

measure I can possibly imagine. It undermines the stability of contracts and of the power of the courts to uphold them or to decree against them.

I will mention a few of its extraordinary provisions. It makes valid the Hydro-Electrical Commission's contracts which had previously been declared by the courts of Ontario to be illegal and different to those which had been voted upon by the people, without giving the people the right to vote upon them again, and declaring that such contracts should not be open to question in any court. It also dispenses with the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and what is still worse and of infinitely more importance, it stays proceedings forever in important cases which might and possibly would be brought forward for adjudication by the Privy Council in England.

From the above, your Lordship will, I am sure, readily realize that my fears for the safety of the investments in which I am interested are well founded and that these investments are threatened, and seriously threatened if legislation of the character referred to is possible under the Canadian Constitution.

I need hardly say that if such legislation is adopted, nothing will ever induce me to invest a further penny in any Canadian securities, nor could I advise any of my friends to do so; and it appears reasonable to suppose that my feeling and my action would be the feeling and action of my countrymen who had money to invest.

The real gist of my letter is to enquire of your Lordship if:

1. It would not be possible for and according to the Constitution of Canada for the Dominion Government to intervene in a matter of such far-reaching importance with the view of annulling the confirmation of the said Bill, or

2. Is this a matter that should be brought before the Colonial Secretary by English investors, or

3. Ought I to address a protest to the Dominion Government of Canada, or

4. Might I ask your Lordship to make such a protest on behalf of the Executors of the late Duchess, and of my friends and of myself and of others interested in a similar manner in this country, or

5. Would it be possible for your Lordship to request the Dominion Government to delay assenting to the measure until such time as English bondholders and stockholders of the two electrical companies mentioned herein, prepared, signed and submitted to the Dominion Government a petition against the confirmation of the Bill.

Trusting your Lordship will forgive the length of this letter and will give it your favorable consideration.

I have the honor to be,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. W. PALMER.