

several influential Conservative papers are joining in the demand for its withdrawal and the adoption of the British and honest plan of having the work done by an independent commission. The *Hamilton Spectator* and the *Regina Leader* have done themselves honour by taking this manly stand. From Ottawa, but, unfortunately, from the wrong side, that is the outside, of the Government enclosure, comes a rumour that the Government itself is seeking a place for repentance and may withdraw the Bill for the session. It is very doubtful, we fancy, whether the Constitution would admit of the holding over of the redistribution till next session. At any rate, Sir John Thompson has announced that the Bill will come up either on Wednesday or on Friday of this week. In the former case its fate may be decided before this paper is in the hands of its readers. The more closely the measure is examined, the clearer it seems to be seen that it is grossly unjust and partisan. In accordance with our optimistic principles, we shall continue to hope until the last that the more high-minded Ministers will become ashamed of it and refuse to be parties to the taking of so mean an advantage of their opponents, to say nothing of thereby proving themselves unworthy of a great trust. The fact that a number of their own friends are dissatisfied with the ruthless manner in which it is proposed to carve and disjoint their constituencies, affords an additional ground of hope. It would be a grand thing for the Abbott administration to have its name go down in history as having done away with an old abuse and established the precedent of having the decennial redistributions made by a non-partisan commission.

FROM Ottawa comes the probably reliable report that the Government have decided to submit the names of Judges Routhier and Tait for appointment as the Commissioners to take evidence in regard to the charges against Sir Adolphe Caron. So far as we are aware these gentlemen are of high standing, though their respective records are likely to be much better known to the public in a short time than they are at present. At the same time we cannot refrain from saying what must readily occur to every non-partisan mind, viz., that it is a pity that both should have been chosen from the list of these known as Conservatives, and that one should have been a former partner of the Premier. One would have expected that the Government, if it were really desirous of a thorough investigation, would have been scrupulously careful to choose at least one of the Commissioners from the Liberal ranks and to avoid all possibility of suspicion on grounds of personal intimacy. After recent events, such as the double report of the first Quebec Commission and the London election case, it is quite too late in the day to ask anyone to accept the old theory that our judges, even after long terms of honourable service, are able to divest themselves of party bias. Should the gentlemen named be appointed in this case, it will at once be open to the Opposition leaders to say that, seeing that they were willing to have the investigation go on before a committee containing a large majority of the friends of the accused Minister, the least that Minister and his colleagues could have done, had they wished a full and impartial enquiry, would have been to choose one Commissioner from amongst their political opponents, or those who at least were not known to sympathize strongly with the political party to which the accused belongs. It is a pity to have to speak of party politics in connection with a judicial enquiry, and we blush to do so, but facts are stubborn and must be recognized.

MEANWHILE it may be said that the *personnel* of the Commission is of less consequence, seeing that the accusers have distinctly declared that they will not appear before the Commission to prosecute their charges, and are already carrying out their threat to carry the case before the tribunal of the reading public, in other words, to institute a "trial by newspaper." In pursuance of this policy—a policy for which they can hardly be blamed, and which it is morally certain their opponents would have resorted to under similar circumstances—the eyes of the readers of the *Globe*, not only in Canada, but wherever in the whole world a copy of it may be found, are being made familiar day after day with *fac-similes*, or, as the *Empire* calls them, "alleged" *fac-similes*, of documents over the signatures of Sir Hector Langevin and Sir Adolphe Caron, which those gentlemen, it is safe to say, never intended should see the light. What have these documents proved up to date? They have proved, what

was pretty well known before, viz., the existence, during the elections of 1887, of a very large Conservative fund for political purposes, of which fund Mr. Thomas McGreevy was custodian, and which was most lavishly dispensed over a wide field to the party candidates and their accredited agents and friends, at the order of one, or the other or both of the Ministers above named. What has not so far been proved is that which constitutes the *gravamen* of Mr. Edgar's charges, viz., that a large part of this fund was public money voted by Parliament for the construction of one or more railways, and feloniously misappropriated for election purposes. What evidence in support of this part of the charge may be to come, we of course know not. This, however, must be said. Assuming the genuineness of the published letters and *fac-similes*, which has not, so far as we have observed, been disputed, the following inferences, seem to be warranted: (1) That several allegations solemnly made before the Committee during the investigation last session, by Sir Hector Langevin and other Conservative members, were simply and grossly false. (2) That the accounts of election expenses in Sir Hector's and other constituencies, submitted in accordance with the law, were false and misleading. (3) That the sums distributed by order of the Ministers named in several constituencies were so large in proportion to the number of voters in those constituencies, that it seems impossible that the amounts should have been used for legal or honourable purposes. If the various documents which on their face clearly carry such meanings are not genuine and authentic, Ministers and members of Parliament should take action at once for the vindication of their own reputations and for the honour of the Canadian Commons. The people of Canada should insist that their representatives should not lie under such imputations for a moment longer than is absolutely required to put the machinery of justice in operation for the vindication of their own honour and that of their country. Do the people of Canada really take the trouble to look into such matters, or have they become case-hardened?

