

Again Mr. Justice Riddell asks whether "property" shall be secure in the English sense. Among a large class of people in this country there is, to say the least of it, no delicacy of feeling with regard to the property of other people. The public are not held to have any rights when it suits the convenience of some person, or some corporation, to interfere with them; and, in turn, the public have no compunction in trampling upon private rights which come in the way of their profit or enjoyment. A railway company or a municipal corporation will neglect the most ordinary precaution for the protection of the public, or a picnic party, bent upon amusement, will enter upon your grounds, break down your fences, open your gates and complacently depart without any thought of making compensation or even offering an apology.

The same sort of spirit is in evidence in another and a higher sphere where the example and effect must be much more harmful to the state. Our Provincial Legislatures apparently have absolute control of our property and our fortunes. They are not amenable, as we are informed from the judicial bench, even to the law of the eighth commandment, and they claim the right to wield and sometimes do wield, a power which even the Imperial Parliament does not assume to exercise. It is said they have not hesitated, in order to carry out a policy of their own devising, to violate rights, public and private, secured by so venerable an authority as Magna Charta. Private property has been most injuriously affected by the violation of pledges given for its security. The authority of the courts has been set aside and their doors closed against suppliants for justice. In short, great principles of law or justice have been recklessly disregarded, and that by those in high places. These things may all have been done with the best intentions, and we might admit that they were; but that forms no excuse; nor is it any excuse that these things were intended for the public benefit; for that is just where thoughtful men at once take issue. It is never for the good of the state that its rulers should act unjustly, or, without ample compensation, disregard minority rights, or in any way shew an example of