

butions, it should be noted that the present law requiring publication of the expenses of the candidates only results in the publication of the legitimate expenses of the election. But if all campaign committees were compelled to publish or to furnish to the "General Superintendent of Elections" for his guidance a complete statement sworn to by the Chairman and Treasurer of the Committee, and shewing all money received and expended by the Committee, the information would be of great value to the Superintendent.

No "deals" or "swaps" could be possible under such a man who should conduct his department with an unswerving recognition of the simple truth that the best way to investigate is to investigate. He would know that if he did his duty honestly and fearlessly he could never be dismissed from office. Mr. Borden, the leader of the opposition, in the course of a debate in the House of Commons asked the Government to consider the advisability of appointing an official who would be as independent as the Auditor-General, and it seems clear to any one who studies the question that only in this way can corrupt practices be suppressed. Even if the present machinery of the law were sufficient (as it may be) to deal with certain offences such as the outrageous ballot box crime recently exposed in one province it would still be necessary to have some qualified and directly responsible official and staff entrusted with the duty of eradicating the other, and more common forms of corrupt practices and their root-cause bribery. The stern enforcement of a drastic law by such an official would give the people a more enlarged understanding of crimes against the ballot and an abhorrence of them. He should be given power not only to prosecute the elector who accepts a bribe, but to hunt out with even greater zeal the canvasser who holds out the temptation, and finally should be empowered to trace corruption to its source just as the Superintendent of a Board of Health would be expected to search for and destroy the germ of some malignant disease.

Some of the recommendations made by the Special Committee of the House of Commons would, if adopted, be of peculiar value to such an official and his staff in aiding them