

proceed without delay to probe the matter to the bottom. The progress of the investigation, involving as it does the good name and fate of a member of the Government and another member of the Commons, and, to a certain extent, the honour not only of the Government and Parliament but of the Dominion, will be followed with great interest from day to day. Meanwhile every fair-minded man will bear in mind that the accused should in equity as well as in law be held innocent until they have been proved guilty, while every true-hearted one would especially deplore to see the head of one who has for so many years occupied the high position of a Minister of the Crown covered with dishonour in his declining years.

THE recent arrival at Montreal of a Canadian Pacific express train carrying the passengers of the *Empress of India*, which had left Yokohama but fourteen days before, was an event of more than ordinary interest and significance. This initial voyage of the first fast Canadian steamship on this route seems to have been successful in every respect and is full of promise for the future of this great enterprise. The *Empress of India* ran across the Pacific from Yokohama in a little more than ten days and a-half. She made the whole voyage of 16,300 miles from Liverpool to Vancouver and down to San Francisco in eighty days, having touched at twelve intermediate ports. The event is one of which all Canadians may well be proud, one on which the Canadian Pacific Railway may be specially congratulated, and one which no doubt means great things for the City of Vancouver. The residents of that city did well to take advantage of the presence of Mr. Van Horne on the auspicious occasion of the arrival of the *Empress of India* to present him with a complimentary address, truthfully, we believe, affirming that "the history of the Canadian Pacific Railway stands without a parallel in the annals of railway enterprise," and fittingly recognizing that the success achieved has been very largely due to Mr. Van Horne's high administrative ability, and to the energetic and self-reliant spirit which he infused into the Directorate. Mr. Van Horne in reply, after expressing his very high appreciation of the honour done him, proceeded to indulge in certain prognostications which, though they are, as he admitted, the words of an optimist, yet carry great weight with them from the fact that his predictions have hitherto been, in a large measure, justified by results. "I am proud," said he, "of Vancouver and look upon it as certain to become one of the greatest cities on the Pacific Coast, and second to none, not even San Francisco. It is the belief of the Directors and myself that Vancouver has a sound base in the products of British Columbia. I believe, from personal observation, that the mineral resources of this Province surpass any in the continent of America, if not the world. We have also iron, coal and lumber, which are not to be found in any such quantities on any other section of the Pacific Coast. It only requires faith and enterprise to build up on this coast a great city, second to none and better than San Francisco in material resources." If, as is hoped and expected, the line of swift communication with China thus established is followed by another between Vancouver and Australia, and also, in due time, by a fast Atlantic line, the results cannot fail to be of great value to Canada and especially to British Columbia.

REFERRING to the possibilities and hopes of establishing a great and profitable trade in the near future with the teeming myriads of the Celestial Empire, one is naturally led to reflect upon our treatment of the Chinese who have come to our shores, and the probable effect of such treatment upon their home Government and people. Though it is bad enough to have singled out the immigrants from this great empire for the imposition of a special tax, Canada has happily not gone so far as her Republican neighbour in the direction of harshness and maltreatment. The refusal of the Chinese Government to receive Senator Blair as Minister to Peking is a suggestive incident. It shows that the Chinese Government and officials are not only fully alive to the way in which their people have been treated in the United States, but that they have taken cognizance of the part played by individual public men, like Senator Blair, in arousing popular prejudice and securing special and unjust legislation. An influential New York journal, the *Christian Union*, not only admits that the Chinese Government did exactly right in refusing to receive Senator Blair, but believes that the day is near when there will be a great development of China's trade with the world and the world's trade with China, and predicts that the United States will then be made to feel the

long-delayed vengeance of an offended nation, and to suffer for it through that most sensitive organ, the pocket. Should the United States be deliberately and with set purpose discriminated against with regard to the immense coming trade with the Chinese nation, or should it be resolutely shut out from that trade, the *Christian Union* declares that the nation will have received only its deserts, and will have no just cause for resentment. This is an aspect of the case to which Canadians would do well to take heed. If, as is rumoured, British Columbia representatives propose making a vigorous effort during the current session of Parliament to secure a more stringent Act for the exclusion of the Chinese they will do well to pause and consider the possible effects of such legislation upon their trade relations with China in the near future, and ask whether it may not be the wiser as well as the nobler course to be just and forbearing.

MR. ADAM BROWN, Canadian Commissioner to Jamaica, who reached Halifax the other day on his return, is of opinion that the facts learned or demonstrated in connection with the exhibition may prove valuable to Canada, if those who are interested will but follow up the openings which have been found for trade. First and most important amongst these facts is that Canadian flour will keep in the tropics. Mr. Brown thinks also that a trade might be established in Canadian cheese, butter and bacon, which articles were found superior to any previously used on the Island. He thinks that an opening has been made, too, for a good many lines of Canadian manufactured goods. His reply to the *Empire* reporter, to the all-important question of return cargoes from Jamaica, is, however, much less encouraging than we could wish. "I am of opinion," he said, "that we can take a great deal of their coffee, for instance, and if proper transportation can be secured from Halifax to the West, quick and at reasonable rates, we can profitably consume large quantities of their fruits, in addition to goods already brought to this market from Jamaica." The demand for these articles would not, it may be feared, go very far towards counterbalancing any considerable trade in the exports above named, and without counterbalancing cargoes profitable trade over such distances is, of course, out of the question. We infer from Mr. Brown's remark that there is no present prospect of the success of any negotiations for reciprocal trade relations with Jamaica. It is to be hoped that Canadian producers will take his advice, and test the capacity and value of the Jamaica Market very thoroughly. Mr. Brown's report will no doubt give fuller particulars of the result of his mission. Mr. Brown has shown himself a very able and indefatigable commissioner, and has won golden opinions from those who have had the best opportunities for observing the manner in which his work has been done. The Island newspapers are eloquent in his praise.

