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SIR JAMES WHITNEY'S INVASION OF THE RIGHTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

After carefully surveying the situation raised by the legislation bringing into being the Hydro-Electric Commission, including the last act in this strange drama, and after reviewing what has been said and written on the subject we are confirmed in the position we have taken. We have nothing to retract; but, on the contrary, there is much additional that might be said condemnatory of the course taken by the government of this Province in its dealing with the contracts referred to in these Acts. Furthermore, our contention is based upon legal and constitutional grounds with which politics have nothing to do. It is our duty to discuss and we intend to discuss freely any subject of a constitutional character, where, as in the present case, the interests of the country are affected by legislation likely to injure the fabric of our body politic, in view of what we conceive it to be under the British constitution as affected by the provisions of the British North America Act.

Briefly stated, in reference to the matter now under discussion, our position is this:—The Premier's enactment has undertaken to make that legal which the courts have declared to be illegal, and by so doing has shaken public confidence in the stability of contracts legitimately entered into, and in the ability of the courts to maintain them. Thus the whole subject of civil contracts and the rights of property is placed at the mercy of a single elective body, chosen as partizans, and led by men subject to all the influences of party government. There is to the aggrieved no means of redress. The power of disallowing acts of the provincial legislature vested in the Dominion government, which the constitution intended as a protection against hasty or unfair legislation may or may not be exercised. There