

penditure equal to the increase of the preceding thirty-two years of Liberal Government. Of course there has been an increase of revenue, but there must be a halt in the increase of expenditure.

In some respects the Government have gone far towards Socialist radicalism, and on some occasions have surrendered to privileged corporations.

The tendency to appoint members of Parliament to office seems to still prevail. Mr. Morrison may be a good man for the office he received, but there is the danger that a man who is ready to accept an appointment will not be free and independent.

The money for the university should be voted openly and directly, and the Board of Regents should be representative of the Province. Sixteen of the twenty regents are resident in Toronto. The teaching profession and farming community should have representation on the board.

The lobbying system has developed rapidly, and is now pernicious and dangerous. The Government alone can provide the remedy. The favorites of the Government—lawyers and others who trade on their ability to manipulate the members of the Cabinet and their supporters—are the potent forces of the lobby. The Government are aware of this and should give redress.

There has been a tendency to shirk responsibility and to conceal what should be public. Work for which the departments should be responsible has been handed over to commissions. By special statutes salaries of Ministers, increased as they have been, and other expenditures, have been somewhat concealed. In this way the passing of appropriations is avoided.

When criticized the Government appeal to the record of the former Government, and the defence is that they are no worse than the former Liberal Government. Mr. Whitney compares his gerrymander with other gerrymanders. When he is questioned in regard to the guarantee he says Mr. Ross did something similar. It is time that the ashes of the burnt ballots were at rest. The sins of the Ross Government relate to electoral methods. Their majority was small and their condition desperate. Mr. Whitney has, with the pigeonholes in his possession, for years, not discovered any scandal relating to the departments. Be that as it may, Mr. Whitney has supplied a standard for himself. At Ingersoll January 8, 1905, he said:—"The question for the electors to decide to-day is whether or not improper acts can be done now without punishment being meted out."

Mr. Ross came into office with a small majority and a party which had been too long in power. Mr. Whitney came in under different auspices. There was no occasion for him to yield to political exigencies, for on account of non-partisan and Liberal support he had been made independent of any unfair political or corporate influence.

The Present Duty.

What is the present duty? It seems clear. Had the Opposition been stronger and the supporters of the Government in the House more independent the Government would not have been so autocratic, and some things would not have occurred which have brought discredit upon the Province.

It is the duty of all, Liberals and Conservatives, to elect independent representatives and to return a really strong and capable Opposition. It will be a calamity should the Opposition not be able to make the Government move with caution and give the fullest information upon every matter which it brings to the attention of the House. The close of the session witnessed a rapid degeneration in the Government. Their acts have been suspicious, and the Province should be on the watch.

Appeal to Independent Conservatives.

Mr. Whitney appealed during the last campaign for Liberal aid and received it. There is as good reason now to appeal to independent Conservatives to strengthen the Opposition. To do so will be in the true interest of the Conservative party and of all the people. Mr. Whitney believes in independence. It is a pleasure to quote him on this subject. The Mail and Empire, reporting his Ingersoll meeting of January 8, 1905, says: "In an eloquent plea for the shaking off of party shackles and the assertion of the people's right to vote independently of party ties when the occasion demanded, Mr. Whitney stated that in Great Britain forty-five or fifty per cent. of the entire electorate refused to be dragged at the chariot wheels of a party leader who had forfeited their confidence. There the downfall of a Government once convicted of wrongdoing or maladministration was swift and sure, thanks to the independent attitude of a great mass of the electors. There it was that the atmosphere of British politics was kept always pure and clear and undefiled. And it was this undue partisanship in Ontario which accounted for the fact that the political atmosphere here was not kept pure and clear and undefiled."

When Mr. Whitney denounces partisanship everyone knows that he is right. Partisanship must not obscure the true interests of the Province. The party system cannot succeed without a vigorous Opposition. In 1896 and on other occasions many Conservatives were true to duty. They will not fail now. Every Liberal—and there are many—who from a sense of duty supported in the last campaign the party now in power, when he considers the present situation will perceive that the same sense of duty will compel him to labor for a strong and able Opposition, that in this Province, which we all love so well, there may be the best administration of public affairs which the system of government by party can provide.

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