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The London Advertiser Company,

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tion Department or Phone 107.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 9.

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tions, money now spent on the separ-

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tury's supply of spring water? Or

why spend \$600,000 upon the Komoka

scheme when there is no guarantee that

the supply in the Komoka district will

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THE L'EPINE SCANDAL.

The disagreement of the jury in the

criminal libel case against Oliver Asso-

lin, editor of Le Nationaliste, in which

Hon. Jules Prevost, provincial minis-

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one Baron de L'Epine, who is described

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ment involved; but enemies of the

Provincial Government saw, in the

statements, an opportunity to raise a

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tage of it. The evidence for the minis-

ter proved clearly enough that

L'Epine's main charge, that the Gov-

ernment agreed to sell certain crown

lands at a dollar an acre, thirty cents

to go to the election fund, was abso-

lutely false. As a matter of fact, the

records show that the price was to be

seventy-five cents an acre, with the

cost of survey added. But as the syn-

dicate would not agree to a condition

dictated on by Mr. Turgeon, that the

lands must be cleared, cultivated and

settled within the same time limit as

is allowed to individual settlers, the

agreement was never completed. How-

ever, the rulings of the presiding judge,

Mr. Justice Barré, which in an Ontario

court would be considered peculiar,

proved so perplexing to the jury that

their disagreement is scarcely to be

wondered at. For instance, his lord-

ship told them that the newspaper ar-

ticle complained of did not contain any

criminal libel, and that they were

bound to abide by this ruling, because

it was a matter of law. Furthermore,

he declared the case should not have

been brought before a criminal court,

but was a question to be decided by a

civil court judge. Remarkable also was

the fact that the editors of a Liberal

newspaper, Le Soleil, were refused

copies of the testimony as taken by the

official reporter, while they were

freely supplied for the use of the Con-

servative organ, L'Evenement. For

contempt of court in commenting upon

the proceedings, Le Soleil was fined,

although L'Evenement's bitter criti-

cisms of the Government during the

progress of the case were permitted

to pass unnoticed. It so happened that

certain conversations between Mr. Tur-

geon and Baron de L'Epine, which had

an important bearing on the case,

were held in private; and it seems for-

tunate for the latter that the law of

Quebec requires that before a charge

of perjury can be laid two witnesses

must swear to the alleged perjury. As

it was, the judge evidently gave little

weight to L'Epine's story, as it af-

fected Mr. Turgeon, for he took occa-

sion to remark that "Nothing has been

proven against Hon. Adélard Turgeon.

In so far as acts of personal corrup-

tion are concerned, he has come out of

this trial intact and unscathed."

A letter written by L'Epine in Octo-

ber last to Hon. Mr. Prevost, which

after publicly denying authorship

L'Epine subsequently admitted under

oath was written by him, throws a

side-light on the character of the man

who originated the story on which the

libel was based. In this letter L'Epine

demand fulfillment of an alleged prom-

ise of appointment to a lucrative posi-

tion, and threatens certain exposures

in case of failure. The letter says:

"You are aware that I am deter-

mined to obtain the fulfillment of that

promise by all legitimate means, and

I shall not falter in my resolu-

tion. So far, if I have spoken, and I

had no reason for remaining silent,

I have not written. That will come

if I do not get satisfaction, and, at

next session, you will succumb under

the weight of various charges, espe-

cially that of having forever ruined

Belgian emigration to the Province

of Quebec. Chance circumstances

have placed me in possession of docu-

ments supplying crushing proof of

that theory. Under such conditions

I do not fear open war, but I should

be greatly grieved and reluctant to

have recourse to it. I do not in the

least wish to annoy you. I do so

merely to save myself from the ridi-

cule with which you have covered

me and to earn my living honorably.

You are a minister, while I am a

private individual, therefore it is for

me to take the first step. I do so

frankly. But it will be the last. It

is easy for you to answer indirectly

by obtaining for me work in other

departments which you could not

give me under your orders. Under

such conditions I will work to re-

move the bad impression prevailing

in Belgium, and I will hand you over

a record which might otherwise re-

main a document injurious to your

political career."

It will thus be seen that the whole

of this scandal rests on the unsubst-

antiated statement of a disappointed of-

fice-seeker, who, as a last resource in

his efforts to secure a position under

the crown, to which he is an alien, did

not hesitate to write a threatening letter.

Little wonder that the Montreal Star,

speaking for the better element in the

Conservative party in Quebec, has re-

puted L'Epine and his slanders.

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dictated on by Mr. Turgeon, that the

lands must be cleared, cultivated and

settled within the same time limit as

is allowed to individual settlers, the

Western States, the close of 1907 will

see a still further vast increase:

Place	1901	1906
Winnipeg	42,340	101,000
Brandon	5,283	19,520
Calgary	4,152	17,500
Edmonton	2,628	11,000
Indian Head	708	2,100
Medicine Hat	1,973	3,500
Moose Jaw	2,042	6,500
Portage la Prairie	3,500	5,500
Prince Albert	2,192	5,500
Raymond	7	2,000
Red Deer	851	2,000
Regina	2,645	5,400
Saskatoon	0	3,000
Strathcona	1,550	3,400

The showing as to homesteading,

which is closely associated with im-

migration, is scarcely less marked. This

is a matter in which the Conservative

Government took especial pride, as

furnishing proof of a vigorous policy;

yet, in the light of the record under Li-

beral administration, the 2,462 home-

steads taken up in 1895-1896 cut but a

sorry figure alongside the returns for

the past five years, which follow:

Year
