

We feel that the only danger lies in the beclouding of the question by appeals to party prejudice. *Not policy, but conduct, not promise, but performance, is the issue.*—*The Liberator*, a journal of moral and social reform.

AS BAD AS TAMMANY

The Presbyterian says the revelations bring the blush of shame to the cheek of every honest and self-respecting man, and recall Tammany in its palmiest days.

"We cannot close our eyes to the seriousness of the situation. Decent men have stood aside, busied in their own affairs, and allowed the work to go on until the stench of it all has become intolerable. But the public conscience is at last fully aroused to the depths into which we have sunk.

"Men who have stood aside have waked up to the fact that the situation cannot be met by mutual recrimination and that it is one in which decent men, irrespective of party affiliation, must join hands in an effort for clean methods of administration, so that the will of the people shall not continue to be balked by the tricks of party heelers.

"It is not our function to suggest a course of action in the crisis. But it must be made plain that **NO MAN OR BODY OF MEN THAT HAS BEEN GUILTY OF DEBAUCHING THE ELECTORATE CAN CONTINUE TO HOLD THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE.**

"The hint has been thrown out that a dissolution may take place and that prohibition may be made an issue in an appeal to the country. It is to be hoped that there are no grounds for the latter surmise. **TO DRAG PROHIBITION BY THE HEELS INTO THE POLITICAL ARENA AS A FORLORN HOPE WOULD BE PROPERLY RESENTED BY THOSE WHO HAVE CONSISTENTLY STOOD FOR IT IN THE PAST.** The fate of this party or that is immaterial. What is essential is that the aroused public conscience shall assert itself, not in mere denunciation but in act; that men of ability and character, who have hitherto stood aloof, shall come to the front willing to serve their country, and that those who have covered the name of Ontario with infamy shall receive the reward for their deeds.

A LIBERAL PAPER PROTESTS

The Stouffville Pilot, the Liberal paper which has hitherto supported Hon. E. J. Davis, breaks from the Liberal party, on the corruption question, and says:

"Alexander Mackenzie enunciated and advocated the principle of responsibility in political warfare, but the Ross Government of this day, while professing the Liberalism of a former day, have depraved and dragged political morality in the dust. Deliberate and organized attempts have been pursued in every election to corrupt the electorate, and the leaders of the party are condoning the same by disregarding the enforcement of their own laws against such acts of debauchery. Not stopping here, the so-called Liberals of this Province have made flagrant attempts to purchase the support of members of the Legislature. In the history of free and constitutional government has any endeavor so outrageous, so utterly defiant of constitutional principles ever been conceived? The revelations resulting from this attempt to purchase certain members of this present Legislature were abortive, but it remained for the Conservative Opposition to drive one of the principles of this debauchery, a member of the Ontario Government, from his office into semi-political retirement.

"Again, in defiance of the principle of government by majority, we today behold the Ross Government clinging to power with an ad-popular majority. Our sense of constitutional government and adherence to reform principles compels us to say this situation demands an immediate resignation and appeal to the electorate of the Province on the part of Premier Ross and his colleagues.