

In Toronto a controller was threatened with arrest. On the same day news comes from Ottawa that one alderman formally charged another with bribery; and from Regina, that "a second arrest was made" for attempted corruption of an official. Last of all, comes the messenger of evil from New Brunswick. The reason why no individual has been called upon to bear the penalty proper to his offence is in itself ominous. There is a profound belief that he is at once the victim as well as the criminal; and that the community itself and those most highly placed in it are instigators and accomplices.

In our imperial business, which comes within the purview of the Dominion parliament, we have failed, too. Our first attempt—poor and half-hearted as it was—to discharge the obligation for our defence to the harassed people of England, themselves already overtaxed and underfed, failed under the derision and contempt which, for the basest and most sordid political reasons, were heaped upon it. In our second attempt, and failure, these same considerations also bore a part; but in this case failure was better than success, since now there would be a cry from those who are more interested in freight cars than in warships, "Give us back our thirty-five million dollars" in one form or another. This sum would just suffice at the present moment for extricating our railway builders from the difficulties in which they have involved themselves; and there would surely be recriminations if it were not forthcoming. That Lady of the Snows in white raiment would then be transformed into a brawler in her mother's house, a wastrel in her own. The imperial vision has faded, and the famous cartoon in which *Mr. Punch* depicted our premier as a knightly warrior mounted on a charger hurrying to the relief of the oppressed, which at the time we looked upon with serious pride, now appears to have been drawn in a spirit of elaborate irony.

We have been too long living in the air in a kind of fools' paradise; but we are finding the solid earth again, and no one is very much hurt, although a good many people may have