy agricultural laborer, crofter or artisan classes to emigrate, but for a length of time the funds have been dealt unfairly with by interested individuals.

Sir Charles Tupper, speaking at Montreal, August 25th, of the Census, said: "I am bitterly disappointed in the result of the present census, as I felt sure that the population of our Dominion was at least six millions, and I see no reason why, with the great amount of money spent on immigration, and with the general prosperity of the country, it is not that at least."

"What do you think of the investigation that is to be made into the census that was taken in 1891?"

"Well, I cannot see how anything will come of it, because the law requires that the result of the census should remain in the archives at Ottawa, and these have already been sent to all parts of the country. In this way the figures will be placed in the hands of those to whose advantage it will be to try to show that they have been "stuffed," and in consequence the general public will place little faith in their report. Without speaking from a political point of view, I think that, if anything is to be effected, a Royal Commission should be appointed, as I consider that it is a very serious thing for Government officials to have allowed any papers to have been taken from the archives. It is certainly very unfortunate that the census was not properly taken, as it would mean a great deal for the country that it should have been able to show a more substantial and steady increase.

"It is cities that have a great deal at stake that are having their population under-rated. In Montreal, for instance, it is claimed by men in a position to know that the population is at

least twenty thousand more than given in the census. I myself lived in that city from 1875 to 1879, and the absolute evidence of improvement I saw during my short visit, leads me to state it as really my own impression that its population is greater than that given. There is a movement on foot to have another census taken in that city, and I think that if the results show that great negligence has been shown in the present instance, another census should be taken throughout the country."

These statements show that he (Sir Charles) did not agree with the methods of taking the recent census, and thought those of 1891 better. Still, the fact remains that he is, like everybody else in Canada, disappointed by the small population shown by the latest return. The appointment of such a Royal Commission as he proposes would be satisfactory to most of us, but there is no reason to believe that the latest figures would be greatly altered as a result. The Commission could immediately start business, and in natural order the problem would arise: How to remedy the shortness of numbers in this vast British dependency?

This is really what such a Commission most needs to enquire into.

The importance of such a Commission cannot well be over-estimated, as land and acres would gather round and clinch the arguments, like steel filings to a loadstone, and the cultivatable land and the cultivators of it could not be set aside or left out of consideration as people very much beneath the so-called gentleman or professional class. They have undoubtedly and unhand-somely been forced down by stress of circumstances during quite recent years, but only during a decade or two. For was not Prince Albert one of the first farmers in England? and he was not anywhere else so much at home as he was when among his crops and stock. The success of the Royal Agricultural Show, which he inaugurated at Windsor, in Runnymede, was witness to his energy and perseverance, and it was my pleasure to be there.

The land itself had not fallen to so low an estimate as it has done in this country, where little kingdoms have been almost given away for the asking, and islands with all their natural growth granted to individuals or to fictitious companies for a song, these selling it out to unsuspecting strangers by retail.

To all of us who have a proper sense of responsibility and of our kinsmanship with the whole Empire, and considering our position as being nearest to England as the centre of the Empire, it must be demeaning to reflect that Canadians should be so few in regard to numbers, when we consider the age and possibilities of this colony, for this part of the world was one of the first colonized. Not that we should be boastful over our sister colonies, in respect of our possibilities, but we claim the fullest equality with them—and all should be aware that every part of the Empire, both small and large, has to undergo the process of growth, in respect to their possibilities, but on account of some cause or other, yet unfolded, this country has been left almost out of the race as compared with the rest of the Colonies, on account, it is believed, of her not having had in the past proper and faithful attention.

Can Sir Charles Tupper or Lord Strathcona reveal the harmful secret? They have been in harness long enough, therefore they must have known and been fully aware of all which has taken place and their eyes have witnessed the bread producing land being frittered away, especially in this most westerly portion of Canada.

Foreign governments have noticed the laxity shown in this respect, and sent as many settlers as they dared. All such things as these have been kept in the background for some unexplained reason, but the thing has become so glaring that the Ottawa Government has sent over a Commission to enquire into the cause and their report is looked for shortly.

In every nation on the globe with regard to temporalities and right to vote, the citizens stand first, the aliens second. If this were not so the confusion and difficulties would be numberless, chiefly because their habits and mode of living are altogether different, and at once render them absolutely unfitted to take an equal place among the nation and people in which they have been domiciled—an instance of this kind has recently come under notice in this province. An indiscriminate class of Japanese, totally unacquainted with our language, has been made by a few strokes of the pen into citizens of the British Empire. Can anything be conceived of more unreasonable than this? But the whole plans of management of the province are of a piece with it.

