

tives. Taking as I do the contrary view that our laws and especially the laws designed to elevate morals must be founded on the will and the conscience of the people and that the enforcement, especially of such laws, can only be effected through the same sanctions, I disapprove most strongly of both the proposed changes in the law and the novel mode of enforcement by means of a powerful yet irresponsible functionary. Such changes in the law would I believe turn back the hands of progress and destroy the advance that has been made. And it is no small advance that has been made; for though bribery is too common, it is only a fraction of what it was a generation ago. During the period immediately following Confederation bribery was common at elections; there was little reason for either the man who sold his vote or the man who bought it feeling ashamed of the transaction, for public opinion frowned but lightly upon it. I estimate that twenty per cent. of the voters in the district which I knew well at that time could be bought and were bought: while to-day, I estimate that not more than five per cent. can be bought, but it is difficult to determine how many are now bought because everyone connected with the traffic in votes is ashamed of it and seeks to hide it. In all parts of the country there is a substantial improvement and this has taken place under the law, the basic principle of which it is proposed to change. The advance is fairly indicative of the growth of public sentiment on the question. The laws both Dominion and Provincial against corrupt practices have strengthened public opinion, and, like other laws grounded on the will of the people, they have been a factor in educating the public conscience. If these laws had been of the penal character proposed by Judge Wallace and had been enforced by an external authority I do not for a moment believe such an advance would have been made.

There is a dual purpose in enacting an election law against corrupt practices. It is a means for the politician to remedy unfair advantage taken of him by an opponent in a political contest, the rules of the game are laid down and there is a penalty for their infringement; but this is only one phase of the law, for there is a moral aspect of it which is intended to commend it to every moral man and not particularly to the