

that the reputation and character of our country is involved in it, and is on trial. If we elect the same men who to-day hold power attained by the switching of ballots, by the miscounting of votes, by false returns, what will be the effect upon the people of the country? The public will say, and other countries will say, that Ontario is indifferent as to whether we have representative institutions or not, whether the voice of the people expressed at the poll shall prevail or not; they will say that we are not worthy of representative institutions. I say that to-day representative Government, Government by the voice of the people is at stake, and it rests with all of us, Reformers and Conservatives and men who do not belong to either party, to join in this struggle together and by an overwhelming majority at the polls in this province show to the world that we at all events are down on one thing, and can combine in downing one thing, and that is any fraudulent manipulation of the ballots or any misrepresentation of the voice of the people. (Loud applause.) We have always boasted that this province was in the van, that Ontario was the banner Province, that we were the people who best understood representation by the people and responsible government, for which our fathers pressed and fought. Is it now to be said that instead of being as we claim in the van, we are to be in the rear of all the Provinces of the Dominion? I trust that the proper feeling will go forth through this country from one end to the other and be so strong that no attempts will ever hereafter be made to strangle, to choke the voice of the people of this country, and to put into power the men who have not at their back the real majority of the country. (Applause.)

THE MACHINE AND THE GOVERNMENT.

However, Mr. Chairman, the Conservative Party does not in this election rely solely upon what we call the wickedness of—I won't say of the other party—but of the dominating people in the other party. I claim, sir, that there are thousands and thousands of honest Liberals who deprecate what has been done just as much as the Conservatives do. These acts have been the acts of active supporters of the party in various constituencies. They have been the acts of office holders and office seekers, of men in Government pay, and men who have been seeking to get at the purse strings of this country, and I charge that Government, even if not personally implicated, are really responsible because they have virtually condoned what these men have done. They have taken the fruits of the work of these men; they are enjoying the fruits of office, the results of the action of these men, and have done nothing to bring them to justice. We charge that the Government is giving grants to their favorites, and that they are legislating in the interest of corporations and others who make a return to them by assisting them at election time. The feeling of the country must be against that sort of thing, and we have to bring it before the people. I say there are thousands of Liberals who feel that way, but we must ask them to go farther than feel that way, we must ask them to give expression to their feelings at the polls in the coming election. (Hear, hear.) Then there is another class of men who force the Government to do things that probably they do not feel inclined to do. I have told you of their giving grants and favors to political favorites, but there are other men who are even more dangerous than favorites. They are men who probably are not favorites with them, but who hold the political pistol to their heads and demand certain things, and in default of getting their demand threaten that they will go against the Government. The Government is weak and yields, and that is even a greater danger than merely having a friendly feeling towards some of their friends, and giving them political favors of one kind and another. That is something that I ask honest Liberals to condemn, and to go further than merely condemn with their mouths, condemn with their deeds by their votes at the ballot. (Applause.)