

inevitable order of events. What is the meaning of democracy? A government by the people. Now a government by the people we must have in Canada, for we have no other order of persons among us. We have no order of society among us born to hereditary privileges like the British aristocracy. Nor can we have any such class. It is made positively impossible by the ordering of Providence. If some among us think democracy a failure, let me ask those persons one question. Would you surrender your right to vote at the next election, or consent to have your vote overruled, if a born peer of the realm should demand that the management of your affairs should be left in his hands, or in the hands of a committee of his order? [We will never give up our rights.] No, you will not give up your rights. You, as part of the people of Canada, insist on keeping your political affairs in your own hands. You are born to the right, and you are resolved to retain it. Do not say, then, that democracy is a failure,—do not say that the people cannot be safely trusted to rule, for thereby you slander yourselves. History shows us the failure at one time or another of every form of government,—democratic, aristocratic, and monarchic. And history will continue to show us such failures when the true ends of government are forgotten in a base and selfish scramble for place, power, and pelf. We are committed to democracy,—that is, Canada is committed to political institutions wherein the popular voice is, and must be, predominant. And it is the part of wisdom to use in good faith and with honest purpose the institutions we possess, and seek to improve them as we use them. In this way we shall secure for ourselves and our posterity a hopeful and progressive civilization. We are all liable to excitement, and we should take good care to impose a wholesome check on this, as by a judicious composition of our upper legislative chamber. This is simply a recognition by the people of their own failings, and a wise provision against possible mischief arising therefrom. We cannot, if we would, abolish the controlling influence of the people in our form of government. But we can, and we ought, strive to impress all

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