

it if they agreed to have their crude nickel smelted to purity within Ontario—really at Hamilton in a refinery in which prominent politicians were interested. Mr. Mills, who was Minister of Justice, threatened to disallow the Act if an attempt was made to enforce it. In the Florence mining case, the Whitney Administration determined a question of title that was before the courts. Whether the Florence company had or had not a just claim to the minerals at the bottom of Cobalt Lake is immaterial; the point is that the Legislature settled a controversy in litigation by passing an Act which, according to Mr. Aylesworth, the present Minister of Justice, amounted in effect to "confiscation without compensation"; yet, because it was *intra vires*, he ruled that the Act must stand.

And now we have the Electric Power Acts of the same Legislature which prohibit aggrieved persons from appealing to the Courts for redress, validate contracts which a Superior Court judge has held to be invalid, and damage vested interests by setting up Government competition in the transmission of power from Niagara, notwithstanding that the Government, through its Park Commission, had expressly covenanted not to compete.

ATTITUDE OF THE BRITISH INVESTOR.

In constitutional as in other affairs, mischief once done has a tendency to perpetuate itself; and unless the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council sets limits to the authority of the Provincial Legislatures, or limits are imposed by an amendment to the British North America Act, we are certain to find ourselves, sooner or later, in a serious predicament. The British investor, who on public and private account has over 1,500 million dollars out in Canada, is evidently alarmed at the recent doings of the Legislatures, more especially at Sir James Whitney's Power legislation. He is nervous, too, over the numerous public-ownership schemes now on foot throughout the Dominion, for, in his opinion, the atmosphere surrounding municipal government here is not always the purest nor the men elected to carry on