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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

THE decision of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick in the matter of the Queen's County Election petition leaves both parties in rather unsatisfactory positions. It is certainly hard that Mr. King, after using every effort to get the case before the Court, should have his petition dismissed and be obliged to pay the costs through the mistake of an official. Still worse is it for Mr. Baird, the sitting member, to be left with the odium that must follow from the openly expressed opinion of the Chief Justice and one of his colleagues, that he had wilfully evaded the law and pre-arranged the miscarriage of justice. While the petitioner suffers only the pecuniary loss and the smart of disappointment, the member, unless he take measures to purge himself by either a legal or a popular verdict, must henceforth sit in Parliament with the stigma that attaches to suspicion of successful fraud resting upon him. There are to be met with occasionally in business circles men who pride themselves on their cleverness when they have succeeded in evading legal inquiry or penalty by some shrewd manoeuvre. But in the Canadian Commons, where every member is supposed to be entitled in fact as well as in courtesy to the significant prefix of "Honourable," it must be peculiarly galling to any one whose nature is in the least sensitive, to find himself bearing the reputation of a trickster, bestowed by the publicly expressed opinions of high judicial authorities. The situation, too, is one which concerns not simply the member implicated; it deeply concerns both the whole body of Parliamentary representatives and the general public. All have a right to expect that the character of the people's representatives should be above suspicion. The non-legal mind, at least, will be disposed to ask whether there is not something wrong in the system of law, or its administration, when such a result can be produced, and possibly the ends of justice defeated, by a technical or accidental failure in the formal performance of a necessary act by a Government official. There should, surely, be some means of redress.

AFTER a long period of apparent hesitation the appointment of ex-Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney to the position of Minister of the Interior is at length officially announced. As was no doubt anticipated,

the announcement has been received with an outburst of disapproval by the Opposition press. It is noticeable, too, that the defence essayed by the more influential Government organs is in most cases significantly guarded and moderate. True, a number of journals in the Northwest have warmly advocated Mr. Dewdney's appointment, and strong petitions, it is understood, have been presented in his favour. In order to judge fairly of the intrinsic value of these demonstrations it would be necessary to know to what extent they were genuine and spontaneous, and to what extent they were originated and manipulated by those holding or desiring official positions. The very natural and legitimate desire of the people of the Territories to have the portfolio of the Interior in the hands of one personally acquainted with their circumstances and wants, and the absence of other candidates with those qualifications, must also be taken into the account. One thing is at least evident. Sir John A. Macdonald does not, in making cabinet appointments, take the position that his colleagues in the ministry must be like Caesar's wife, "above suspicion." It is, to say the least, unfortunate for Mr. Dewdney and the Government that the unfavourable criticisms do not wholly emanate, as is usually the case, from the Opposition. Some of the strongest condemnations of his career as Governor and Indian Commissioner are quoted from journals on the Government side, and from missionaries, who are supposed to be conscientious if not always politically neutral. Notwithstanding all, now that the appointment has been made, it is but fair to remember that the formidable charges referred to have never been formally proved. As they cannot now be officially investigated, it only remains to judge the new minister by his administration, and to accord him the British privilege of a fair and impartial trial in the discharge of the responsible duties of his new office.

THE popular reception accorded to the new Postmaster-General contrasts very pleasantly with that of his colleague above referred to. Some surprise has indeed been manifested at the Premier's selection, not, however, in disparagement of Mr. Haggart's character or ability so much as in compliment to one or two other eligible gentlemen who have been passed by. Mr. Haggart is personally popular, a fact which, in itself, brings no small advantage to a Cabinet Minister under a democratic system of Government. He is also possessed of abilities admittedly above the average, though it is hinted that these have not always been turned to the best and most useful account, as, no doubt, they will now be under the pressure of ministerial responsibility. Having been a member of the Commons for about sixteen consecutive years, Mr. Haggart is, by no means, lacking in parliamentary experience. It is not often that a Canadian Ministry has met Parliament with so many 'prentice hands in office, as will meet the people's representatives next session at Ottawa. Were the Premier less skilled in leadership, in all kinds of political exigencies, he might well be expected to have a touch of nervousness in anticipation of the event.

THE paragraph in our last issue referring to negotiations between the Government of Manitoba and the Northern Pacific Railway Company, took its colour largely from the assumption that the alleged refusal of the Company to agree to a maximum freight rate on wheat was authentic and final. It is evident that without some guarantee of this kind the relief which has been so earnestly sought would not have been secured. But the terms now given to the public as those finally concluded between the Government and the Company must be fairly satisfactory to the people of the Province. The engagement by which the Company is said to bind itself not to make pooling arrangements with any other company, and not to permit any of its stock to fall into the hands of the Canadian Pacific or its ally, is of a kind which it is usually found difficult to enforce or guard against evasion, but if its observance can be secured the interests of the public will have been protected at the point of greatest danger. If it be correct that the power of fixing and regulating freight rates is vested in the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, or that all rates fixed without the consent of this body are illegal, there certainly does not seem to be much left to be desired by the people of the North-West on that score. The Government is to be congratulated on its success in securing the chief end for which it was put in office, and the people on the prospect of full deliverance from the bondage of railway monopoly.