

itself by the issuance of the order, the Federal Government cannot now, save at great loss of dignity and prestige, withdraw that order without at least a distinct promise or accepted condition of some kind. In the absence of such concession nothing then remains save to summon the proposed session at the proper time and go on to enact and enforce the promised Remedial Legislation. But it has now been made abundantly clear that the people of the English-speaking Provinces will not give their consent, much less their approval, to any such legislation. The heartiness and almost complete unanimity with which the determination of the thirty-nine or forty supporters of the Administration in the Commons has been endorsed by the representative assemblies of the various Protestant denominations in Ontario, as well as by the Orange and other semi-political organizations, puts that beyond reasonable question. It is almost equally certain that even could a Parliamentary majority be had for the passing of a coercive act, it could never be put in successful operation, in the face of the determined resistance which the Province would be certain to offer. It now seems pretty clear that in the end the appeal of the minority will have to be to the sense of justice, or to the generosity, of the Manitoba majority. Perhaps it would have been better had the appeal been taken to this court in the first instance.

A Curious Case.

The letter which has been received by the Mayor of Toronto from the legal firm of Fletcher & Beaumont, demanding, on behalf of a client, a proper undertaking that the city will not in the future receive as payment for taxes any further sum of money from Jarvis Street Baptist Church, or any other place of worship exempt by law from taxation, opens up an interesting question. That a city should be prevented by legal injunction from accepting a sum of money offered and pressed upon its acceptance by the voluntary action of a church which conscientiously believes itself to be thereby discharging a just obligation, and performing a simple act of honest citizenship, would, indeed, be something new under the sun. It is to be hoped that the question may come before the courts for decision as a test case. The ground upon which the threatened action is to be based is, as we understand it, not simply the want of legal authorization on the part of the city officials to receive the money, but the lack of fair consideration given to the church in return. The ground of defence would, therefore, naturally be that such consideration is given and that the money is but a fair return therefor. This would, probably, raise the general question whether such consideration is not given to all the churches and religious institutions of the city, in the shape of streets and sidewalks, lighting, water privileges (aside, of course, from the small water-tax ordinarily imposed,) etc., police protection, and, above all, the exclusive use of a valuable property in the heart of the city. The further question might also be raised, whether the exemption of churches from taxation does not, in reality, operate very unfairly and unjustly in favour of those churches which hold large and very valuable properties free from any share of the common burdens of civic property. By all means let the question be argued.

A Modern Indian Massacre.

Considerable excitement and alarm were caused at Washington and other places in the United States, a week or two since, by the rumour that the Bannocks, a small body of uncivilized Indians had invaded Wyoming, and that the people of Jackson's Hole, in particular, in that State, were in imminent danger of being massacred. Troops were hurried forward, but when they reached the scene of the alarm they found

everything peaceable. [The Bannocks were returning to their reservation, which they had left, as they believed they had a perfect right to do, on a hunting expedition in territory which they regard as unoccupied, and so open to their hunting expeditions, but which, as far as we can gather, is claimed by cow-boys or other settlers as occupied. The Indians were hunting, it appears, during a season which is pronounced close by the laws of Wyoming. In this country, and we should hope in the United States, Indians who live by hunting are excepted from the operation of local restrictions, as indeed they must be, if they are not to be shut up to absolute starvation. At any rate, the Indians had been guilty of no massacre, and of no outrage or offence of any kind save the violation of the game laws of the State, an offence for which a fine of a few dollars would have been the penalty in the case of a white man. For this crime, which they, no doubt, regarded as the exercise of a treaty right, they were apprehended, disarmed, and each Indian compelled to ride between two soldiers. The soldiers, according to their own showing, were instructed, in case any of their prisoners attempted to escape, to shoot down their horses. As a matter of fact, some of them did, it appears, attempt to escape, and the troops shot them down, killing some and wounding some, but spared their horses. This is the story of the massacre, as derived from white narrators. There was, indeed, it will be seen, a massacre, but it was a massacre of unarmed Bannocks by armed whites. Such is American civilization, or, more justly let us say, such is one phase of it, in the Great Republic in the closing years of the nineteenth century.]

Civic Electric Lighting.

The question of direct ownership and control of electric lighting, street railways, and similar services which are, in their nature, monopolies, is *sub judice*. Some interesting experiments now being tried in certain American cities are well worth observation and study by intelligent citizens everywhere. Chicago owns an electric-lighting plant and is said to manufacture its light for municipal use at a reasonable cost, although, owing to a Legislative restriction which seems tyrannical and absurd, it is not permitted to supply light for private citizens. The chief of the department says that if this restriction were removed it could reduce the cost of lighting for its citizens to one-half the present figures. An agitation has now, we believe, been begun for the purpose of so changing the law as to permit the corporation to do this. But the most interesting method of operation is that which is being tried in the city of Springfield, Ill. This city was being charged \$138 per year for each lamp. Its debt being already up to the limit permitted by law, it could not find the capital to establish a civic lighting plant. In this emergency some of its patriotic citizens have come to the rescue. Sixty of these have loaned their credit to the city for the erection of a municipal plant. This has been leased to two electricians for five years, on a contract under which the city is to be supplied with light for \$60 a lamp, per annum, considerably less than one-half the former rate. "The city," says the paper from which we take the information, "will make appropriations for lighting at \$113 per lamp, and the difference will be turned into a sinking fund which will extinguish the debt in five years; then the city will run the plant itself. In this way, without spending a dollar, and, on the contrary, saving \$25 a year on each lamp, the city will, in five years, become the owner of its electric lighting plant." Thereafter it will, if the Legislature will permit, supply light for business houses and private citizens.