

as a matter of fact, one of the newly elected members of the House of Commons has lived in Canada for so short a period that he had to be naturalized by Act of Parliament, instead of the usual process, before he could be a candidate for legislative honors. What is there to hinder a partisan majority doing the same thing in the interest of the railway ring?

The prospective dangers involved in the Pacific Railway scheme bring home to us with all the more force the moral taught by the Credit Mobilier frauds. There can no longer be any doubt that several members, both of the American Senate and the House of Representatives, were guilty of trafficking in shares of stock, the worth of which was capable of being indefinitely increased according to the manner in which their votes were cast in Congress. It is equally certain that these shares were sold, or rather given to them for the very purpose of influencing their votes. All this was bad enough, but the worst feature of all was the sad lack of courage and veracity in the men who first repudiated the charges made in connection with the Credit Mobilier and Central Pacific Railway, and were afterwards shewn, on the strongest circumstantial evidence, corroborated in some cases by documentary proof, to have been guilty of shameful prevarication and downright falsehood. It really seems at the present moment as if popular institutions were, after all, about to turn out a failure. When men who have for years held a prominent position before the public, and who were, up to the moment of disclosure, supposed to possess a most unimpeachable character, give way before temptation and add the crime of falsehood to that of accepting a bribe; when Senators, without any attempt at concealment, buy up the votes of the State Legislatures, or, what is equally corrupt and reprehensible, buy off their rivals for political honors; when murderers under trial can buy up juries, and railway kings succeed in their schemes of plunder by debauching the judges, it is no wonder that thinking men should pause and ask themselves what all this is coming to? Whether the state of affairs observable at the present moment in the United States is wholly or partially due to defects in the Constitution, including that great source of political evil, universal suffrage, is not for us to decide. Our present duty, as Canadians, consists in taking warning by what we see. That political corruption can hold up its head unabashed both in our Legislature and in the country, past Canadian experience too unmistakably proves; and there is no reason to believe that we are likely to be more proof against it than our neighbors in the time to come. Our Canadian Pacific Railway Company is no more responsible an organization than the Credit Mobilier was; and even though it should turn out that the men composing it are possessed of purer morality and loftier principles than Oakes