

The elections under Liberal management, Dominion, show an average of less than 30 rejected ballots for each constituency. What a great contrast to Conservative rule.

From the recounts held in 1900 it was evident that there were really no spoiled ballots in the rascally sense in which the work was done under Conservative rule in 1896 for in 1900 the ballots used had a white space at the top and persons voting for the upper name inadvertently put their cross in the white space at the top where there was no name. The ballot however has now been improved by having no white space at the top.

The Corruption of 1891.

The shameful revelations of 1891 at Ottawa when opposition's friends were in power, being reported abroad, caused the *London Graphic* to say that "the government rested on a stupendous and all-prevailing system of bribery and corruption, and that even Tammany Hall smells sweet and clean in comparison with that huge stink-pot of the Canadian Government."

The *London Telegraph* was forced to declare that "only the most resolute and drastic purification can redeem public life in Canada from the taint of corruption, the like of which we have not seen in our country for hundreds of years."

The *London Echo* said that "no country could prosper where public departments are in league with fraudulent contractors and where Ministers are open to offers."

The *St. James' Gazette* added that "the existence of an organized system of corruption among public officials in Canada has been conclusively proved, and like everything else on the American continent, the bribery has been colossal."

A New and Brighter Era.

After the elections of 1900 under Liberal management, of the thousands of persons acting on behalf of the Crown not a charge was brought against a single one of them, or against a single Liberal worker. No petition was pressed against the return of any Liberal (in Ontario), but at least two Opposition seats, West Durham and North Bruce, were declared vacant for bribery and corruption. In one of the bye-elections that followed the unseating of the Opposition candidate, the Grits were abused in a most reckless manner; one speaker exclaimed, "The Grits are a desperate gang," "No brimstone is hot enough for Grits,"—See *Toronto Telegram* (Independent Conservative) Jan. 16th, 1902.

In spite of all this the Liberal candidate was elected and confirmed in his seat without a murmur.

In a bye-election in St. James Division, Montreal, in 1902, a few over-zealous workers committed breaches of the election law, but the law was enforced and some of the accused were imprisoned. When the Conservatives were in power everybody was protected, no one was punished.

Since the Liberals took office in 1896 there have been no scandals of any kind in connection with the administration of Canada's affairs or rascally conduct in the duties devolving upon the government in the management of elections. Reckless charges have been made, it is true, but they have all vanished to nothing but imagination under the fierce fire of investigation.

As every one knows the Public Accounts Committee is at liberty to investigate every item of expenditure, and Members of both sides of the House who are members of the Committee, avail themselves of every opportunity in this respect, and at the close of each year's proceedings so well satisfied are the