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B. C. DEMANDS THE TRUTH

Sir Richard McBride's attempts to persuade the electors of British Columbia that the demand for a thorough and impartial inquiry into the circumstances attending the alienation of the best and most available agricultural lands of the province is the result of one man's malice and desire for revenge has failed. The premier knows now, what the Globe assured him months ago while he was still in England, that Moses Cotsworth is not the issue. The charge is made and reiterated by many of the most prominent and powerful men in British Columbia that the province has been robbed of its lands—the lands most urgently needed to attract settlers—by pre-emption frauds of the grossest nature, and that the persons into whose hands the lands have come are not required to pay the installments of purchase money or the taxes due by them, or in default to surrender their holdings to the government, so that the land may become available for actual settlers.

The Ministerial Union of the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, which published the now famous pamphlet entitled "The Crisis in British Columbia" and sent out its secretary, the Rev. A. E. Cooke, to rouse the province, is not a body of politicians. The clergy composing it are simply acting as citizens who are determined to do what they can to end the era of exploitation. After hearing the answers and explanations of the government, the members, at a meeting held on September 19, declared unanimously that they are more than ever convinced of the necessity of a full and non-partisan investigation. They added that at such an investigation "every charge we have made will be borne out in all its essentials. This assertion, signed on behalf of the Union by men of the calibre of Rev. Principal Mackay, Rev. Dr. Unsworth, and Rev. Messrs. G. R. Welch, J. R. Robertson, and E. Manuel, cannot be laughed out of court by Sir Richard McBride. He must meet it seriously.

Supplementing Rev. Dr. Pid-

geon's recent letter, Rev. A. E. Cooke writes The Globe, saying: "Sir Richard's statement that the Ministerial Union swore in court 'that they had no other information than that supplied by Mr. Cotsworth, and had accepted his statements at their face value,' is an adroit falsehood." He adds:

"The six members of the Union who were chosen as a committee of publication to endorse the pamphlet were sued by Mr. Alex. Lucas, M. P. P., for an alleged libel, contained in six and a half lines of the pamphlet. At the time of the 'examination for discovery' we had not secured certain documents which we now have, and which we then knew existed, and would prove our case. The three of us, who appeared for all, truthfully said so, but we also stated we were still prepared to substantiate our statements in this connection. This we intend to do by putting Mr. Cotsworth, the chairman of the public service commission of 1909 (which caused the resignation of Mr. Lucas from the office he then held), on the witness stand on oath to prove the facts. Since then we have secured the documents that prove our case, in addition to the chairman's sworn testimony. Sir Richard McBride refers to the recent speech of the attorney-general, Mr. Bowser, in which he spent most of his time in an attack on the ministers of the churches on the coast, and a cowardly attempt to defame the character of Mr. Cotsworth. I heard the speech although I was refused a ticket of admission at the office of the Conservative Association. Only those whom the Association selected were to be admitted, and 12 policemen guarded the doors. Mr. Cotsworth was three times refused admission. Several ministers were present, however, and I have been assured by a number of representative Conservatives that the attorney-general did more harm to his own cause than good by the so-called 'reply.'

"I may say that, with the exception of one-half of one statement in our pamphlet, Mr. Bowser did not prove a single statement wrong. His speech



was in many places a confirmation of our statements, while the bulk of it was gross distortion of fact, deliberate falsehood, and direct evasion of the main issues. It is painful for anyone to have to say these things, and absolutely unpardonable if they cannot be proved. But it is equally so for a man in the position occupied by Sir Richard McBride to state that 'The Crisis in British Columbia' is 'a tissue of misstatements from cover to cover,' when the exact references to government records and documents are given which prove our facts. These documents, records, maps, etc., have been exhibited on every platform from which we have spoken. Your correspondent, Mr. Lambert, has examined them personally, and they show that we have relied on no man's word for the proof of all our statements. Sir Richard has not yet attempted to say one word in defence of his government here in this province, and I shall, at our next meeting on October 1, prove conclusively to those present that Mr. Bowser's speech was simply a heroic attempt to confuse the whole issue. If Sir Richard and his colleagues can so easily prove that we are entirely wrong the quickest, surest, and



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PARIS BULGARIANS SEND MESSAGE TO FERDINAND

Paris, Oct. 7.—The Bulgarian colony in Paris and vicinity yesterday sent a telegram to Czar Ferdinand, declaring themselves ready to die for Bulgaria, but expressing the hope that the Czar would take no aggressive action toward the Allies.

