

lawyer or person with some legal training, but for fear the poor people should have sufficient influence to secure the nominating signatures and sufficient intelligence and knowledge to fill in the forms, it was enacted for the more effective suppression of the development of public opinion that \$200 should be deposited with the returning officer to be forfeited to the government if the candidate should not poll at least half the number of votes cast for the successful candidate, no matter how great the grievance or popular the cause. The people who complained that they had been robbed of their means by oppressive laws, could not express their discontent or grievance unless prepared to run the risk of a further robbery and a deeper wrong; for a failure to receive a certain number of votes is an offence against our law punishable by a fine of \$200.

This wicked, justice-throttling law does not apply to Provincial and Municipal elections, hence our joy when Sir Oliver made annexation an issue so far as Ontario is concerned at every Provincial election.

We held several meetings throughout the country. I held the first ever held in Toronto, as previously stated. You have no conception what it means to hold forth the doctrine of union in that modern Mecca of monarchism and basswood loyalty.

Like yourselves we have a government of the office-holder for the office-holder and by the office-holder.

The office-holder flourishes in Toronto like a green bay tree, planted near the great river of public revenue at the base of Mount Sinecure. But while we have innumerable sinecures, we have multitudes of cynics, who are not cured. Monarchy is the parent of cynics. There are two kinds of monarchy, the absolute and the limited, and there are two kinds of limited monarchy, the direct and the indirect, we will call them the Imperial and the Colonial.

Monarchy is vicious in principle and subversive of the equality, dignity and liberty of man; but if you are ever called upon to choose between such evils, I would counsel you to choose the direct, or Imperial brand, as against the Colonial.

It is generally understood that we are the subjects of the Queen of Great Britain. There never was a more popular error. We occupy no such exalted position. We are the subjects of the Queen's subjects, and we are not proud of our status.

We have the same difficulty in Canada that you had here a hundred and twenty-five years ago only in a lesser degree. We do not see, neither could you, why a Britain in Canada, or the then colonies, should not be the equal of a Briton in Britain. We are not even on a par with poor Ireland, for Irishmen in common with their oppressors, have an equal voice in the management of their own affairs in proportion to their numbers. Englishmen not only claim, but exercise the right to publicly discuss the abolition of the House of Lords, the disestablishment of the Church, and even the abolition of the throne itself. That is quite legal and constitutional in England, if agitated in a legal and constitutional way, but many regard it as high treason in Canada. I do not want you to suppose for one moment that I complain of the treatment meted out to us by England—far from it. The Canadian difficulty is from within, for we have a set of so-called loyalists (you would call them copperheads), that seek letters of tin-pot knighthood and other Imperial favors, and the loyalty and devotion, or rather the nauseating imitation of it by a few of our politicians, make the statesmen of the mother country sick.

I said that we have government by, for and of

the office holder. I wish to amend that statement for we have other influences at work.

We have government by office holders.

Government by militia colonels.

Government by contractors.

Government by ecclesiastics of every important denomination.

And worst of all, we have government by the Canadian Pacific Railway. And horror of horrors, that gigantic corporation is presided over, controlled and directed by a real live Dutch Yankee by the name of Van Horne, who still retains his citizenship in the United States. So we are indirectly the subjects of an American citizen; but we are not governed by him in the interests of Uncle Sam, but in the interests of the greatest government railway corporation in the world. Van Horne can govern 5,000,000 people easily enough, but he does not see how he could control 70,000,000, consequently he is strongly opposed to political union, so he shouts loyalty, waves the Union Jack of Old England, and declares that Britons never, never, shall be slaves.

This Canadian Pacific Railway is a great bastard production—a hybrid cross between the octopus and the vampire, and it has the whole Dominion in its deadly grasp.

I am preparing a somewhat comprehensive and startling indictment against the C. P. R. which I propose to make public in the near future, and also one against that sacred (?), spotless (?), immaculate (?) and divine (?) institution known as the Canadian Judiciary, or at least some members of it; I would be sorry to include them all for we have some of the grandest, broadest and noblest men that ever adorned the Bench of any country. For the present however time will not permit me to give you more than one exemplification of the enormous power and influence of this leviathan monopoly called the C. P. R., but it will serve as an index of the whole.

We will suppose that I purchase a railway ticket from here to San Francisco, and before I reach Buffalo I receive a telegram that my interests lie in a totally different direction. Suppose, as is the case with most of us, that the loss of my ticket is a matter of some moment to me, and as good fortune or providence will have it, I meet a friend at Buffalo who wants to go to San Francisco, and naturally enough I offer him my ticket, and as half a loaf is better than no bread, I sell my ticket at half price. That transaction looks perfectly natural and legitimate, but the Canadian Pacific Railway have emetted by means of a subservient and outrageously corrupt parliament, each member of which has a C. P. R. pass in his pocket, that the transaction that I have described is a crime in that portion of Her Britannic Majesty's Dominions known as Canada.

Van Horne now controls our liberties and we are beginning to ask the question that troubled Saul the first King of Israel "What more can he have but the kingdom."

Among some of the narrow-minded and illiterate of our people there is a genuine feeling of hostility and bitterness against the United States. I have read somewhat of your history and politics and I conclude that you are made of pretty much the same kind of clay as ourselves.

In former days when an elector asked an embarrassing question, the candidate in this country would establish his purity and integrity beyond question by vigorously denouncing the Mormons. That question being practically settled, I am at some loss to know how your public men will be