

have probably a more influential voice than even under the rule of the initiative and referendum. In many cases it is easier to move the politician seeking for electoral support than the great inert masses of the people, and very often the independent remnant exerts an undue political influence. In fact, some sound thinkers hold that one of the evils of modern democratic government lies in the competition of rival politicians and rival parties for the support of organized votes and aggressive minorities. There is a measure of justice in the criticism, and probably progress in some directions would be slower if the politicians, instead of making secret bargains with these active and aggressive groups, were forced to meet the whole people upon the particular question at issue, and if all advance were blocked until the faith of a few enthusiasts became the conviction of a majority of the people.

But more ominous and more dangerous is the growing power of corporations and the influence of great aggregations of capital in few hands, which is the most sinister development in modern industrial conditions. Here is a danger to the press and a real peril to popular government, for the press can have no mission in the world worth filling except as the articulate voice of the plain, unorganized and unsubsidized people. Notwithstanding all that may be said, we have as yet no reason to conclude that the corporations have a dominating voice in the press or in the public life of Canada. It is, perhaps, doubtful if they can