

continent in the annals of Canada a record whose influence will be felt beneficially in distant years, but that can only be accomplished by those who occupy the highest public positions, not only thinking right but doing right, and requiring for those whose trustees they are that those under them shall do the same—apply the same rule to their public life that they do to their private life. For these reasons, I cannot help expressing regret that the hon. leader of the Government, for whom we all entertain the highest personal respect, should not have felt the necessity of selecting from the ranks of the representatives of the people men who were pledged to redeem the name of Canada from the stigma that the revelations of the last session have attached to her fair fame. At present our political life may be likened to two hostile armies drawn up in battle array, armed with the same weapons, loaded with the same ammunition, and while they are engaged in the fierce struggle for supremacy, the country is in danger of falling an easy prey to the designs of corporate power, which possesses no moral responsibility, and represented by our great transportation companies and those joint stock companies, brought into existence by the workings of our protective system. I am not one of those who are alarmed at the absorption by the Canadian Pacific Railway or the Grand Trunk Railway of the smaller lines, for the experience of this continent is that where there has not been absorption there has been combination; but what I am alarmed at is the danger of the corporate powers, which command so much capital and control such vast interests, being used to subvert the liberties of the people. Public opinion in England is healthy, and in that country, where the capital is raised to promote our large enterprises, public opinion will not countenance the power of capital being used to subvert the liberties of the Canadian people, and we have the evidence of that in the orders the General Manager of the Grand Trunk Railway gave to his employees that they were all to exercise their private judgment in the matter of voting, but if we silently acquiesce in the principle and make easy the way for corporate power to grow in the government of our country, the blame will rest with us and the burden be on our own shoulders. The public press

of Great Britain have condemned in no unmeasured terms the evils of corruption that has been manifested in our midst, and in condemning that political corruption they are giving us the benefit of their experience drawn from history. They know the danger that lies in the pursuance of a certain course, and they are not slow to warn us, and it is wise for us to take heed. In the United States also we can find valuable experience—the experience of a struggle that is seen now pending in that country between the manipulation of political power by capital, on the one hand, and the people who see the principle of constitutional liberty slipping from their grasp, on the other. An anti-monopoly league has been started, and a popular story has been written by C. C. Post, entitled “Driven from Sea to Sea,” to assist in exposing the prevailing methods of bribery for special interests. It is only a drop in the ocean of thought, but like the little pilules which the homeopathic practitioner claims to reach the seat of the disease, the same claims may be advanced for this work, and it is well worthy of perusal. In the appendix, the author gives a number of extracts from the speeches of public men in the United States, who neither close their eyes nor their mouths at the evils that face the nation. I will pick out one or two to show how the danger is regarded there. The Hon. David Davis, formerly judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, says:

“The rapid growth of corporate power, and the malign influence which it exerts by combination on the National and State Legislatures, is a well grounded cause of alarm. A struggle is pending in the near future between this overgrown power, with its vast ramifications all over the Union, and a hard grip on much of the political machinery, on the one hand, and the people in an unorganized condition, on the other, for control of the government. It will be watched by every patriot with intense anxiety.

“Great corporations and consolidated monopolies are fast seizing the avenues of power that lead to the control of the Government. It is an open secret that they rule states through procured Legislatures, and corrupted courts; that they are strong in Congress, and that they are unscrupulous in the use of means to conquer prejudice and acquire influence. This condition of things is truly alarming, for unless it be changed quickly and thoroughly, free institutions are doomed to be subverted by an oligarchy resting upon a basis of money and of corporate power.”

United States Senator Windom, who died recently, in a letter to the President of the Anti-Monopoly League, said: