

the directors, who are the principal shareholders and are in possession of the proxies. The provinces are the subsidiary corporations. Their dividends are subsidies. The tax-payer is the minority shareholder, and he receives the polite consideration which is accorded to the owner of one share of bank stock who asks a question at the annual meeting. The excellent government of Canada, then, is not a justification of the principles of democracy but rather a triumph for the methods and ethics of business.

In all democracies there is a desire to get rid of the liberty which they have achieved, or rather which they have inherited. The present generation was born free; and their liberty, which was not acquired at a high price, is taken for granted, as if it were automatic and as much a matter of course as electric light, a water supply, or travelling by railway. For the sake of getting rid of disorder the people are willing to allow their freedom to go along with it. This disorder first became apparent in municipal government because it was nearest at hand. In the United States it was notorious forty years ago when a lazy, unskilful chairmaker, named Tweed, looted New York. This vulgar rogue with two associates employed democracy to strangle itself; they had the city at their feet and before the orgy was over it had cost the people one hundred and sixty million dollars; the consolidated debt increased by more than one hundred million dollars, and the annual expenditure was doubled.

In Philadelphia the performance was repeated, although with a little less effrontery. Civic expenses increased at the rate of three million dollars a year, and yet the citizens were compelled to endure inefficiency and waste, filthy streets, offensive water, and brutal, slovenly management of their public affairs. Not one city in the United States escaped public plunder. Toll was levied on criminals; money was extorted from innocent traders as the price of immunity from molestation, and lawful corporations were subjected to blackmail as the price of protection. The police force became an engine of oppression, and judges sold justice as a farmer sells