

and their methods of enlarging it so demoralizing that they have grown to think that Ontario exists for themselves and their families, and that the taxpayers have no other business than to provide a comfortable living for the New Family Compact.

They have used the Liberal party of Ontario as a means of holding office, until the prestige of that party has been seriously injured and the good name of the Province, the premier province of this Dominion, is held in contempt in other parts of Canada as the home of corrupt electoral methods and a scandalous manipulation of the machinery of the law unheard of in any other British country.

They have centered in themselves many of the powers rightfully belonging to the municipalities of the province, and have employed the public patronage to create an army of office-holders, too many of whom are active partizans instead of being impartial servants of the general public, whose money provides the salaries.

They have divided the constituencies by more than one gerrymander so as to make a fair fight difficult, and in trying to effect this result they have not hesitated to cut townships in two so that the will of the majority may be stifled.

Not by such means could a term of thirty years of office have been secured, so a deliberate system of bedeviling the election machinery has been resorted to, and the electors have been deprived of the chief privilege of British citizenship—a free and honest election fairly and impartially conducted without respect to the fortunes of one party or the other.

### **Tampering with the Constitution**

A late development in this long career of political back-sliding is the policy of tampering with the existing constitution in a manner so extraordinary that even life long Liberals have rubbed their eyes in amazement and refused to approve of what has been done in their name by a knot of paltry leaders who seem to forget that they owe something to the loyalty and support of the rank and file of the party.

Two examples of this violation of the constitution for the sole benefit of the politicians in office have occurred in the last year or so. Ontario has power under the British North America Act to change its constitution, subject to a certain limitation. There is, consequently, a regular and proper way of changing the constitution. To pass Acts, however, which evade, subvert and nullify the existing constitution, without changing it, is simply the work of political tricksters and quite unworthy of any responsible public men.

During the session of 1901 the Ross Government introduced and passed an Act providing that the 1902 session of the Legislature, which according to the constitution expired on March 29, 1902, should not so expire, but that the House if in session should continue in existence until it was adjourned and for ten days thereafter. This bold attempt to set aside the constitution and extend the natural term of the Legislature called forth strong expressions of condemnation from all quarters. If the term of the Legislature for one session could thus be prolonged in defiance of the plain letter and spirit of the constitution, why could it not be prolonged indefinitely, say for another four years, thus depriving the electors of their constitutional right to vote in a general election upon the policy and conduct of Ministers? This measure is a fitting illustration of the kind of politicians that now rule Ontario. In order to avert a political danger visible only to their guilty consciences, they would stop at nothing. They failed to see anything improper in the measure and all the so-called Liberal members in the House voted for it. What did they care that the constitution distinctly provided for a Legislature lasting from a certain date in 1898 to a certain date in 1902? They were afraid that their own bad legislation might cause the opposition to obstruct proceedings so that the House would not be able to get through its business in 1902 by the date set for dissolution, and, therefore, they altered the law to meet a possible political embarrassment. But the opposition are not obstructionists. The House was allowed to conclude its labors previous to March 29th, so that this discreditable