

were exercising the right of eminent domain. This principle was established in the case of *Munn v. Illinois* (94 U.S. 113), which has been followed in the courts of all the States of the Union, and one of the grounds upon which the right to regulate, as determined by the above cited case, was based was that whenever the service is of such a nature as to be a public necessity, the right to regulate is incidental thereto.

THAT we are very much over-governed in proportion to our wealth and population cannot be denied. It is refreshing, therefore, to find that, after all, that part of the machine known as a Lieutenant-Governor is not, as has been supposed, always and absolutely useless.

Recent occurrences in Quebec have demonstrated that notwithstanding the apparent passivity of that functionary in ordinary affairs, there is yet in him a residuum of latent force which is capable of being called into activity for the benefit of the State on suitable occasions.

For a Lieutenant-Governor to undertake to dismiss a minister who is supported by a parliamentary majority is undoubtedly a very grave and serious enterprise, and one not to be entered upon without the most patent conviction that it will be sustained by the people as a proper and legitimate exercise of a very drastic remedy. The result of the general election in Quebec has shown that the Lieutenant-Governor of that Province correctly estimated the current of public opinion there.

To permit the forms of constitutional usage to shelter rogues and enable them to keep control of public affairs after their rascality had been exposed, would indeed be perverting those forms into an instrument of oppression, and would be an outrage to common sense. Politicians are too prone to assume that the government of the country exists primarily for their benefit, and that the forms of the constitution are to be scrupulously regarded under all circumstances so as to maintain themselves in power. But we are glad to see that Mr. Mercier's frantic appeals against the supposed violation of the constitution by the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec have fallen on deaf ears.

The Province of Quebec has safely passed through a very serious crisis in its affairs, and incidentally it has been shown that it is necessary that a power such as was recently exercised in Quebec should be vested in some one. The game may possibly be worth the candle, and it may be that there is no way of meeting such a difficulty as the one alluded to other than by the present enormously expensive system. Possibly when the pressure of taxation is felt a little longer, some more economical machinery may be found, or some radical changes in the constitution effected.

We trust that the good work thus begun in Quebec will be continued by bringing the guilty to justice. There may be some question of policy in the matter, but that some, at least, of those concerned have brought themselves within the criminal law seems scarcely to admit of a doubt.