

A DASTARDLY CRIME

Rev. Dr. Ross, pastor of St. Andrew's Church, London, spoke thus in the course of a sermon on the great political evils.

"Many of us remember the horror with which the Liberals regarded the corrupt practices of the Conservatives under the old regime. And we thought the millennium was about to dawn when they got into power. But some of the shadiest transactions of political history have seen the light since then.

"Why, it has been proven that men, men made in the image of God, men who possess the glorious privilege of citizenship in this young and free country of ours, were bought for \$2 per head.

"Now, I have no doubt there are many respectable Liberals who have succeeded in persuading themselves that such things never happened. But when men have been unseated by our courts on such evidence, does not this afford tolerably certain proof of the truth of these charges?

"Others, while admitting the truth, say that we must not blame the best men of the party or the party leaders for the indiscreet zeal of some of the least conscientious men in it. No! The policy apparently has been to import certain scalawags from no one knows where, and let them do the dark work and keep the candidate and the best men studiously ignorant of these proceedings. But some one must furnish the \$5 bills that are found near the grey mare or at the bottom of the buggy!

"I do not like to refer to a still more dastardly crime, namely, that of tampering with the ballot box. Yet I fear this worst of all political evils has not been altogether unknown in Canada. The atmosphere must be very impure where even the suspicion of such a thing is entertained."

THE DUTY OF CHRISTIAN CITIZENS

"The question for every Christian voter in Ontario to decide is: 'Have the acts of the Ross Government been of such a character that I can (as a Christian man) afford to stamp them with my approval and authorize their repetition?' If the answer be in the affirmative, then the voter may properly assist the return of Mr. Ross to power; but if, as we believe, a very large majority of the Christian citizens of this Province must answer this question in the negative, there is but one possible and constitutional method of registering their conviction, and that is by a vote against the Government.

No man can excuse himself for endorsing the wrong in his own party by the specious plea that the other party will be just as bad. That is a matter of speculation. Let every Government and every party be tried by the "Jury of the People," for what it has actually done. Only when the leaders of both parties are made to realize that the party which *does* wrong in office will be punished regardless of consequences, will they square their actions with the highest moral and religious principles.

But just as long as corruption and faithlessness in one party is excused by similar qualities in the other party, will the corrupt elements in both parties dominate the public life of the Province. As the Liberal party has been in power in Ontario for over thirty years, there is practically but one party with a provincial record. Why should we speculate as to what Mr. Ross or Mr. Whitney will do in the next Parliament? Let us judge the Government by its deeds, and reward it according to its works.

The smashing defeat of this corrupt, time-serving and pledge-breaking Government by the Christian citizenship of the Province, would mark an important epoch in the struggle for good government, by teaching public men the much-needed lesson that the way of the public transgressor is hard. We have, we believe, been warranted in assuming that the Christian public are fully informed and very deeply deplore the dishonorable acts of the Ontario Government.