

the sympathy and cooperation of the former in order to check the evil influence of the latter; and, above all, we invariably tell them that the most effective way of winning the respect and affection of their neighbours is to show *by deed*, more than by words, that they have the respect of themselves. In fact, our denunciations of corruption, of party slavery, of the lack of national pride and public spirit in our own ranks, have raised against us the hatred and the rancour of the crooked politicians, who call us the "detractors of our race".

In addressing myself now to the English community of Montreal, I deem it my duty to speak as plainly. Even at the risk of strengthening the absurd prejudice that I am antagonistic to every man and every thing British, I propose to express not merely my own feelings, but even those I do not share, but which are daily expressed by a growing number of French Canadians, who have not the occasion to know their English-speaking fellow-citizens and to make by themselves that discrimination just referred to.

The Municipal Elections of 1910

The publication of *Le Devoir* was started on the eve of the great upheaval in municipal affairs, which brought the victory of February 1910. We were not the last to respond to the call of the good men who wanted to restore the fair name of the city and make honest municipal government a possibility. We made a special effort to assure the election of Mayor Guerin and Controller Wanklyn. Both in the paper and on the platform, we laid particular emphasis on the desirability, on the part of the French majority, of giving substantial evidence of their spirit of fair play. The last article published in *Le Devoir*, previous to the election, was a warm appeal for Mr Wanklyn. The result was, that while, in several of the English wards, many votes were *plumped* for Mr Wanklyn, that gentleman received in the French section the same support as the French candidates supported by the Citizens' Association. In fact, he came at the head of the poll, in the whole city.

How those particular services have been appreciated and requited by the English press and the English leaders of Montreal is a matter of small concern.

Immediately after the election, we strongly urged the re-opening of the Cannon enquiry. We insisted on the necessity of bringing the search light, not only upon the squad of firemen from St. Eloi, or the few cartloads of municipal cinders appropriated by Alderman Martin, but also on the big "deals": the franchises granted to private companies, the expropriations by the millions, and the large issuings of bonds. We claimed that not only the small pilferers, but also the big *operators*, must be brought to task; and that all evil-doers, whether big or small, the stock exchange prince as well as the ward politician, should be arrested and brought before the Criminal Courts.

Nothing was done. The new administration, the Citizens' Association and the Attorney General of the province—as by a kind of tacit understanding — left matters at a stand still. No punishment for the small boodlers; no search for the large *melon-slicers*.