

The immense funds spent on election occasions shew us the magnitude of the evil. Of course there are expenses attending the contests for the representation of any city or county, but these expenses need not be of large amount. When we hear of ten, twenty, fifty thousand dollars spent on local contests, we can come only to one conclusion, viz: that bribery has been resorted to on a scale of great magnitude.

The question how far the Government of the Dominion were implicated in the transactions of Sir Hugh Allen is of great importance.

The evidence does not implicate the Government as a Government. It does implicate members of that Government, and especially its chief.

We can only pity poor Sir G. Cartier, as he turned appealingly for salvation to the man who had scuttled his vessel, leaving him to sink in the troubled waters; but we have no such feeling for Sir J. A. McDonald. Whether there was a *written* compact between Sir Hugh Allen and Sir J. A., other than that confessed by both to the effect that Sir Hugh was to help the Government in the Ontario elections with money, and that the Government were to use their influence to have Sir Hugh appointed chairman of the Pacific Railway, we do not care. Sir John confesses that he was the trustee of a fund for election purposes in Ontario, to which Sir Hugh contributed forty-five thousand dollars, no part of which was used by him in his own election, and says that he does not know how it was spent. It is argued that Sir Hugh was only one of the subscribers, and we must assume that if there were a number of others giving like proportionate sums to their means, the amount required to defray the Ontario election expenses must have been enormous. Here then the question arises—what was such a fund required for?—necessary expenses? That will hardly be argued. The only reason that can be suggested is bribery—the purchase of a certain number of votes. The Premier then, without doubt is guilty of the crime of bribery, of debauching the Electors of Ontario, of aiding in the corruption of the country, even though we should adjudge him clear of the meaner crime of accepting a bribe for aid either given or proposed to be given to the briber in helping him to the great Pacific Railway Contract.

No doubt this will seem a small crime in the eyes of all who have done similar deeds, who have been bought and sold themselves, or who have purchased others. We remember when the McMullen revelations were first made, it was stated by Government supporters, that the reception of such large sums by members of Government was perfectly explicable and justifiable on the principle of a common fund, to which the members of the political party freely subscribed. It was not necessary, they said, to suppose any compact, or promise, or understanding even. By this explication they evidently think that there is no criminality in the expendi-