

the Crown! Is that the principle on which the Department of Railways or Public Works usually acts? Again, of a total claim of \$284,192, there were proper certificates for \$80,384. For the balance of \$203,798 the certificates were "to say the least, utterly valueless!" The only marvel is that the Department should have been careful about \$80,000, when it was quite indifferent about \$203,000. Further, the contractor had deliberately destroyed his books and papers, and yet came into court as a supplicant for justice! He and his friends should certainly get justice. Again, "The excessive cost of the work might be charged partly to the idling on the part of the men, but the evidence pointed rather to a falsification of the pay lists as the principal cause. Evidence showed that the supplicant did not hesitate to falsify his accounts!" We now see what a Minister of the Crown means when he declares that the extra expense of the work in question was "unavoidable."

IT is difficult to write of such a case with calmness; still more difficult when it is only a specimen, and when it is remembered that in the last days of the last session of Parliament over four millions of dollars were voted, in the face of a steadily falling revenue, as subsidies for railways which are purely local and which will now assuredly be "milked" for the party. Men may differ in opinion about the tariff. They may think it right to tax an article of general consumption, like coal oil, one hundred per cent., or practically to shut our ports against British goods, though Britain is the one sure market for our stuff and though our national interests are the same as hers and she has to pay the piper for their defence. Arguments can be made on different sides of such questions and we must listen to them and answer them respectfully. But no argument can be constructed in favour of systematically robbing the public strong-box, with the tacit consent of a guardian of the strong-box, and his denial afterwards that there has been any robbery at all. By these things a country loses its soul. If we cannot stamp these things out, we are not fit to be free. The interest of the whole is the interest of each part, and each citizen is therefore bound by the very instinct of self-preservation to register a vow before the altar of his conscience that, so far as he has the power, these things shall for ever cease and determine in Canada.

CORRUPTION, condoned by Cabinet Ministers, penetrates to the lowest stratum of society. At the meeting of the electors of L'Assomption already referred to, ex-alderman Jeannotte, the sitting member, gave a lucid explanation of what he had done for them. "He pointed to the number of positions which he had secured for electors of L'Assomption County. Appointments to the aggregate value of \$6752 annually had been obtained for them through his influence in the corporation of Montreal. The money that paid them did not come out of the pockets of his electors; it was the citizens of Montreal who were taxed for them. He had secured four Govern-