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ing that you will thus be restored all the  
sooner to those important private occupations  
which, I feel assured, must suffer seriously by  
your prolonged attendance here. You will,  
of course, draw still the usual sessional allow-  
ance.

It was, therefore, no mere cry of a fac-  
tion which the opposition raised, when  
they appealed to the electors of Ontario  
against the policy of the Government, and  
their appeal was evidently sustained by the  
voice of the electors at the polls. Feel-  
ing confident in the result of the elec-  
tions, the opposition determined to put  
the Government on its trial at the very  
opening of the new legislative assembly.  
When the address was moved, they pro-  
posed an amendment condemning the  
policy of the ministry in reference to the  
railway grant, and the amendment was  
carried by a small majority. The min-  
istry pretended to treat the vote as not  
implying want of confidence; but an  
additional vote, with an overwhelming  
majority, compelled them to abandon the  
treasury benches with some loss of dig-  
nity at last.

The course of political affairs in the  
Province of Ontario was but an inner  
circle of the wider course taken by the  
politics of the Dominion. Here the  
opposition was led by the present prime  
minister, the Hon. Alexander Macken-  
zie. For the first two or three years its  
feebleness obliged it to content itself  
with aimless criticism of isolated meas-  
ures; but by-and-by the ministry began  
to indicate a policy similar to that which  
had called forth a victorious opposition  
in Ontario. It has been observed above  
that the fundamental safeguard of all  
constitutional government is that the ex-  
ecutive shall be held under as minute and  
incessant control as the public service  
will allow, and that the one foe of all  
constitutional government is the political  
adventurer who endeavors to hold him-  
self above such control. Legislation  
may of course render the ambition of  
such adventurers more difficult, but  
every system of government is exposed  
to peril from the unscrupulousness of the  
men by whom it may be administered.  
The circumstances of Canada, as of all  
new countries, form a peculiar source of  
temptation to corruption in the adminis-  
tration of her Government. From the  
very nature of the case, a new country

cannot possess that leisurely class of men  
from whom England has long derived  
her noblest statesmen, and from all that  
we have observed there seems no imme-  
diate prospect of this deficiency being  
made up in Canada. At least not a few  
instances have been brought to notice in  
which the sons of wealthy Canadian mer-  
chants have been allowed to content  
themselves with a disgracefully meagre  
education, and have squandered, in friv-  
olous idleness or in coarse sensuality,  
the fortunes which had been laboriously  
accumulated by industrious parents;  
while no instance has yet attracted atten-  
tion in which the leisure derived from  
hereditary wealth has been devoted to  
the service of the public in political life.  
The result of all this is that the adminis-  
tration of public affairs necessarily falls  
very largely into the hands of profes-  
sional politicians—of men who enter  
politics as they would enter any other  
profession from which they seek to ob-  
tain a living. It is no discredit to Cana-  
dians in particular, but to human nature  
in general, to say that only the most in-  
corruptible of men can utterly withstand  
the temptations of such a profession. At  
least the sympathy of every earnest po-  
litical thinker must be repelled by any  
policy which would render it easier for  
the professional politician to yield to the  
temptations of his position.

It was, as we have said, a policy in  
this direction—a policy of encourage-  
ment to the mere political adventurer—  
that strengthened the opposition to the  
first Government of the Dominion, and  
a brief reference to the main points of  
conflict between the Government and  
their opponents will suffice to make this  
evident.

One of the most serious dangers to  
constitutional government is the power  
which a cabinet possesses of manipulating  
the elections so as to put the opposition  
at a disadvantage throughout the coun-  
try. This may be done, for example, by  
spreading the elections over some weeks,  
taking care to secure the large number of  
voters who go for the winning side by  
obtaining at an early date the decision  
of those constituencies in which the min-  
istry expect a favorable return. The  
same end is also attained by bringing to  
the polls the large army of civil servants  
throughout the country, by leaving the