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EDW. TROUT, J. K. CAMERON,
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THE SITUATION.

The Mercier Cabinet, in the person of its Premier and some other members, was declared guilty of frauds on the Treasury, by a commission of its own choice. It is true that the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec suggested the names of the commission, or some of them, but they were accepted by the Ministry, on whose responsibility the appointments must be held to have been made. An interim report of the commission, signed by two of the three commissioners, the third one being confined to bed by illness, in effect declared that certain members of the Ministry had aided in robbing the Treasury through the medium of a stool-pigeon. Governor Angers resorts to the extreme measure of dismissing the condemned Ministry. The latter tries to change the issue into one of constitutional procedure. M. Mercier and his condemned colleagues rail at their judges, for whose appointment they are responsible, and instead of trying to establish their own innocence, quibble about the form of the report of the commissioners, raise the cry that constitutional liberty is in danger, attack the Lieutenant-Governor and accuse, without an atom of proof, the Ottawa Government of having entered into a conspiracy with M. Angers to dethrone ex-Premier Mercier and his colleagues.

M. DeBoucherville, the new Quebec Premier, is credited with the intention of appointing another commission to enquire into other alleged acts of corruption by his predecessors. It is pretended that the total amount stolen by the late Government and its partisans is from three-quarters of a million to a million of dollars. Statements of this kind cannot be accepted as facts without proof, and that is a reason why enquiry should be made. A partisan committee of the House would not be a fair tribunal, and unless there is a case for judicial trial, nothing is left but a commission. A fishing commission is not free from objec-

tion; but charges against the members of the late Government, outside of the Baie des Chaleurs' scandal, may be sufficiently specific to point the line of enquiry to be followed. Criminating commissions set on foot by political enemies on a change of Government are not to be encouraged, unless in case of clear necessity. The commission to enquire into the Baie des Chaleurs scandal has been justified by the event; but as the case is almost unique in political history, such action by a Lieutenant-Governor against his ministers, though with their constrained consent, cannot be looked on as creating a precedent.

There was a general expectation that before the end of this month, the Quebec Legislature would meet, as it was required by law to do, unless the action of the prerogative of dissolution can constitutionally operate as a bar; and it was relied on as certain that, in spite of what had occurred, it would pass a vote in favor of the late Ministry. But contrary to expectation, the Lieutenant-Governor has dissolved the legislature. It is true that the offence of which the late Ministry has been declared guilty was not merely political, and could not be fully condoned by a vote of the House. A dissolution must have come sooner or later, but it is not clear that it ought to have come till the House had had an opportunity of accepting the verdict of the commission. The Lieutenant-Governor went to the extreme verge of his authority in dismissing his Ministers, in which he would be justified if there were no other means of getting rid of them. But the dissolution of the House, without giving it an opportunity of accepting the finding of the commission, does not rest on the same clear ground of necessity; the act is one which success can alone justify. And success at the polls, under the superheated excitement occasioned by the unexpected dissolution which followed closely on the dismissal of Ministers, can by no means be regarded as a matter of certainty. The appeal to the country is to the ultimate authority with which in any case the decision must finally rest, and there are some reasons why it should come at the earliest possible moment.

A halt has come in the proposed exemption of machinery, plant and tools used in factories in Toronto. The resolution has been sent back to the committee. The author of the resolution pretended that want of exemption had driven factories to Toronto Junction and other places. In going there they have been following a law of attraction which has been observed to be in the United States for twenty years. Manufacturers leave the cities for places often in the immediate vicinity, where land is cheaper. Toronto Junction and Mimico are suburbs of Toronto, of which they are bound in time to form part. We cannot purchase the retention of manufacturers in the centre of the city at the cost of exemption, and there is no probability that the remedy would be effective, in case of such as wish to move outside, if we did. They will go to the place that favors their growth and prosperity most. We have no need to

repine at the growth of Toronto, in trade, manufactures and wealth. Exemption is a hot-bed system, unfair to persons and property who have to pay the taxes, and should be discouraged not only in Toronto but everywhere.

In accordance with the decision of the Court of Appeal, it has been decided to admit the evidence taken before the Senate committee, in the trial now in progress against the Connollys and Thomas McGreevy for conspiracy. Owing to the books of the firm having been made away with, no other evidence could be got. The line ought to be drawn between voluntary and involuntary evidence: a witness who volunteers evidence cannot object if it be used against him; but if it is forced from him, the contrary rule should obtain.

Whether street cars shall run on Sunday is a question which will be submitted to the electors at the municipal elections next month. Many fear that Sunday street cars would lead to other work being done on that day: it would be necessary to observe the distinction of what is authorized and what is not. The cars cannot run without authority; other industries have not authority to disregard the day of rest, and they must be kept to their duty if they try to disregard it. If the rest of Sunday is to be broken in upon, the limits of the exception must be strictly guarded.

M. Tarte, who is out on the electoral war-path, promises that, if elected, he will make further revelations against the Dominion Government. He professes to know that the late Dominion elections cost the Conservatives \$500,000, and to be able to indicate where most of the money came from. He intimates that a member of the Dominion Government endorsed notes for election purposes which were paid by the contributions of contractors. This would be bad enough; but a contribution by a contractor is not a parallel case to the receipt of money by Ministers which was first paid by the Government to a person to whom it was not owing, as the commissioners declare was done in Quebec.

Bulgaria has expelled a Bohemian of the name of Chadouine, who it appears is a French subject, for disseminating through the French press false statements regarding the country. The French Government thereupon withdrew its consuls from the principality, a step which is sometimes the prelude to hostilities; and the French press is making a grave international offence out of what was in fact no more than a necessary act of self-defence. Foreigners who obtain an asylum in Bulgaria or elsewhere are bound to obey the laws of such country and to refrain from abuse of the hospitality they receive. Chadouine did neither. His expulsion, magnified as it is, is just the sort of pretext that may be needful to France and Russia, in their own good time, and for that reason it is likely to be nursed and kept warm till wanted.

A horror has been revealed, in the State of New York, which is likely to throw un-