

be liberated even from false imprisonment who continually swore to shoot someone when he left gaol.

#### THE C.P.R. MAIL SERVICE.

IN spite of the ridicule cast upon the British House of Lords, in that they do "nothing in particular, and do it very well," the unanimous manner in which the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's tender for the Western mail service was supported by the upper crust of British statesmen shows that those gentlemen are not indifferent to the interests of either the Mother Country or the colonies. The Earl of Harrowby made an exhaustive statement of the claims presented by the C.P.R. in their tender, and showed from all grounds of Imperial, military and business policy that the Canadian offer was far preferable to that of Mr. Holt. Half a dozen noble speakers followed in similar terms, and the Earl of Onslow, replying for the Government, gave hope that a realization of this great compact between England and Canada would be ratified. The London press is united in voice and sentiment on the matter, the *Times* being especially strong in its support. From a Canadian point of view the advantages would be numerous should such an arrangement be effected, and the only question is that of obtaining the best possible terms.

#### SHOP AND TAVERN LICENSES.

THE Toronto License Commissioners—two of them, at least—have "built themselves an everlasting name," but of a kind altogether different from that erected for herself by Lady Godiva. If they had been bribed by the liquor interest to bring reproach upon the temperance cause, they could not have more effectually carried out their instructions than by acting as they have. The true interest of the public was evidently the very last thing taken into consideration; or it would probably be more correct to say that the public interest was the one thing which was not considered at all. One of the Commissioners could see nothing in his appointment but a means of favouring his co-religionists. The other—but we refrain from peering too curiously into the motives by which the other was actuated. It must of course be understood that Mr. Rose stands acquitted of all complicity in the shameless conduct of his colleagues. His position was an unenviable one, and must have been a sore trial to his nerves and temper, but, notwithstanding the result, we have good reason to be thankful that he was on the commission. If they do these things in the green tree, what would they have done in the dry? If, in spite of Mr. Rose's presence, they could manage things thus, what would have been the result if the third Commissioner had been one like unto themselves? A public meeting is to be held to protest against this most culpable abuse of petty power. Let every honest man in the community attend, and show by his presence and his voice what he thinks of the judicial methods of Messieurs Thwaite and Cassidy.

#### THE SHRIEVALTY OF YORK.

THE appointment of young Mr. Mowat to the shrievalty of York can only be characterized in one way. It was an act of gross favouritism and injustice: favouritism, inas-

much as it made large and life-long provision for a man who has never done anything to deserve such a windfall of good fortune; and injustice, inasmuch as it nullified the claims of deserving men who have strong claims upon Mr. Mowat and his government. This single act will do more to smirch the high reputation of Ontario's premier than any or all which he has committed during his many years of office. With what face can he or his government henceforth censure Sir John Macdonald or Sir Charles Tupper? Neither of those gentleman has hitherto done anything quite so indecent as this. At any rate they have not done it openly, and as though it were not a matter to be ashamed of or apologized for.

#### OUR CHRISTIAN EXEMPLARS.

PROBABLY the greatest cause of the spread of so-called infidelity in these times is the gross inconsistency apparent between the teachings of Christianity and the lives and conduct of some of its duly-authorized expounders. A tree is known by its fruits. We do not expect to gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles, and when we see a tree bringing forth nothing but sour crabs year after year, it is not to be wondered at if we refuse to believe that the original graft was a *Dulce Pomum*. In like manner, when we see persons who claim the right to be addressed as "Reverend" holding up the life of Christ as an example to mankind, and whose own lives are nevertheless such as no honest or decent man can contemplate without disgust, it is not strange that we should pause and reflect upon such wide divergence between profession and practice, or that we should find ourselves beset by harassing doubts as to the quality of the tree which brings forth such fruit. It is perhaps illogical that such doubts should intrude themselves. We shall be told that a tree should be judged, if not by its choicest products, at least by their average quality, and not by the blasted and abortive specimens of a partly-decayed and worm-eaten branch. All of which is perfectly true; but the taste of one acid crab into which we have inadvertently set our teeth will for the time obliterate all memory of the rich-flavoured golden pippins which graced the desert-table last winter. So, likewise, when we find the professed minister of Christ going about inculcating indifference to worldly things, carelessness of place and pelf, truthfulness and straightforwardness in word and deed, honour and integrity in all the relations of life, charity in judging the acts of his fellow-men, and forgiveness towards those who have used him despitefully—when we behold all these things, and when we see the self-same personage living a life much nearer akin to that of Judas than to that of Jesus: when we see him greedy, self-seeking and mean almost beyond conception: when we discover that he can lie as glibly as Ananias, and that no one who knows him has any confidence in his truthfulness or integrity: when we find him going about secretly maligning and lying about his betters: when we learn that he is possessed by a filthy imagination which revels in the contemplation of salacious stories—stories which he relates under the hypocritical pretence of being inexpressibly shocked thereby: when we find