Not any of the Governments of Canada, from the one at Ottawa to the little one at Victoria, has ever organised any debate



in their several and separate Houses of Parliament, in regard to taking a fair share with the Motherland in discharging its responsibility and duty in regard to finding and founding homes for the poor industrial classes, resulting from British over population. But they have rather been taking aliens under their wings, not that they should by any means despise these, for they are morally our equals, but they have been encouraging this class and ignoring their own brethren from the Motherland, which is nothing less than despising their own kith and kin, who speak their own language. They have been founding homes and organising communities of strangers and giving them privileges and leaving their brethren to come and go unnoticed, or to become a prey to the "sharks."

No scheme was ever put forward by Sir Charles Tupper or Lord Strathcona in their official capacity to relieve the large increase and over population of the United Kingdom or even to advance such a theory. Lord Strathcona admitted to his employers at Montreal, as their High Commissioner, and made considerable show, by ostentatiously observing that he had told the would-be emigrants how much they were losing in not coming over to Canada. But what did he offer them? Nothing. Indeed, little sympathy could a rich, luxurious man have or gain with the honest pure-minded wage earners who are working for ten shillings a week, with wife and family to keep and rent for a cottage to pay out of that, but few of these rich men know what it means to owe the baker for bread and no money to buy the next loaf.

If Lord Strathcona did not treat these poor people he lectured as entirely beneath him, let him explain himself. To talk of his taking refuge under his belief in "optimism" is mere subterfuge and sham.

What virtue, pleasure, or comfort can there be in entertaining Lord Strathcona's belief, as an optimist! Is his mind of such low order, that he thinks to escape responsibility by holding such views? Does he expect to be let off by his Judge?

I say again, foreign governments see our short-comings and laxity in dealing with the public domain and take advantage of it, Our Governments listen to company promoters from anywhere, but to honest, fair-minded men they will not listen. But they only make a show of stopping clandestine schemes and unreason-

able undertakings while they actually encourage them. They put a sure stumbling block in the way of legitimate propositions, the promoters of which are willing that such industries should stand or fall by their merits, and the poor emigrant is kept away by keeping the land—the natural and true way of getting a living—quite out of his reach.

The real truth of these matters have been kept in the background for a number of years, in fact, throughout the term of the last Dominion Administration, for reasons which are clearly known, and none are so blind as those who will not see. Again, I say, no organised debate has ever taken place in any of our Legislative Chambers to unravel the facts, or point out the reason why assisted immigration has never yet been successful.

We know on whose head now lies the principal responsibility, but is he giving these questions that earnest consideration which the importance of the case demands? Sir Wilfrid Laurier cannot but be mindful of what is expected and of what is attached to office and power.

The example of England's first king, whose character shines out as if he reigned but yesterday, is well worth following, for he often risked his life in behalf of constitutional rights and freedom, but such constitutional rights seem to be left out of our lexicon altogether, for the rights the people once possessed have been taken away from them. *But justice must be looked forward to*, though freedom to do wrong now gets the praise. Beneficent principles have been quite thrust aside since King Alfred's day, by gifting, deeding and mortgaging the public domain, as though it belonged to private individuals and syndicates instead of being used for the purpose it was intended. All this is going on to-day, while at the heart of the Nation—in England—numbers of our people are celebrating the principles of the common unwritten law of justice which is the crowning head and glory of the British Nation and Constitution, and the celebration shows that the English have still left to them a conscience.

But at the western side of the Empire the self-set managers and rulers of the past have put out of sight the foregoing principles of common sense and common justice, and have gone through a formula of their own devising and made it locally legal to give away the land, or auction it off to anybody who has a little ready cash to

lay down in exchange for it. The purchaser then cuts it up into numberless small pieces at his pleasure, down to a few rods' measure, and renders it impossible to use it to good advantage.

Now, I ask all my readers, should not all these men be called upon to give an account of their stewardship?

What lion is in the pathway which is so much feared? Are the Land Monopolists that lion? and, if so, are they too terrible for an attack upon them? Doubtless not, for all classes who desire to obtain their living out of the land, and all connected with commerce; yes, and every one who wishes legitimate industries to prosper is anxious to battle with this monopolistic adversary—and why? Because it is the very thing which is hurtful to society at large, and the stumbling block in the way of commercial enterprise and freedom.

But this British Columbian style of ownership (which we are specially dealing with) under which the land is bought and sold and retailed out, the monopolist rolls as a sweet morsel on his tongue, yet sycophantic jackals who have been in constant attendance on the dividing up of the land, and whose morbid rapacity for land nothing has or can satisfy, are like the daughter of the horseleech, constantly saying "Give, Give."

