

to its special circumstances and industries. England is no exception to the rule, though it suits her to lay her import duties on tea and tobacco rather than on other things. Canada has asserted her commercial autonomy and exercised the common power of adjusting her tariff to the interests of her native industries. So far she and her Finance Minister are on safe ground; but if Sir Leonard Tilley is going to be seduced into laying on taxes, not for the purpose of revenue, but for the sake of protecting special interests, the case will be entirely changed.

—For one thing, at all events, our thanks are due to the new leader. He makes the war one of politics not of scandals. So long as Liberal principles were tabooed in the Liberal party and no political questions could be mooted, scandal-hunting was the only game left, and scandals were hunted with a vengeance, especially when the overthrow of a Conservative Government by the Pacific Railway affair had roused boundless hopes of the results to be achieved by earnest effort in that direction. No good citizen can have any desire to stand between Sir Charles Tupper, or any other incriminated Minister, and public justice. But public justice let it be, not place-hunting under that name, and let the arraignment be as deliberate, the trial as fair, in the case of a man accused of betraying a public trust as they would be in the case of one accused of a private theft. Attention has more than once been called in these pages to the absence in our Constitution of any proper provision for the trial of corruption and other criminal breaches of public duty. A party House of Commons is totally incapable of sitting in judgment on such cases. Had a regular and impartial tribuna existed, those who accuse the Minister of Railways of corruption, instead of using their charges as mere missiles of party war, either in Parliament or in the Press, would be compelled to take the responsibility of putting them into a regular form and proving in a Court of Justice. The present system of irre-