

not be read without the gravest misgivings." When those who in support of the plan of public ownership, and of opposition to "monopoly," have steadily upheld the most objectionable features of the government policy, and have had no fault to find with the legislation passed to uphold it; who have accepted with complacency the denial of justice to all who questioned the validity of such legislation, and have seen nothing wrong in the virtual confiscation of private rights though they are based upon a promise of protection by the same power which now threatens them with destruction; who have been content that the lives and property of our people should be liable to all the risks attendant upon the use of the most dangerous of nature's agencies—a risk, in a similar case, the Government of the Dominion had carefully guarded against by insisting on a fenced right of way—who have taken no heed of the warnings which the leaders of the financial world have given of the loss which the action of the Provincial Government was certain to cause by the injury to its credit, and consequent refusal of the capital necessary for the future prosperity of the country; who were willing that the Provincial Assembly should override the rights of municipalities, and declare valid contracts entered into in direct violation of its own previous enactments, and the judgments of the courts—when those who have so felt and acted begin to feel "grave misgivings" as to the result, there is some hope for the country.

It has now become evident that the doctrine of provincial rights is resolved into this—that the Provincial Legislatures, being supreme in their dealings with all subjects which, by the B. N. A. Act, are committed to their jurisdiction, may do, without let or hindrance, the most objectionable things they have done in this matter of electric power: may confiscate a man's farm without giving him any compensation, and may shut the courts of justice in his face—a right to which every British subject is supposed to be entitled.

After reading the judgment in the case of *Felker v. The Mc-Guigan Construction Co.* the journal referred to may well say,