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LEGISLATIVE RAIDS ON PROPERTY RIGHTS.

We are glad to see that the Senate very properly refused to introduce a clause in the Railway Act which would have had the effect of giving undue and confiscatory rights to municipalities as against certain public utility companies. It is as much the duty of legislators to conserve vested interests as it is to do all that reasonably can or ought to be done for the giving to the public benefits of new discoveries or inventions. A wise discretion must be exercised; but there should be no tyrannical use of the arbitrary powers which a legislature possesses. A country prospers in proportion to the enterprise and intelligence of its citizens, and new, untried and large undertakings which they may seek to develop require large capital and involve risk of loss, and therefore proper protection is a necessity. It is most important that those who are prepared to invest their money in such ventures should not be at the mercy of the majority in a Legislature which is too much controlled by a popular vote, swayed by self-seeking demagogues or sinister political influence. Some years ago the Whitney Government in Ontario under pressure of this kind lent itself to legislation which was most discreditable and unstatesmanlike, and which was not only a breach of faith on the part of the Government with certain *bond fide* investors, but was a serious menace to private enterprise and a bid for political advancement at the expense of sound legislative policy.

The action of the Senate was of an entirely opposite character. The demagogic and sinister influence was a continuation of that above referred to. Without going into details it is sufficient to say that the Senate, in refusing to be swayed, as was the Whitney Government, expressed the opinion that the rights granted by the Parliament of Canada to a certain company ought not to be interfered with to the destruction of millions of money which had been invested