

bring into existence legislatures representing not the will of the people but the degradation of electoral corruption.

How brazenly the present Administration has voted and expended public moneys for private and partisan purposes, and has offered bribes to greedy followers and to the baser element of certain communities—all these are set forth in the records of parliament during the past three sessions and will be emphasized on due occasion.

#### OUTRAGEOUS ABUSE OF PATRONAGE.

The same may be said of the abuse of patronage. A government holds the power of patronage for the benefit of the public, and it is entitled to fill public offices solely in the public interest. The duties of those officials are for the public benefit and are fixed by the laws of the country; their salaries are paid out of the people's money. To use the power of filling such positions as a reward for party service and without regard to the character and capacity of the individual selected is **a gross breach of a solemn public trust**. A private trustee so dishonoring his office would be subject to punishment by the criminal law, but the one punishment which can be meted out for such abuse of a public trust is dismissal by the electorate.

#### ELECTORAL CRIMES THAT DISGRACE POLITICAL HISTORY.

The present Government came into power upon pledges of electoral purity; but since 1896 a series of electoral crimes has been brought to light from time to time which are a disgrace to our political history. The probabilities are that not one-tenth of the iniquity has been revealed. Inquiry into the elections in West Huron and Brockville; the St. James Division, Montreal; West Hastings; St. Antoine and St. Ann's Divisions, Montreal; Sault Ste. Marie; Prince Albert; Queens and Shelburne, and last but not least London, has disclosed a conspiracy to retain power founded upon an unlimited command of money, the source of which can only be surmised, carried out by the most unscrupulous and audacious methods, and supported in many cases by a control of the administration of criminal justice which rendered the criminals absolutely fearless. In 1898, the Government of this country in its unwisdom saw fit to repeal the act providing for pensions to retired civil servants. In taking this course it set