

have acted in the belief that duty and honour, as well as interest, required them to act in accordance with the precept that it is righteousness, not expediency, truth and not falsehood, honesty and not dishonesty, that exalt a nation, and bring prosperity and happiness to its people.

We will not insult the members of the Provincial Government by assuming them to be ignorant of, or careless in applying, the great principle upon which alone good government can be carried on, and therefore will assume that, in the action to which the learned judge referred in such significant terms, they had, or thought they had, good grounds for their procedure. We propose to enquire whether the position taken by Mr. Justice Riddell is constitutionally correct and if so how must that position be regarded?

In making this enquiry it is not necessary to enter into all the nice questions which arise from a careful consideration of the several jurisdictions of the Dominion and Provincial Legislatures. It may be broadly stated that, as regards the subjects over which the ninety-second section of the B.N.A. Act gives to the provinces exclusive jurisdiction, their authority cannot be questioned, but, it may be asked, while this is true, is there not, or ought not there to be, some means by which abuse of this authority may be prevented, and no ground given for the inferences plainly to be drawn from the judgment in the case referred to?

The omnipotence of the Imperial Parliament over the affairs of the United Kingdom, and those of its dependencies to which constitutional government has not been granted, may well be expressed in the terms used by the learned judge in describing the powers of the Provincial Legislature within its sphere of action—"it can do everything not naturally impossible." We will not apply the rest of the description for reasons to be shewn hereafter. The Imperial Parliament is bound by rules both human and divine, but they are rules of its own making, or arising naturally from its constitution and environments. In the first place it is a complex machine composed of forces acting