THE people of the Maritime Provinces are naturally a good deal moved by the determination of both parties in the Commons to cut down expenses on the Intercolonial Railway, or rather by the tone of the debate which was had in connection with that matter. They complain, very justly, of the disposition of some of the Western members, especially on the side of the Opposition, to forget that the building of this road was one of the conditions on which the Maritime Provinces consented to enter the Confederation, and without which they would not have consented to enter it. There can be no doubt that a failure to provide for the operation of this road would be a violation of the spirit, if not of the letter, of the original compact. If the East and the West are to be kept united, even by the very slight bond of intercourse which now exists, the maintenance of the road is indispensable. But, even if we admit the necessity of not only maintaining the road in good working order but keeping it in steady operation, deficit or no deficit, it by no means follows that it should not be run, as far as possible, on commercial principles. There can be neither justification nor excuse for the employment of unnecessary labour or the carrying of goods at rates that fail to pay the expense of carriage. It is by no means probable that the road can be made to pay expenses at any early date, now that it has such formidable competition in the shorter and more direct lines. It does not follow on that it may not have been a good investment. The union was surely worth paying for. But neither in letter nor in spirit can it be shown to be any part of the public duty to make it an instrument for Government patronage by supporting more employees than are fairly needed to do the work, or by charging less than fair rates for the traffic done by means of it. The new Minister of Railways has done well in determining to manage it henceforth on sounder principles.

AN important discussion took place in the Commons, a few days since, on the Government's policy in the management of the Indians of the North-West. The discussion arose over the item in the estimates for the maintenance of the North-West mounted police. Some of the computations seemingly reliable, made by Mr. McMullen, are somewhat startling and may well awaken serious misgivings as to the wisdom of our methods of dealing with the Indian population. There are only 17,000 or 18,000 of the Indians, all told, and yet it costs the Dominion over

three quarters of a million dollars annually to maintain the Mounted Police to keep them in order, though they have made no warlike demonstrations and do not seem in the least likely to do so, so long at least as they are fairly treated. Their maintenance during the last eight years has cost nearly eight millions of dollars. Summing up the total expenditure on their account, Mr. McMullen tells us, and his figures were not challenged, that it costs the country \$501 a year to feed, clothe, and keep in subordination, a family of five Indians in the North-West, or over \$100 apiece. Nor is the Government able to hold out hope of material reduction of the outlay at any early day. We are not quoting these figures because we think the people of Canada should grudge any expense necessary to fulfil to the utmost our treaty and other obligations to these unhappy people, but to enquire whether these statistics do not warrant the inference that we have not adopted the wisest methods of dealing with them. Reference was made in the course of the debate to the Indian policy of the United States. That policy was one to be ashamed of during the long "century of dishonour," and we have every reason to be glad that Canada has much better kept faith with the unfortunate aborigines. But this fact should not prevent us from asking ourselves whether we could not now take a leaf out of our neighbour's book with very great advantage to all concerned. The American people have at last awaked to a sense of their injustice and cruelty, and are nobly making amends for past shortcomings.

THE friends of the Indian in the United States have come to see that the reservation policy is itself a blunder and a crime against both Indians and white men. The new policy which has been inaugurated and is now in vigorous operation seems likely to prove gradually successful. Indeed, it could hardly fail, because it is the policy of common sense. Might not its two chief features: compulsory education for every Indian child in the nation at the earliest practicable moment; and the breaking up of the Reservation system by giving to every able-bodied Indian a farm of his own, and investing the balance of proceeds from sale of reservations for their benefit, well be copied by Canada? If not, why not? If it is necessary and statesmanlike to require that every white child of whatever nationality in the country should be provided with the means of receiving a common school education, and required to take advantage of those opportunities, surely there is at least equal need that no less should be done for every Indian child. If this were done in Canada, would not the Indian problem be settled in a generation, and settled in the best possible way, by transforming the young Indians into intelligent citizens? We grant that the education alone would not accomplish this, even were it possible, as it is not, so long as the tribes, or large numbers of them, are expected to spend a considerable part of the year in hunting and fishing expeditions. It would be necessary that the other half of the new American system should also be adopted, viz.: the assignment of lands to the heads of families in severalty, instead of in blocks or reservations. This change could not, of course, be made without the consent of the Indians themselves, but the experience of Commissioner Morgan, on the other side of the line, proves that this consent is not hard to obtain when the advantages of the plan are clearly understood. In fact, the promoters of the change over there are now fearing lest the change should be made too rapidly. Patience and caution would of course be necessary. Oversight and in many cases assistance would for a time be necessary. But the end would be the destruction of paganism and barbarism, which the Reserve system seems specially designed to foster, and the civilization and uplifting of the Indians on the most rational and effective of all educational principles: that of "learning to do by doing."

LORD SALISBURY'S partial renunciation of free-trade principles, as hitherto applied in Great Britain, has naturally caused quite a flutter in the ranks of his political adherents, especially the Liberal-Unionists. Looked at from the point of view of practical politics it appears to us to give a clearer indication than any other utterance we have seen from the Government side that defeat at the approaching election is regarded as a foregone conclusion. It is impossible that the astute Premier, however sincere may be his conviction of the soundness of the new principle he has laid down, can for a moment hope to be able to bring around a majority of the British electorate to his new and startling view, in the course of the few