

What position did they or could they hold apart from this connection with the Ministers? What else could have led to the employment of these two young men, out of all the lawyers in Winnipeg, in a long series of transactions of this kind? What but their personal connection with Government could have led to their success, above all their local compeers, and their extraordinary gains? "It has been very generally understood here," says a most trustworthy informant, "that about the only means of getting anything done in the Interior Department at Ottawa, out of the regular routine course, was to obtain the services of some Conservative lawyer or agent, and from their intimate relations with the two principal members of the Government the firm of Macdonald & Tupper have almost monopolized this business." By what miracle is it that this not very eminent firm has flourished while disappointment and even despondency have reigned around? Of the marvellous list of agencies, to which they have pointed as the source of their apparently inordinate gains, did all come to them in the ordinary way? The Winnipeg Bar seems to have thought not. What made them Land Solicitors to the C. P. R.? When they, without professional claims to the honour, are made Q. C.'s and the Attorney-General of the Province is passed over, this is surely notice to suitors of the channel through which favourable access to Ottawa is most likely to be found. With regard to the general opinion at Winnipeg, both at the time and now, on this subject there can be no doubt. Even the Manitoban journalist who now supports Messrs. Macdonald & Tupper and seconds their calumnious attack on a writer in this journal, formerly himself denounced their practices, amidst roaring applause, in language which it would be almost libellous to repeat. We are of opinion that in an ideal state of official practice and public sentiment the sons of Ministers would not be habitually engaged in promoting claims of any kind in the departments of Government. If this sounds like suspiciousness, perhaps at the present juncture it will be thought that suspiciousness is not, of all faults, injurious to the Commonwealth.