

based upon an intimate knowledge of the facts. The enemy with which our troops have to deal, he says, never fights in mass or in the open. The occupation of bison-hunters has made both Indians and Half-breeds the best of horsemen and the best of marksmen in encounters with an enemy. Their practice is to harass the enemy night and day, to kill the sentinels and the teamsters, to make a sudden dash on the flank of a moving column and ride rapidly away, and, whenever possible, to keep out of sight. With such rapidity are their movements made that sometimes a ride of a hundred miles a day is made. With the nature of the country for a distance of three hundred miles in one direction and five hundred in another they are familiar, every hill and every gully being known to them. What chance, our missionary asks, have foot soldiers against mounted men who fight in this fashion? He would oppose to the rebels men who fight in the same way as themselves: the pioneers of the North-West, *voyageurs*, practised scouts and modern cow-boys, mounted on Indian horses. To the Crees and other connections of the Half-breeds, among whom he places the Blackfeet, he would oppose their hereditary enemies including the Sioux. Canada is the country of the latter, and our missionary thinks they may fairly be called upon to defend it. This means of quelling the insurrection would probably be effective; but it would not be without its drawbacks. The objection to the employment of Indians would be minimized by the fact that they would be opposed to men who fight in their own way; and there are conceivable cases in which the acceptance of their services might even be desirable. Our missionary advocates their employment on the ground of humanity, believing that it would be the means of saving precious lives. This does not mean, we feel sure, that the lives of Indians and Half-breeds are not precious in the eyes of the missionary; but that the adoption of the mode of warfare recommended would greatly diminish the loss of life. The troops unavoidably expose themselves to slaughter where Indians and Half-breeds would manage to keep out of sight. But if there were no other objection to the missionary's suggestion, probably much time would be required to get together the sort of force which he names; and when got it would, if left to itself, be difficult to keep in hand. If used at all it would have to be used as an auxiliary, and not as the sole means of crushing the rebellion and restoring peace.

No one denies the constitutional power of Parliament to pass a Franchise Bill, and it is useless to argue that its passage would be high treason against the majesty of the Provinces. But, while it is quite open to Parliament to regulate the franchise by which its members shall be elected, it is equally at liberty to accept the varying franchises which have been found best suited to the several Provinces. The differences between the qualifications prescribed by the Provincial Legislatures are not great enough to make a Franchise Bill to regulate the election of members of Parliament necessary. In two opposite directions the Government Bill makes unnecessary and undesirable changes: it disfranchises male electors in Prince Edward Island, and creates a woman's suffrage, beginning with spinsters and widows. It is always an ungracious thing to take away the franchise from men on whom it has once been conferred; and it would be a perilous experiment to alter the relations between the sexes for the purpose, admitted by the Premier of giving a few additional votes to the Tory Party. That these tactics are borrowed from the Tory Party in England there is no attempt to conceal. The two provisions convey the emphatic condemnation of the measure, and the action of the House is at once putting its foot on the proposal to extend the franchise to females is eminently satisfactory. The discretion proposed to be conferred on the Government in the selection of Revising Barristers to make additions to, and subtractions from, the list of voters would place a dangerous power in the hands of party leaders, and one which would be certain to be abused to the prejudice of the electors. The arguments for the necessity of the Bill are chiefly founded on the statement that the lists of electors for the Local Legislatures are prepared by municipal officers whom the Local Government can control, but over whom the Ottawa authorities have no influence, and that under the present system errors are made and injustice is done. The fact alleged is not true; neither Legislature nor Government has any control over the officers by whom the lists are prepared. By whomsoever they are prepared errors will creep in; but from wilful tampering they are as free as lists prepared under this Bill could be expected to be. The important point is the proportional representation of the Provinces in Parliament, and as this depends upon their respective populations it requires no general Franchise Bill for its regulation. In what way the different Provinces select their several quotas of members matters not, where the differences are not great: each Province can only send to Parliament the number of members to which it is entitled, and none can get an undue advantage over the others.

