

Beausoleil, M.P. for Berthier, was one of the directors. Having been well provided for by his new friends and law partner, the Premier, Mr. Beausoleil remained with them, and is, it is said, a *coming member of the Quebec Government*, if it only lives long enough. The Castors, as they were called, sought, but unsuccessfully, to re-enter first the Conservative and then the Liberal party. Finally, the outcome of the North-west troubles offered to both them and the Liberals something like a *locus standi*, and, posing as so-called Nationalists, the combination contrived to carry a small majority of seats at the Provincial elections. It was not, however, until they had *managed to solidify themselves by methods in which the party manipulators are experts* that they were in a position to maintain their hold. The *Election courts have amply shown how, in part, this was accomplished*, and election contests still undecided may be expected to demonstrate how even *Ministers of the Crown, by promises and by threats, induced ignorant and unscrupulous electors to vote for their candidates*. The alliance was an unholy one in its inception, because that the principles— if principles they were—upon which they opposed each other were by mutual consent ignored; because the questions upon which they took a common stand were foreign to the controversy; and because the men who to-day are working in unison are only doing so because of their lust for place, power and emolument. Indeed, it may be remarked that in the distribution of offices, Mr. Mercier has to provide for the hangers-on of two cliques, who are needy as can be, and can only be kept within bounds by having their every demand satisfied. No wonder, then, that all ideas of economy and retrenchment have been cast to the winds, and that offices are being vacated and created in order to satisfy hungry office-seekers. *So long as the Nationals are maintained in power, so long will the public revenue be levied on, and the sooner they are displaced may needed economies and reforms be expected.*

THE SESSIONAL CLERK ABUSE.

Unable at the time to find positions for many persons to whom or to whose friends they were under obligations, the National