

will produce some tangible results, when the members of the favoured community are casting their votes, is an event which may confidently be relied upon as long as human nature is constituted as it is. On the other hand it is no less certain that results equally gratifying to the dominant party may be looked for in any community which has been informed more or less explicitly that the consequence of the defeat of the ministerial candidate in a given election, will be either the stoppage of some work already in progress, or the indefinite postponement of one which is needed and has been asked for. That votes cast under the influence of a general popularity or a general apprehension thus produced are procured by what is really and substantially nothing more or less than bribery by wholesale, will not, it is conceived, be disputed by anyone who considers such transactions in their true light, and whose judgment is not clouded by political prejudices. It is apparent, moreover, that the exercise of such influence constitutes an especially serious danger, and an especially pernicious abuse, at a time when that development of the material resources of the country which is now proceeding with such startling rapidity will inevitably involve, as one of its incidents, a large increase in the number of occasions which call for the expenditure of the public money upon works of construction, and by consequence a corresponding increase in the number of opportunities for influencing voters in the manner above indicated.

This particular instance of that indirect bribery which operates upon individual voters by exciting the gratitude, or hopes, or fears of an entire community has been specifically adverted to for the reason that it is at once the most familiar and the most alarming. But many other descriptions of a similar kind of bribery will readily occur to everyone who possesses even a superficial acquaintance with the methods resorted to for the purpose of securing votes both in Dominion and in Provincial elections.

In a brief article like the present, it would be out of place to attempt to formulate a provision which would be appropriate