

probably from ten to twenty, almost all Liberal party men, and almost none of them having ever seen the Yukon, or knowing anything about it, having secured 1,100 miles of river bottom in that territory, to the exclusion of those who have undergone hardship to reach that territory, and who are its natural heirs. It is presumable that these rights have been acquired only to trade with, and to take advantage of, those who are able to use them. The principle of sale by public auction, which has worked so well in dealing with the Ontario timber limits, and which was recently so successfully adopted in connection with the Yukon timber limits, would surely have been better in dealing with those river bottoms. If it had been possible to dispose of these rights at a time when those who know something about their value might have had a chance at them, it would have better satisfied the disinterested public.' Anything more discreditable to Canadian political life cannot well be suggested than the transfer of these dredging rights. The scandal clearly shows that purification of the administration of the nation is a most urgent need of our noble Dominion, for as things are, and long have been, it matters not what government assumes power, jobbery and corruption there are sure to be in some departments of the state. One political party differs from another in this respect only in degree. But the evil will exist so long as there continues to be so little real public spirit amongst the mass of the Dominion electors, and so long as a majority among them prefer party to principle, and those who lead the people so often continue to be far more eager to secure the spoils of victory than to secure good government.

It is but fair to admit that, as a result of a very comprehensive amendment to the Yukon railroad bill, carried in the house of commons at the instance of Mr. Quinn, M. P., the Mann-Mackenzie bargain has been greatly modified, in the interest of the investing public of Canada. Thus Messrs. Mann & Mackenzie are to transfer their concessions to a company organized in \$10,000,000 capital,

after securing for themselves the cost of construction, plus 25 per cent. profit. And subscriptions to the stock of the company, which should prove a profitable investment, in view of the huge mineral land concessions granted, are, until September 1st, to be offered to the Canadian public—no single applicant to reserve more than 1,000 shares of \$1 each in return for his cash. After September 1st stock subscriptions are to be thrown open to the world. If these conditions be fairly secured the Canadian investing public will have the opportunity of sharing largely in the big profits of the Yukon railroad concession. Whilst, however, admitting that this change improves matters, we still hold that it were better for Canada to have built and owned the railroad, or failing this, to have made a better bargain with would-be constructors. Canadian investors will now share some of the profits of the deal if the Yukon railroad bill passes the senate. Yet—after all—the investing class represents only a comparatively small section of the community, and politicians and their friends and relatives will be able to secure much benefit by an opportunity of Stickine railroad stock purchase, which the mass of the Canadian people, not being capitalists, cannot touch.

The decent residents of Skagway are, with the aid of the United States soldiery there camped, at last beginning to restore law and order, and preparing to bring to time "Soapy" Smith and his gang of desperadoes, who have too long ruled the place. These are, it seems, to be ordered to leave at quick notice. Most of them ought, however, to be treated as they would be in any place under well-administered British laws, indicted either on direct charges of theft and robbery, or if those cannot be sufficiently proved, charged and convicted and sent to penal servitude, each for several years at least, as "incorrigible rogues and vagabonds." This last charge should be capable of easy proof against the rascals. But as the far northwest of the United States is cursed by systems of legal misrule that are a disgrace to civilization, it is likely enough that the Skagway scoundrels