

evidence can be submitted. The best course, perhaps, would be to get the Crown to appoint a Commission with full discretionary powers, for the purpose of framing a settlement, and to embody that settlement in a Declaratory Act of the Imperial Parliament, the authority of which could never be questioned. The Commission might issue at once, and the materials being ready, the Act might perhaps pass the Imperial Parliament in this Session.

As to the Streams Bill, there is no denying that the Dominion Government has the veto power, nor is there ground for saying that the power was not intended to be used. We are dealing not with antiquated practices or vague traditions, but with a constitution recently framed, which must be supposed to be operative in all its parts. Of course, the veto is not to be exercised without good reason, but two good reasons at least for its exercise may be assigned. One is, an excess of powers on the part of the Provincial Legislature; the other is a breach of the fundamental principles of public morality and justice by which all legislation ought to be restrained. Nothing can be more likely than that such bodies as our Local Legislatures should occasionally betray an ignorance of the great rules of jurisprudence and require to be called to order by superior authority; such a check is made more essential by the increasing tendency of the Machines to ostracize the best intellect of the Province. The Bill breaking Mr. Goodhue's will was a case in point, and formed a proper subject for the veto. Whether the Streams Bill is actually a breach of the principle which forbids legislative aggression upon vested interests, is a question which turns partly upon disputed matters of fact and on which there is sincere difference of opinion among persons free from the party bias. On its face, the Act certainly seems to be one confiscating improvements and assigning only an arbitrary compensation; it also looks very like a law directed against an individual under colour of a general enactment. In any case, however, the contention of Ontario ought to be that the Bill is unobjectionable in principle, not that the veto is a nullity.

—Why is there any doubt as to the mode in which disputes between the Dominion and a Province, or between Province and