"Russia is our liberator; England our protector, and France our good friend," read the telegram. "Let us not engage in a fratricidal war."

entirely satisfactory plan is to appoint a proper commission to make the thorough investigation for which we appeal."

The men of Manitoba who were convinced of the rottenness of political conditions there had a long, up-hill fight before they secured an impartial inquiry, but the end came speedily thereafter. There is much in the administration of the public lands of British Columbia that will not bear the light.—Toronto Globe.

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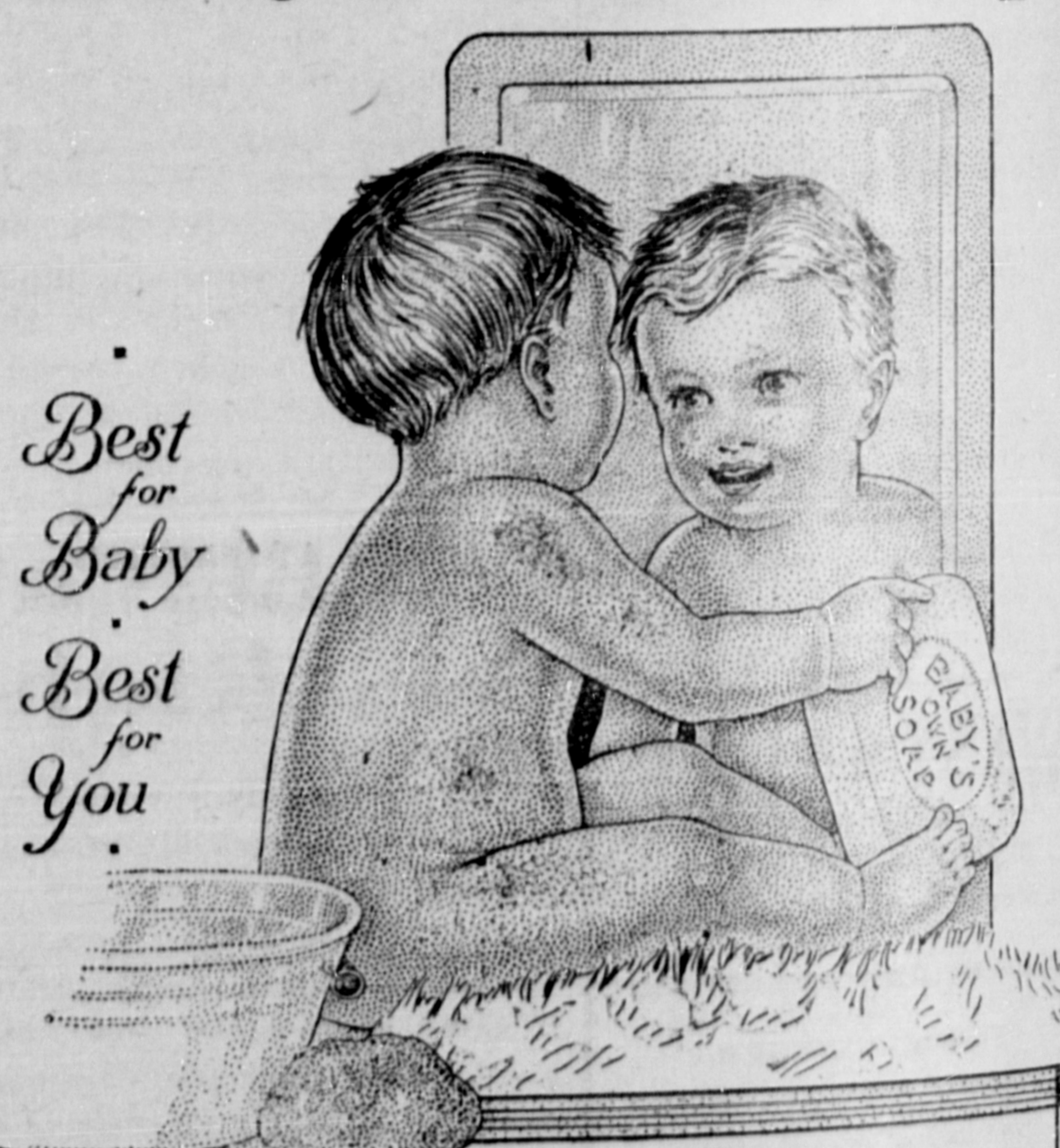
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