

of the Confederation Act of 1867 (B. N. A. Act, 1867, s. 18; Stat. of Canada, 1868, 31 Vict. c. 23), but it does not enjoy the privileges of the House of Lords. Therefore no impeachment against ministers can be brought before either branch of the Parliament of Canada. The House of Commons may investigate the whole subject of complaint, pass a vote of censure or want of confidence, and after the formation of a new ministry, it may, perhaps, direct the Attorney-General to indict them before the ordinary criminal courts for malfeasance of office and corrupt practices at elections; but it has no more powers in this respect under the Constitution of Canada.

And now what is to result from this Royal Commission? Will the Hon. Mr. Huntington be summoned to appear as a witness? Will his presence be enforced by means which the law places at the command of the Commissioners? *i. e.* a commitment. It is not probable that recourse will be had to rigorous measures, the effect of which would be to place the Hon. gentleman in the position of a martyr to the people's rights and the national assembly; and yet, ordinary tribunals are the only authorities competent to decide whether the Royal Commission is constitutional or not. The House of Commons, although sole judge of its privileges, has no jurisdiction to declare that the Commission is *ultrà vires* and beyond the provisions of the common law and of the Canadian Statute respecting inquiries concerning public matters (St. of Can. 1868, ch. 38). Was it not, therefore, the duty of the Hon. Mr. Huntington as private prosecutor, to raise the point on a writ of *quo warranto*, or *Habeas Corpus* by appearing before the Commission and there refusing to take the oath?

Whatever the future may develop, whether the Ministers are guilty or not, and we sincerely hope that they are not, the honor of the country imperatively demands that this Pacific Scandal be eradicated from our midst as speedily as possible. The friends and enemies alike of the Government earnestly desire to see the truth or falsity of the charges made, brought to the light of day. Let justice be done to Canada, and let the world know that she can at least give security for her honesty to capitalists who are anxiously solicited to invest their means in the vast undertakings of the country—the construction of Canals and Railways.

One word more in conclusion. This Pacific Scandal has demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the ordinary pecuniary