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## THE SITUATION.

At last, the Canada-Australia Pacific cable is said by a despatch to be assured. But the despatch has not been confirmed; and besides the proportions are confusedly stated, viz., eight-twentieths each, and Australia "four-nineteenths." Evidently these are not correct figures. As the cable will be a Government work, the problem of joint management remains to be solved. In this respect, we should expect some advantages from the application of English experience. The British Post-office supplies, perhaps the best model of perfect administrative machinery in existence, and if the same skill which perfected that system could be applied to the management of the cable, all that could be desired, in this respect, would be obtained. But colonial administration is far behind the perfection of the British Post-office. The proper thing for the colonists to do is to admit that greater experience than theirs may have some points of superior excellence.

The Federal Parliament, to its credit, has come to realize the enormity of the election frauds, of which only a glimpse has been obtained in the courts; and has resolved to make enquiry into the West Huron and Brockville election scandals. The question was brought up by Mr. Borden, of Halifax, and, after discussion, Sir Wilfrid Laurier admitted that a case for investigation had been made out, and consented to enquiry by committee. He complained, however, that Mr. Borden had presented the case, in an unjudicial tone, and asked him to reflect "whether some partisanship would not also be found in the Committee on Privileges and Elections." Unfortunately we have too much experience to guide us in cases of enquiry into wrong-doing at elections by committee. In the days before the courts had cognizance of election cases, the Election Committees were invariably and notoriously partisan. Being composed of a majority of Government supporters, they always, whenever possible, decided in favor of the dominant party, and when they could not so decide, they would

delay the enquiry two or three sessions, leaving the constituency misrepresented meanwhile. These scandals led to the change which transferred the power of deciding contested elections to the courts. In one aspect the change was for the better, a non-partisan tribunal having taken the place of the politically corrupt Election Committee; but in another respect, the change has been accompanied by a practice, called "sawing-off," which had the effect of preventing any investigation at all, or at least preventing the uncovering of all the graver offenses. In the present cases, the Committee on Privileges and Elections can decide nothing; it can only expose violations of law. That exposure is the thing of all others most needed. Frauds connected with the ballot box rob the voters of their rights, and are a thousand times more dangerous than any form of bribery, far eclipsing the utmost iniquity of the Pacific scandal, which in the history of election scandals, in Canada, is thereby relegated to a second place.

While the tax on Chinese immigrants is to be increased, Japanese are to be permitted to come in free only for Imperial reasons. This is one of the instances in which the policy of the Empire is permitted to override local prejudices, or, as some think, local interests. Some speakers, in Parliament, mix up with these people two other classes of recent immigrants, Galicians and Doukhobors, and would, if they could, forbid any of them to come and take up their residence with us. Canada, with her enormous extent of unsettled territory, cannot afford to exclude immigrants on so large a scale of discrimination. It is no answer to say that the United States exclusiveness goes this far; the circumstances of the two countries, the one practically filled, the other largely vacant, demand, in this particular, different policies. Chinese cannot be permitted to have free course in Canada, or their overflowing numbers might swamp our present population. What is the objection to the Galicians? One of them commits a murder, and a general conclusion against a whole people is drawn. Some who have attentively watched the Galicians in the West, think well of their industry and frugal habits.

Two years ago, an Act was passed, by the Legislature of British Columbia, prohibiting immigration to that province of Chinese and Japanese. This was done under the Turner Government. The Act was vetoed at Ottawa, but this did not prevent the Legislature of that province, under the present Provincial Government, trying to obtain the same result, the exclusion of these two nationalities, by a side-wind; it passed fourteen charters for as many companies, by all of whom it prohibited the employment of either Chinese or Japanese. The fate of these bills is under consideration by the Government, which vetoed the former. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, speaking on the subject in the House, emphasized the fact that the Dominion has paid heavy subsidies to aid the development of the trade of Canada with the Orient; besides Imperial interests in Japan are at stake. He seems to foreshadow the exercise of the veto in the following words, found in the Globe report: "It will not do," continued the Premier, "for us as British subjects only to sing 'God Save the Queen,' and boast our connection at banquets