

"it is not possible for any one schooled in British ideas of the sanctity of property to read that passage, and other passages of the learned judge's judgment, without a twinge." He should not indeed! The learned judge says, "if the Legislature had chosen to confiscate—the word that is used—the farm of the plaintiff *without any compensation* they would have had a perfect right to do it, in law if not in morals," or, as a learned judge had previously ironically remarked, "without being bound by the law which says, thou shalt not steal."

It is well that, at last, through the press, the note of alarm has been sounded, even in a quarter from which every encouragement has been given to those engaged in bringing about the danger now apprehended. We hope also that those members of the Legislature who have the courage to think for themselves will carefully weigh the responsibility which attaches to them before they undertake to exercise the enormous powers which they are now declared to possess.

Those who have made a study of this subject are not surprised that the Dominion Government has been asked to disallow the Hydro-Electric Commission Act of 1909 on the ground that the legalizing of the municipal contracts already adjudged to be illegal, the declaring that they shall not be open to question in any Court, and the staying forever of pending suits which would have succeeded in the courts, must have the effect of impairing the credit of the securities of Canada in the British market; and, I presume, on the further ground that the staying of actions is an infringement of the inherent right of every British subject, and affects the administration of justice, which is not included among the powers of provincial legislatures being of course a matter of Federal jurisdiction.

I enclose an article from the *Financial Post* of recent date, which I think states the case as to disallowance with much force, and which may have escaped your attention.

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