

cumstances are worse than bad morals, and it is a complete delusion that an ill-mannered person is necessarily a good man. It is remarkable how few ill-mannered persons it requires to make an assembly revolting to decent and civilized men. Such a person is the worst enemy of the people. He drives their champions from the field by the disgust which he inspires, and accomplishes by baseness what no amount of courage even in a bad cause could effect. Force in debate all admit and admire, but it demands a nice sense of honour if force is not to pass over into brutality and from that to mere brutishness. As place in these assemblies becomes less honourable it becomes less desirable, until at length members have to be paid for enduring the ignominy of serving in them. As in France the finer spirits turn away from public life; and as in the United States, men of means content themselves with making themselves richer, so that a rich country is governed eventually by poor men whose chief ambition is to make themselves rich.

In Canada, also, democracy is an appearance rather than a reality, and we have not yet witnessed its full operation. We have been deprived of, or saved from, that experience by an *imperium in imperio* which we have created for ourselves. This instrument of government came into being as a result of our fiscal policy whereby the taxing power of the government is placed in the hands of a comparatively few persons who are at once the richest and, therefore, the most honoured and influential members of the community. Their stakes in the country are set deep and wide apart. They have hundreds of thousands of employees whose political education they provide for lest anything be done which is contrary to the established order; and their money is freely at the disposal of any government which is content to leave things as they are.

The government of Canada is "practical." It has some affinity with the principles by which a joint-stock company is controlled. The premier is the president. He is elected by