By this state of things having prevailed, and still prevailing, a vast quantity of the land of the province has got into private hands, who give deeds, sublet and mortgage and in fact ignore the existence of any right or power above them, and treat the Earth and all else connected with it, as though they had been the absolute owners in the past and the perpetual owners for all time to come. Their greed is such that they would if they could, abrogate every customary law or precedent, which has been fixed from time immemorial in the hearts and minds of the people, who have always held as an axiom, and is in itself an established truth, that there can be no absolute property or ownership in the land or soil. As further proof of the validity of this established fact and axiom, the land has always existed, but the owner or original owner—who and where is he?

That there is no absolute property in land is furthermore sustained by the Common Law of the British Realm and is one of the grand institutions and substantial binding chains of the Empire which cannot be abrogated or revoked, and being an unwritten Law is not subject to any variation or change whatsoever.

### MONOPOLIST SELF-INTEREST VERSUS LEGITIMATE AND UNSELFISH INDUSTRIES.

On these two points hangs the whole plan of harnessing for general use the wealth and riches of the world. The first position is that of a certain few men seeking to obtain and control this wealth by any and every means they can possibly devise, which disconnects them from the masses of their fellows. And the second position is to carry out the design of the Maker of us all by industriously, collectively and intelligently seeking for and performing the many obligations incidental to life from motives of justice and economy.

With regard to the first problem, there is necessarily connected with it a vast amount of doubt and discontent. But in respect to the second, there is no doubt or discontent existing in the mind whatever, for the true desire and object is always uppermost, and it is that of making whatever industries we are engaged in a success.

The very word "Monopolist" denotes a grip or grasp of something or everything, therefore he (the monopolist) is an assumptive individual, or a number of them combined. Such a set of men, if they are *men* in the best sense of the term, would *naturally* labour for the advancement and benefit of the human race, especially for those with whom they live. But this is not what they do, for the exorbitant passion for unearned increment (increase) prevents them working for the good of others. In other words, on account of the love of money taking absolute and uncontrollable possession of them, it causes them to become the literal slaves of covetousness and greediness, and this impels them to grasp and lay hold of anything and everything by any and every means they can devise to accomplish their object, not even stopping at a few "pounds of flesh" or of taking the lives of their opponents.

These facts are what may be termed the "devilish" state of things prevailing now. "If I had a monopoly out, they would have a part on't." Such practices as these may suit and please a moribund, designing set of money getters, but in the future they will have to get beyond the pale of Christendom to practise their nefarious tricks, if such a state exists. There they may find congenial companions. But if they do, it's questionable if those who are there will tolerate such tricks.

Legitimate industries are altogether opposed to such plans for getting money, because the free and upright minds of the promoters would not allow them to act the "crook," therefore their industrial plans are above and beyond suspicion and are easily understood and their methods are very easily explained, and they are of such an everyday occurrence that young children can understand the way legitimate interests are run. Such as the following are practised in this city to a large extent. A simple instance or two will explain how legitimate companies are organized and how run: Two schoolboys join partnership and put an equal number of marbles into a box, which they for the sake of grandeur call a "Stock pot." They play with these marbles with their schoolmates and increase the number, and at the end of a certain period divide up equally. This is legitimate business.

Three young financiers buy a number of chickens, and, besides, they put into the business an equal amount of cash for preliminary expenses, feed, etc. After a certain time—say, two years—they divide up equally the stock of chickens and the cash which has accumulated in their treasury box. This is also legitimate business. But any sharpening manners detected in any one of them is quickly settled in a drastic way. This is just.

If young people uncontaminated by the bad doings going on around them naturally and justly follow the dictates of their consciences by at once punishing drastically the culprit, how should old deceitful imposters be served?

On precisely the same plan larger industries are called into being, some needing more and some less capital to make a start. If a large undertaking is in view, the promoters meet and form a lawful company and issue shares to the public, and if those who are selected for office are what are termed "straight men" and of sound principles and men of business, the industry generally succeeds. Such men will only consent to hold office on the condition that the industry in hand shall stand or fall by its merits, which means that they will strenuously work, by every fair means, to earn a fair interest on the par value put on the shares which have been subscribed and put into the concern.

Is their any need, I ask, to call shares by a dozen different names or denominations?

The above is an answer—in part—to the young people of this city, to whom I committed myself a few weeks ago in a letter in

the public press on "Company Promoting and Stock Broking," promising in it that at some future time I would show them as fairly as I could the meaning of stock-jobbing; then contending that the advanced educational needs of the day stood greatly in want of such information.

