

It seems a fatality of prominence in any good work to be exposed to a fire of criticism and suspicion. When a man gets his fingers into the public purse; when he dabbles as a boodler in such dirty business as the politics of Quebec, he can afford to stand abuse. But there is no boodle in the responsibilities of any dental office. When men are zealous in the educational and legislative work of dentistry, it is fair to believe that they are animated by an honest desire to serve the best interests of the profession, just as surely as when men are zealous in the effort to sneak into the profession through special legislative enactment, that they are moved by a spirit of selfishness and a consciousness of their personal ignorance. Busy and honest men have no time to intrigue. Dishonest men have nothing better to do, for all their hope hangs upon the success of their lying. It is a suggestive reflection which ought to be taken to heart by all respectable dentists, that the zeal of one mendacious quack will frequently outweigh and defeat that of a body of honest officials. When the quacks and impostors of dentistry combine for mischief, it is time for all honest practitioners to combine for self-defence.

Dentists in Politics.

Dr. Ed. Casgrain, of Quebec, suggested the idea that we, as dentists, would never get our rights, or be able to obtain proper legislation to protect the public from empiricism, until we brought our profession as a body into politics. In Quebec, for nearly twenty-five years, we have had proficient experience in this line; but in such isolated and inconsequential detachments, that nobody in the Legislature seemed to be able to afford the time to study what we were driving at, and unless some of our officials almost made their beds in the lobbies, it was impossible to watch the tricks and intrigues of the obstructionist. The only dentist in Parliament is Dr. Ahrens, member for North Perth, Ont. If we had even one in Quebec, we should not be harassed the way we are with tricksters making false representations, and obtaining special privileges denied to men who are willing to enter dentistry by the front door, instead of sneaking in through a hole in the fence. We do not suppose that our brethren in the sister provinces feel the need as we feel it in Quebec. Some day we will give the history of our efforts. In the meantime let us look out for a candidate in our ranks, familiar with both languages, who can afford to devote the time. If we can get him elected for a constituency as an independent candidate, he would serve his constituents as well and us better than if elected on purely party lines. We do not want any of your boodling Mercierites. The Province had one experience of that iniquitous gang. It will be enough for all time to come.