THE *Economist* heralds the appearance of Sir Leonard Tilley as a borrower in the London market by reminding him that "the credit of Canada would have improved much more than it has done if she had not been so constantly and so rapidly adding to her liabilities." What he may expect to find when Canada asks for twenty-five millions of dollars—this will not be nearly enough—will be "that Canadian credit cannot bear those constant demands upon the money market." Sir Leonard's attempt to prove that nobody suffered from high protective duties does not strike the English journal as a mark of genius, but instead creates a doubt whether he is "the man to whom the finances of a country like Canada can safely be entrusted." Two political railways have greatly increased the total of Canadian loans, and are in fact chiefly responsible for the heavy load of debt which, all things considered, has been piled up with a rapidity almost without parallel. Only by some stroke of extraordinary luck can we hope that the coming loan will be placed on as good terms as the last.

THE *Mail* triumphantly contests our vindication of Mr. Fenton's conduct in the Conspiracy Case with the strictures of the Chief Justice, whom we ourselves complimented on his impartiality. We complimented the Chief Justice on his impartiality because in a political trial if he showed any bias at all, it was not for but against the political party to which he himself belonged and to which he owed his appointment. But you may compliment a judge on his impartiality without binding yourself to concur in everything that falls from his lips. If the conduct of Mr. Fenton were a point of law we should not presume to differ with the Chief Justice: as it is merely a point of propriety we do. Mr. Fenton was told that he would in all probability be called upon immediately to frame an indictment of a very unusual and difficult character, and though the case was not then actually ripe he proceeded at once to consider and prepare his form. A man, and above all a lawyer, who never does anything worse than this may be considered sure of one of the best places in the Kingdom of Heaven. We should not wonder if he were to be placed even higher than Mr. Wilkinson. And now let us all hope that the very last of the Conspiracy Case has been heard.

WE have no desire to have any further controversy with the *Montreal Herald*. We have no desire to have controversies with any of our brethren in the Press. We wish and have always tried while entering into fair discussion to maintain relations of amity and courtesy with them all. The rule of the Press is that editorials shall be credited to the editor. It forbids personal attacks on contributors. Such attacks must always be conjectural; they are often most unjust, and the practice of making them is liable to the grossest abuse, inasmuch as an unscrupulous and ungentlemanly editor might thus drive a valuable contributor out of a rival journal. In England any journalist who did such things would be socially tabooed by his profession, and we do not see why the standard of honour and good-breeding for journalists should be lower in Canada than it is in England. Anonymous journalism is the established custom, and there are strong reasons in its favour. THE WEEK has no special ground for dreading a change in this respect. If articles were to be signed, it would only appear that among the contributors to this journal there is not one who can be supposed to be actuated in the line he takes by any other motive than his convictions. But so long as the present system continues, we shall continue to observe its obligations and to insist on their observance towards ourselves. Those who choose to hoist the black flag must prepare themselves for the consequences, which to proprietors and patrons of journals might sometimes be unpleasant.

WHILE negotiations between the British and Russian Governments were going on, with an apparently increasing prospect of a peaceful solution, and when the Boundary Commission was on the point of setting to work, General Komaroff, a Russian Jingo, has suddenly taken the law into his own hands, and by an attack upon the Afghans precipitated the war which he and his fellow-barbarians desire. Of the two versions of the affair, that of Sir Peter Lumsden and that of General Komaroff, nobody doubts that the one given by the British officer is true: to Russians the obligation of veracity is unknown. General Komaroff, in committing his act of aggression, relied, and, as it appears, with only too good reason, on the support of the military party at St. Petersburg and on the criminal weakness of the Czar, who, though personally not inclined to war, is afraid of losing his popularity with the army. In presence of this outrage, the questions with which diplomacy was before occupied recede into the background, and unless reparation can be obtained there must be war. Of obtaining reparation there is but a slender chance, since the Czar has signally identified himself with General Komaroff's conduct by thanking the General