But I beg to submit that I hesitate to be the means of contaminating their youthful and pure minds with the impure knowledge and secrets of stock-jobbery, but their school teachers would do well to supply them with the rudimentary information, not only as a specimen, but as a warning, and object lessons could be pointed out to them. It is pleasing to observe the press of this city occasionally taking this matter up. They are following in the lead of the press of the Motherland.

The monopolists are the people who are engaged in this nefarious business, because money getting is their one object, and the constancy of the habit steels their consciences and sears them so completely that they are without feeling, and the adage is strictly correct: "They have no more feeling than the steel rails the trains run on."

The sparsely populated South American States and Turkey used to be their special "preserves" and "hunting grounds," and wherever the former were not governed by men of integrity they soon fell a prey to the monopolist, who swallowed up their money and their land, and many of the poor people were butchered.

But Turkey has a large army, and the officials live by their wits, and the Sultan will borrow from whoever will lend and in this way scrapes along—but he beats the monopolists, for he will not part with the land of Palestine, as it is looked upon as sacred by the followers of Mohammed, and they all consider it their duty to make yearly pilgrimages to the shrines, there to worship the Deity. These pilgrims pay large fees to the Sultan. By this means and farming out the taxes, the Sultan, his numerous officials and army are kept up, and he cries, virtually like the monopolists in other countries: "Hands off the land; that's my goose which lays me golden eggs," and rolls it as a sweet morsel under his tongue; and Christendom as a whole views Palestine as do the Mohammedans, which helps the Sultan out. It is called the Holy Land by the majority of Christians because it was the scene of Our Lord's personally teaching the people the new and true way to live. But

still there goes up the ringing cry in the ears of the Sultan: "Fulfill your obligations." This is the exact time for the moneyed men and the monopolists to step forward with their bags of gold, but will the British nation support them?

These once favored spots have been "poached" so much in the past that they have become beggared out, and need time to recoup themselves, which these men know. They know also that the land is rich and adapted for cultivation and can be depended on, but not the rulers, and the stock-jobbing men often would, if they could, persuade the strong governments of the world to take these quarrels up on their behalf, and some who are self-interested are ready to assist them, and among this number some are in the governments. But these stock brokers are a discontented class. They are not satisfied with a little, they want it all, for they are all the time seeking to chain the necessary industries of the world and would prevent the small industries doing any business or living independently. But the very small schemers of their own class, they permit the promoters to form little coteries among themselves, who deal in options and prospective possibilities. These shares are not quoted on the large stock exchanges, but are offered on the streets.

But the larger the industries and the more important to the commonwealth, the more plainly is seen and understood the knavish and diabolical trickery going on at the stock exchanges. The babble of bulling and bearing the bubble stock—either to cry up or to cry down the 100 to 1 watered shares—would be amusing if not fraught with such terrible mischief and injury to legitimate trade as well as to the unsuspecting shareholders, as was sought to be done with the Crow's Nest Coal Company's stock in this province by one among the most successful and designing gamblers of the present day, that he might get hold of the control and raise or lower the price of coal to the public at his pleasure.

D'Israeli, the late Premier of England, managed well for the British Government when he purchased the Khedive's Suez Canal shares and obtained control of the canal; and England now controls old Egypt as well. In this matter the stock brokers and manipulators were fast asleep and they lost the monopoly and the control, and there is no need for a "stock pot" now, for the canal is run on its merits, and the British Government credits the Exchequer with the net money it earns.

I stop here to ask my readers if they think this is the right way to conduct a national industry. I am bold enough to think their answer will be "Yes."

I beg at this point to submit my first pamphlet to the people, which has been written, partly from memory and partly from history, some of the writers of which started out in life at a later period than myself.

My next pamphlet will go to show how baneful are the effects of legislative measures, which have allowed and encouraged the primeval land of this province to be bought and sold. Consequently it is kept out of use and cultivation, especially that portion of it which is within driving distance, or easily and cheaply get-at-able, to any community, village or city, where convenient homes could be made without getting out of the range of civilization, as freedom to cultivate the land stands in the same category with the British race as the Christians' Bible does.

I know an instance near London of a disreputable fellow who allowed his field to run to waste for several years until it became an eyesore to the neighbours and neighbourhood. He made double or treble the value of that field, but he was condemned by everyone. But this was not half as bad as the governments have been doing here, for the field, I suppose, had been under cultivation for hundreds of years previously, therefore of general use to the public, and was ready for the plow again, but the greediness of the fellow for money was an annoyance to everyone.

Actual and personal examples, some taken on the spot, will be given as I proceed to verify my statements.

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These pamphlets will be kept in stock and sold by the writer, and further orders taken and sold, as compiled, by Clarke & Stuart, book agents, Hastings St., Vancouver, B.C. Price, 25 cents, one shilling or stamps. Agents wanted.