

Even if the suggestion now offered involved the idea of an Inquisition I think we should all be prepared to adopt such means in operating against that remaining five per cent. as unworthy of consideration or protection. But the "Inquisition" suggestion is an appeal to prejudice only, and in no way would the proposed commission be analogous to that famous institution. The work of Judge Wallace's commission or officials would be merely the preparation of a case to bring before the courts and not to be adjudicated upon by themselves. To know that the facts and true condition of affairs in any suspected contest will be brought before the judiciary would quickly dispel from the Canadian people this deep-seated distrust of our election methods.

The need of some such department or functionary is one immediately suggested by our social conditions. A free democracy we are—almost too free; and so confident in our possession and security that we have grown careless of the treasure we possess. Democracy having risen against the privileged classes in the home land, and by strenuous measures thrown off the yoke and achieved their rights and the suffrage, through easy and undisturbed possession, has permitted a resulting indifference to set in. While the citizen would be again quick to resent any direct interference or circumscription of his rights and would once more and forcibly vindicate his old possession, nevertheless it must be admitted that he seems indifferent to the true value of his franchise. To see his voice in the government of the country neutralized by the corrupt work of the politician evokes his condemnation, but seldom stimulates him to the prosecution of our penal laws; probably largely owing to the unfortunate element of fear which results from our system of party politics, and partly on account of the necessary loss and expense, costs in almost all cases being prohibitive of individual action to restore the value to his ballot cast and lost.

Mr. McLeod classifies the suggestions of Judge Wallace as threefold as follows:

1. That the practice of saw-offs be prohibited.
2. That the bribed voter, the real criminal, be introduced as a paid informer to convict his accomplices. (Who is the real criminal—the author of the evil idea or his subject who is perhaps most frequently a simple fool—Mephistopheles or Faust?)