

the building, plant and experienced workmen, is an extraordinary indication of the affection in which the United States is held by our present rulers. On the borders, the officials of that country are busily engaged in expelling respectable and honest Canadian workmen under the Alien Labour law, which is interpreted and applied with extreme rigour. Even nurses and typewriters fall under the provisions of this invidious and offensive piece of legislation, and are not allowed to pursue their callings in the boasted land of the free. A short time ago the Premier was so moved by the petty persecution to which our countrymen and countrywomen have been and are subjected that he declared that if it continued the Dominion would retaliate. Now, however, as above stated, an American firm is awarded a large contract over a Canadian competitor.

There is a spirit of Christian forgiveness in this episode which cannot be too much admired—from the other side of the line, where, however, it will never be imitated. Can anyone conceive the government at Washington giving its engraving contract to the Burland, or any other Canadian company, because its tender was somewhat lower? Could a Canadian get a contract to the extent of one dollar from the State of New York, or any other State? Was such a thing ever heard of? If any American government could entertain such a preposterous notion, the press and public would howl it out of existence. Yet we, unselfish and magnanimous people, being struck on one cheek, meekly hold out the other, and thank our aggressor into the bargain.

This is a practical admission of the Monroe doctrine. "Our country is bigger'n your'n, and consequently our rights are bigger too." Uncle Sam is supreme on this continent. He will have the United States for the United Statesers, and will look to get a good deal of Canada too. Perhaps this is an inauguration of the vigorous immigration policy of which we have heard so much. Canadians being severely barred out from receiving any business favours in the States, while United Statesers can get government contracts in Canada, who can doubt that immigration in the latter country will be greatly encouraged? Now let John Charlton's heart rejoice, and his countrymen in Michigan be glad, Ottawa is to be the Washington of the North, and here their interests will be as carefully guarded as in the other Washington farther south.

*Ottawa Evening Journal, Jan. 15, 1897.*

#### THE GOVERNMENT ENGRAVING.

The Dominion government is coming in for sharp criticism for its award of the bank note engraving to a United States firm, and a number of Liberal papers are defending the government by the plea that \$120,000 a year is saved by the contract with the American firm.

There is no proof yet of any large saving.

The Liberal papers which make the contention may be misled by the assertion that the new contract is to be \$120,000 a year lower than the old one.

This does not mean that the tender of the American firm was \$120,000 or even \$120 lower than some Canadian tender. It is a comparison with past prices, not with tendered ones. The public has no reason yet to know that the Burlands did not tender within a few dollars of the New Yorkers. It may be that the new Burland tender was very high, but that is not yet officially stated.

The Journal did not comment upon the new contract because the full facts were not known. But it is proper to say that unless there can be shown a great saving in the contract with the New York firm below the prices which Canadians offered, the government will deserve condemnation. It is not enough to say that the foreign firm must establish a branch here. They will bring foreign labor probably in all departments, and certainly in the superintending offices, and their profits will go across the line, while in the meanwhile a number of Canadians at present employed in such work will be turned on the street.

*Ottawa Citizen.*

#### THAT ENGRAVING CONTRACT.

The motives that animated the government in this extraordinary step of giving the engraving contract to an American firm cannot be divined. We are told that for the five years there will be a saving of \$120,000, as compared with the last five years. But we are not told what the difference was between the tenders of the American company and the Burland company respectively. For aught we know there may not have been a thousand dollars difference. In any case the Canadian firm should have been allowed the option of taking the work at a reasonable price. The preference shown to a foreign rival, belonging to a nation which treats our people with petty and ceaseless hostility, and trade intolerance, is amazing. It would seem to indicate a burning desire to show that the government cares no more for Canadians than it does for Americans.