

Editorial.

The Canadian Independent.

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OUR NATIONAL HONOUR.

THE all-absorbing topic of the present hour, throughout the Dominion, is what is known as the "Pacific Railway Scandal." With the details of the affair, together with all the more recent *dénouements* regarding it, our readers are already too familiar through the columns of the secular press, and there is no need therefore of reproducing them here. They have so long formed the staple of their editorials, and have been served up so often, and with such a variety of seasoning, and "side-dishes," as the political repast of the day, that we are almost afraid of exciting a sensation of *nausea* by any reference to them in these pages.

And yet to refuse to notice what so deeply affects the honour and wellbeing of our country, might not improperly be regarded as a dereliction of duty on our part. The questions involved in the charges and counter-charges now being everywhere discussed, are not so much *political* as they are *moral* and *religious* questions—lying at the very foundation of our dearest constitutional rights and liberties, and vitally related to all the best interests of our people.

It is sadly apparent, indeed, that the

great aim of a large portion of the secular press has been to make a political engine of the affair, by the vigorous use of which they hope to *oust* the existing Cabinet from office; and that in doing so they have been only too ready to believe, if not actually glad to find, anything that will convict them of the crimes laid against them; while, on the other hand, the ministerial press has been so eager to disprove the indictment, and to save the Ministry from condemnation and defeat, that they have refused to give credence to anything against them, however trustworthy the source from which it comes. In such a state of things it is evident that there is great danger of the real issue being lost sight of, which with every Christian, and every Canadian, ought to be, not, How will the proof, or disproof, of these charges affect the state of parties among us? but, "Are these things *true*?" And could we gain for a moment the ear of the whole Dominion, we would implore our people to lay aside all sectional and political prejudices, and address themselves, without fear or favour, to the solution of this most vital question. The honour of the whole country, no less than of the administration, is at stake. If it be true, as alleged—and our readers are as competent to judge of the value of the evidence as ourselves, so that we offer no opinion upon that point—that systematic bribery, of the most shameless and flagitious character, has been resorted to, first, by our moneyed men