

apparent difference being that when the American political or municipal criminal is found out he is imprisoned, at least; in Canada, if the steal has been large enough, he is generally recommended for and receives a knighthood, and sometimes placed in some high official position that he may be, I presume, a sort of object lesson to other aspirants for political fame. Thus, it is that for twenty years, the public mind and public morals of the electorate and politicians of Canada have been exposed to a test that the political conscience could not sustain; we, too, frequently find politicians now-a-days who only a short time ago would have looked with horror upon certain venal and dishonest methods, now apparently only too willing to endorse them under the changed conditions of political parties,—“seen too oft familiar with its face we first endure, then pity, then embrace.” What will the outcome be? Verily as wealth has increased in the hands of a few in Canada men have decayed. It is too well known that there are men occupying high official and political positions in Canada now on account of their wealth solely, and without the slightest regard to their fitness or capabilities, and who forty or fifty years ago would have been excluded from political life as non-entities unworthy of recognition by the electorate.

There are men in the senate of Canada, quite recent appointments, who forty years ago would not have dared to aspire to a higher position than that of town councillor or city alderman and, in some instances it is the very plunder taken from the people that apparently is their only recommendation. I have never yet known a Canadian millionaire who had, or has, any of the characteristics of a statesman. I have in my mind just now a Canadian senator whose only generosity to the poor through life consisted in his spending several hundred dollars in corrupting them from election to election, and hence the senatorship. Considering the character of men we have had playing at statesmanship in Canada can it be wondered at that we are in this deplorable condition. Thirty, forty, fifty and even sixty years ago, when the population was not half of what it is now, we had in Upper and Lower Canada as rulers, the Baldwins, Lafontaine, Robinsons, Blakes, Galts, Brown, Dorion and other men, who, from their acknowledged integrity, abilities and positions were by common consent the acknowledged leaders in the country and statesmen and patriots as well. The electorate at that time were not nearly as much concerned about the size of a politician's bank balances as they were about the size of his head and heart. Oh, what a falling off my countrymen since the days of the old leaders! Surely as wealth has increased in the hands of a few in Canada men have very much decayed.