

Parliament has "imbibed the traditions and followed the practice of the American Congress rather than those of the Mother Country; worse still, it has improved upon its model." The *Birmingham Gazette* (Tory) of August 29 says: "Bribery of the people by the statesmen and bribery of the statesmen by certain sections of the people appear to have been the recognized means throughout the Dominion of winning votes and obtaining legislative benefits." "The exposures," it adds, "convict a number of men of high position of the grossest abuse of their public trust, and of a species of rascality which should be treated as a crime"; "the State is rotten and seemingly almost beyond hope of immediate amendment." The *Gazette* "does not for one moment see how the majority of those implicated can be exonerated." In its judgment when men who call themselves statesmen "descend to the unutterable meanness of using the influence which their election to Parliament gives them for the advantage of speculating merchants; when they make private fortunes out of their votes, and when they prevent honest business by assisting dishonest traders, they are best described as rogues and vagabonds, and as rogues and vagabonds they must be made to suffer for their offences."

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Extract from *Pall Mall Gazette*, August 10, 1891:

"As for the contractors they are the bane of the Dominion. Our politicians have brains but little money, and it costs much money to carry elections. The rich men will pay the expenses of candidates only on the condition they are repaid out of public funds—with usurious interest—as soon as the candidates get possession of the treasury. The manufacturers are repaid by high duties; the contractors by fat contracts. Political morality has sunk as low in Canada as it has in the United States. Since the revolt of the mugwumps, indeed, American politics can challenge comparison with Canadian. The Liberal leaders have been justified in describing the present régime as, for years back, 'a carnival of corruption.' Yet the public conscience has been painfully hard to arouse; the partisan press has habitually whitewashed the worst