

the right way about it, effectually stop it "as easy as rolling off a log." I will diagnose it and give you the prescription, and if you follow the directions the malady will be rapidly and efficaciously checked and the patient soon on his pins again. (a) Prohibit, under pain of disqualification for the life of that parliament, soliciting votes by candidate or authorized agent, either by house to house canvass, casual meeting or public assembly. (b) Let the only modes of communication between candidate and electorate be printed address through the post office or other channels of distribution, and by speech from public platform. (c) Make it a penal offence of at least one year's imprisonment and perpetual disqualification and loss of franchise for him who offers and for him who accepts a bribe; and let the offence comprise a minister or candidate who directly or indirectly attempts to bribe a whole constituency by holding forth a temptation of reward or favor for electing a supporter of the government, and disfranchise the constituency for the term of at least the four ensuing parliaments. (d) Any member convicted of having accepted a "saw-off" penitentiary for two years; and any member or other elector proposing a "saw-off" penitentiary for one year, together with perpetual disqualification and deprivation of franchise in both cases. These penalties may sound drastic, but "desperate diseases demand powerful medicines." They will be effectual, I promise. Once known to be on the statute book these offences will be given a wide berth. With the peril so imminent none will be foolhardy enough to court certain disaster. Try it. Here again my contention is strengthened by what has been brought to light in certain election trials.

Senate Reform.

In the great Reform convention of 1867 I entered a vigorous protest against the mode of selecting the Senate, particularly the "life" phase. I was subsequently informed my remarks were far from palatable to the politicians, but I had the grim satisfaction of having been endorsed and lustily applauded by the rank and file. Every sentence struck a responsive chord.

Any reform of the Senate to be permanent or satisfactory must eliminate the life term. Life legislators are not in harmony with this age, and they will be still less so in the near future. John Stuart Mill says that half-measures never give satisfaction, and universal experience seems to bear him out. Six years seem long enough, but ten should be the max. With a time limit of service fixed, it strikes me that a compromise might be struck between the advocates of Dominion control and provincial. Let one-half of the Senators for each province be chosen by the local government and the other moiety by the Dominion government.

Should the local government fail or neglect to fill a vacancy occurring in its half within one month, the appointing power shall be transferred to the federal government. On the contrary, should the federal government fail or neglect to fill any vacancy occurring in its moiety within a month, the appointing power shall be vested in the local government in whose province the vacancy exists. Should both governments fail or neglect to fill the vacancy within two months after its occurring, the appointing power shall absolutely lapse, and the number of Senators for such province shall be permanently reduced.

Had this practice prevailed during the last 27 years, half of Ontario's Senators today would be of the Liberal profession.

Nor would the difference in any of the other provinces be very striking or serious. Perhaps however, that it is well. The one-handed character is so conspicuous and impressive that none can fail to realize it.

The Catholics.

The Catholic minority, in the several provinces, would—or should offer a firm opposition to the purely elective mode of choosing unless guaranteed a share of the representation proportional to their numbers in each province. In Upper Canada, antecedent to Confederation, the Catholics had not a single representative among the elective legislative councillors. Ontario entered confederation without one Catholic senator, while Quebec had seven Protestant senators.

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