WE had intended to refer last week to an article in the *Winnipeg Tribune* of April 24th, controverting the opinions expressed in a paragraph in THE WEEK touching the reasons assigned by the Dominion Minister of Justice for the disallowance of the Manitoba Foreign Corporations Act. The *Tribune* is right, to a certain extent, in assuming that in our comments we were mainly guided by the Minister's interpretation of the force and meaning of the Act. We naturally assumed that, so far as the matter of such interpretation was concerned, we might more safely rely upon Sir John Thompson's conclusions than upon the results of our own study of the Act itself. It did not, indeed, occur to us that any serious difference of opinion could arise as to the meaning of an Act so short and apparently so simple in its language and provisions. In this we were, it appears, mistaken. The meaning and effect of the Act, as unfolded by Sir John Thompson, differ widely from the explanation given by the *Tribune*. For instance, the *Tribune* affirms "that the period of time fixed by the sixth section, within which lands held by companies must be alienated, applies only to lands acquired through foreclosure or sale proceedings, or through release by mortgagees of their equity of redemption," and "has no application to the Hudson Bay Company, to the Canada North-West Land Company, to the Canadian Pacific, Manitoba South-Western or Manitoba North-Western Railways. In these cases no time-limit in holding lands is fixed or attempted to be fixed." Sir John Thompson, on the other hand, says that the provision of the Act referred to "would have the effect of confiscation in respect to all companies which, before the passing of the Act, acquired

lands in Manitoba under competent legislation and by Dominion land patents, and involves a breach of faith by causing a detrimental change in the terms on which the contracts with these companies were made." Now, which of these is the true interpretation of the section? Upon the answer to this question turns one of the strongest objections to the Act. It must be admitted that the *Tribune's* rendering seems to the lay mind more in accord with the wording of the section. Possibly Sir John Thompson does not otherwise understand it, and means only to say that the section, by changing or limiting the terms upon which the companies named may dispose of their lands, or, which amounts to the same thing, the terms upon which other companies, institutions or corporations, purchasing or dealing in these lands may hold and dispose of them, effects a virtual confiscation of a certain part of their value, just as he argues in another place that the same section would limit the freedom of the Government of Canada in the disposal of the lands in the Province which are still the property of Canada, and so lessen the value of those lands to the Dominion. And this reminds us that the *Tribune* is unable to understand the meaning of our remark that "as the Government still retains a large interest in the ungranted lands of the Province, it was impossible that Provincial legislation, adapted to reduce very materially the value of those lands, could have been permitted." "All Dominion lands in the Province, yet ungranted, says the *Tribune*, are free grants. How could these be reduced in value?" It therefore thinks there is no use in replying to our argument because it is obviously based upon some misconception. If this is so the Minister of Justice is likewise the victim of misconception when he says that "all ungranted lands" in Manitoba are "still the property of Canada," and that "any legislation prejudicially affecting the value of the public lands in that Province . . . is legislation directly affecting the property and interests of the people of Canada at large." We confess in turn that we are unable to understand the *Tribune* unless it assumes that the Dominion has no authority or right to dispose of the lands referred to, except as free grants. But we must wait for more light as to the facts before discussing the question further. As the *Tribune* no doubt is aware, the sympathies of THE WEEK have always been with the Province in its struggle for Provincial rights and freedom from injurious monopolies. We freely concede the hardship and injustice the people suffer in being compelled to pay, in addition to their own taxes, those of such a corporation as the North-West Land Company, and we wish them success in every effort to secure Legislative jurisdiction over the lands of their own Province, provided that the means used in securing such jurisdiction involve no injustice to outside corporations or breach of faith on the part of the Dominion Government.

IT is always easy to mistake either increased knowledge of an evil, or an increased sensitiveness to it as evil, for an increase of the thing itself. A cynic might, recounting the instances which have come to light within a few years of licentiousness on the part of public men in England, plausibly infer that the moral type of the British people, or at least of certain important classes of the people, was deteriorating. Such cases as those of Sir Charles Dilke and Parnell, and now of that monster of vicious propensities and purposes, Captain Verney, and of others whose names might easily be added, may seem to many to justify a pessimistic view of the state of the national morals. But when we apply the two principles above suggested in the work of comparison, the matter takes on a very different aspect. Notwithstanding the deep stain left by such individuals upon the record of Parliamentary morals, it can scarcely be doubted by any one who will take the trouble to look back over the history of half a century, that the former days were vastly worse than these. The fact is that offences against social purity which would have been winked at, if the perpetrator did not even win a kind of admiration as a gallant, two or three generations back, are now regarded with righteous horror and aversion, and detection is followed with severe legal penalties. The same thing is no doubt true with regard to other kinds of crime, as could, indeed, be proved by statistics. It is then a cause rather for thankfulness and hope than for discouragement that the class of crimes which do more than almost any other to defile the fountains of social and domestic happiness, are becoming so abhorred that neither wealth, nor rank, nor personal influence and ability can avail to screen the wrong-doer from social