

## Canadian Problems.

### Principal Mackay on "Healing the Body Politic."

NOTE: Following the series of articles on Immigration, which Principal Mackay contributed to this Magazine, we observe he is writing for *The Westminster* (Toronto), a series on "Canadian Problems." The first one appears in the March number, and is entitled "Healing the Body Politic." Perusal of the following quotations and summary will give our readers a fair idea of the complete article, which should be of special interest to British Columbia citizens who have now an election in sight. —[Editor.]

In the foreground of the picture drawn by Principal Mackay is the figure of Yuan Shi Kai, placed there because of his wise statesmanship and because of the law against political corruption recently passed by his order and faithfully enforced by him. With all seriousness Dr. Mackay commends this law to the people of Canada, death penalty and all.

"This may seem like a bloodthirsty sentiment for a minister of the gospel of love, but the highest things in our national life are being done to death by political corruption and low political ideals, and nothing but tragically drastic penalties can rouse the dormant conscience of our people and scare into decency those who are now fattening at the expense of the moral health of our young nation."

Example after example is given to prove the truth of the above statement, not only as applying to individuals, but to communities and provinces.

### *The Present Crisis and "Graft."*

"One would think that the present crisis which has brought out such a passionate display of loyalty both to the Empire and to the ideals for which she stands, would have prevented graft in the arrangements for sending our best young manhood to the front, but unfortunately such is not the case. . . . The cabinet officials may not have been responsible for much of this, but the sordidness and wire-pulling which have come under my own notice in what ought to be a holy cause, have made me sick at heart."

"The thing which has left China stationary through three thousand years has been this same sordidness and the elaborate system of squeeze by which a whole army of parasites sucked the life out of the people. . . . There must come a far-reaching moral and religious revival before China comes to her own, but that revival will be helped and hastened by every law which brings out the real hideousness of political corruption and its deadly effect on the national life."

### *A Challenge to All Moral Forces.*

"The same thing is true of Canada. Our resources are so great and the prizes to be won by unscrupulous manipulators are so enormous that nothing but a determined uprising of all the decent forces of the country can save us from an orgy of corruption overshadowing anything which the great republic to the south of us has ever known. . . . No great country in the modern history of the world was ever so completely in the grasp of a few men as we are already, and unless the churches and all other moral forces rouse themselves to the seriousness of the situation there are troublous times just ahead of Canada."

"Much of this evil condition came about while our people were still largely of Anglo-Saxon origin. How much greater is the peril now that we are receiving thousands of immigrants who know little of democracy and nothing of British ideals. If we are ever to be a homogeneous and well-governed country, these new citizens must be carefully trained and imbued at the beginning with the best ideals of our Empire."