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### WHY REFORMS FAIL.

Once again municipal reformers have a chance to consider why a conventionally clean administration has failed to receive popular approval. It is a phenomenon which puzzled in the days of Tweed and is no less perplexing today. It is easy to draw an indictment against gang rule, and to show its inefficiency, wastefulness, extravagance and worst features. Good citizens agree that such things should not be tolerated. With this feeling the reformers offer a clean, efficient, and honest administration. Entrusted with power, they deliver what they have promised. Then, instead of showing appreciation, the ungrateful people oust them and restore the old disreputable gang; and the disgusted reformers feel they must attribute the result to the voter's ignorance. But may not the true reason be ignorance on the part of the high-brow reformer? May it not be economic ignorance and consequent inability to see that political bosses and their gangs are the products of social injustice? The power of a gang rests on two supports: One is the legalized predatory interests in need of tools in office to help them gain and keep special privileges. The other is the proletariat with votes to give in return for jobs and for charity that asks no disagreeable questions. Privilege held by one class creates the poverty of the other. Those who wish good government to be permanent should recognize that fact and make the fight on privilege their own. If there is nothing wrong with conditions that breed millionaires and tramps, then we might as well accept with resignation the kind of government that these conditions breed. If these conditions are wrong, reformers should not ignore them. So long as they fight none but superficial evils, so long as they absolve government of responsibility for poverty and destitution, so long must they fail to hold popular confidence for more than a brief period. This may be deplorable, but facts cannot be deplored away. Reformers must face them squarely and act accordingly.—The Public.

### TRUE CANADIANS.

Dr. J. M. Harper, of Quebec, is devoting his time to the task of promoting goodwill between French and English-speaking Canadians. It is to the common interests of all Canadians that the two races live together in harmony, developing their common heritage for the general welfare. That is a task demanding of every Canadian a broad tolerance toward the views and opinions of his fellow-Canadians, a realization that there must be equality of service in all the responsibilities of citizenship, and a genuine effort to make the welfare of Canada the first, the paramount consideration. Racial differences should not divide the people if the aim of each is a greater Canada. The *bonne entente* which is so desirable can be realized only by English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians realizing that they are first and always Canadians, blended by the ties of citizenship into a common brotherhood and bound by those ties to work together in harmony for the common welfare. Differences of opinion, differences of race, will not cause friction so long as a study of the causes make it possible to see those differences as natural developments of different viewpoints of the necessary steps in Canadian development. Only through the development of ideas which threaten, or seem to threaten, the national existence can there come a real cleavage, and it is the duty, the first duty, of representative Canadians of both races to see that ideas which may be so regarded, are not permitted to take root and grow. If there is a racial question in Canada, now or hereafter, it will owe its continued existence to the failure of representative Canadians to do their duty in full measure. Of that there can be no doubt. Dr. Harper sees this clearly, and is making the most of his opportunities in a way that should commend itself to his fellow-Canadians, both English and French.