

Even with the enlarged sphere of political action since Confederation, what has the last quarter of a century brought forth: With the exception of Blake, Cartwright, Laurier, McCarthy, Thompson, Meredith, Tarte, Davies and Mills, who among those who have been in any sense our rulers, are worthy of the name of statesmen: Of petty placemen, office-seekers and office-holders, we have a superabundance: Of men who have been willing to violate and cast aside the professed principles of their earlier lives, and make their principles a simple question of revenue, we have scores,—they are always with us—who among the politicians in Canada for the last twenty years with an eye single to the good of the people, can we name? Surely not the men who have been chiefly instrumental in landing us in our present deplorable condition; not the men who have in order to secure or retain office and its emoluments conspired with now-titled speculators to hand over the possessions of the people to these speculators or more correctly speaking who have conspired to make millionaires of a few and paupers of many—certainly not these. Then, who have we except the ones I have named along the whole line of Politicians for the last twenty years, at least, who deserve the name of Statesman. That certain leaders have been in power or office for many years is no proof of true statesmanship when we consider that in this Dominion and in the premier province of Ontario, political power has been attained, and held by the leaders bringing into requisition the most destructive and disreputable forces, and in the centralization of political power in the hands of capitalists and politicians to the very serious injury of the people: in fact, these are the kind of politicians who have been the ruin of, our once inviting and prosperous country. In Britain, for the last seventy-five years no party has been in power for longer than eight years at a time and only twice for even eight years during the seventy-five. The British electorate seem to have properly gauged the strain political virtue will stand. Not so in Canada, or it may be that British statesmen object to the methods of some Canadian politicians, who have the art of remaining in power, year after year, and decade after decade, by living and thriving on the very corruption and dishonesty they themselves originate and engender. Withal I believe it to be easier to put a Canadian politician out of office than to change his nature.

Is it any wonder that Canada's truly great son many years ago, realising the effect that such a Carnival of Corruption that was then obtaining, would have upon the public mind and public purse, was out of the fulness and bitterness of his heart led to exclaim, "God help poor Canada." To-day every well-informed man, who is not living upon the spoils taken from the people or an official who is obliged to bend