

machines in Canada have reached a state of such efficiency that representative government is a mere name.

The same condition is likely to arise in any country which is growing rapidly, but Canada is peculiarly in danger from these malign forces.

In New Zealand and Australia the attempt is made to keep all great public utilities for the use of all the people. But we give corporations the control of such utilities to be used, we hope, in the interest of all the people. It is an open question which is the better method of administration. But there is no doubt as to which offers the greatest temptation to an unscrupulous politician. We have many splendid men in the political life of Canada, but we have in prominent political places too many men who before entering politics were and seemed likely to remain poor, yet who are now reckoned among our wealthy men. It does not require any great amount of common sense to know that the salaries paid even to real statesmen would not make them rich men in twice the ordinary span of human life. The immense amounts of money required to keep up a corrupt political machine must come from somewhere and the result is that what is the property of all and should be used only in the interests of all, too often goes to those who are able and willing to make the largest contributions to the funds of the party which has the administration of any part of the country's resources in its power.

The majority of the people would do right by their fellow-citizens if they were left alone and allowed to see the issues at stake in their true light, but back of each party in Canada is a vast political machine composed of the most astute and unscrupulous members of each party, who see to it that partizan feelings are kept keenly alive and that enough decent electors are so blinded by these feelings as to wink at wrong-doing in the interests of the success of their party. Too many of our leading papers are so completely under the control of these party machines that no sensible person ever goes to them expecting to find the exact truth about anything which affects the success of either party. It is practically sure to be a chorus of meaningless praise or of equally meaningless censure, depending on the party to which the paper owes allegiance. And this unreasoning partizanship is increasing instead of diminishing as the issues dividing the two parties become of less and less importance. It does not matter the flip of a copper to the ultimate destiny of Canada what party is in power at Ottawa or at any of our provincial capitals tomorrow if that party were only composed of honest men free from obligations to corrupt heelers who live off the partizan folly of the people. We are party mad and have yet to learn the first principles of true Canadian patriotism, when we allow ourselves to be governed by such men as have from time to time found their way into high places in the nation.