

of all other countries as well: It is true wherever human nature is what it has been in the past and what it is likely to be in the future. I have before me an article which appeared in the London Times on March 23 last. It is given a very prominent place in that great journal; it occupies two columns, and I may be pardoned if I read a brief extract from it:

Is it not true to say that there is a most urgent call at the present time for satisfactory assurance that the money which is voted and the money which is given cannot flow too freely into the pockets of unscrupulous profit-seekers? It is the most natural and inevitable consequence of a system of "pay whatever has to be paid" and "have it done at once no matter what the cost" that excessive profit will be taken by some. There is no need to cite cases to prove that the evil exists, for no one doubts it; the disclosures which followed our last war are foundation enough for the general impressions which prevail in the minds of the people, and for suspicion which, perhaps, goes beyond what the facts warrant. The direct economic disadvantage is a serious matter, but the indirect results are of far more vital importance at the present time. It is not too much to say that this evil and the widespread suspicion it creates constitute a malignant growth which checks the free flow of blood to the nerve centres of our national effort.

It is desirable that I should state to the House the proposals of the Government as to further necessary safeguards in the expenditure of the appropriation of \$100,000,000 which has been made by Parliament. I recognize at once that it is the duty of the Government, in view of the character of that vote and of the wide discretion thus conferred upon the Government, to see that the utmost possible care is exercised and that every possible precaution is taken in order that not one dollar of this large amount shall be expended otherwise than wisely and economically.

Mr. Foster's defence.

But before I come to a statement of the measures which the Government propose to take for that purpose, I have another duty to perform which is of a painful character. It is one which, nevertheless, must be discharged, however disagreeable it may be. It is one of the penalties of occupying a prominent position in public life that a man may be called upon to perform duties which his every instinct, so far as his personal feelings are concerned, would shrink from. In connection with the two members of Parliament to whom I have already alluded in relation to their connection with these matters,