

of the question—the only permanent solution—will be attained. Such a formation of the popular character can only be attained by special training of the young in duty and public spirit. Hence the vital institution of a Modern Nation will be an organized element of Patriotic Education. In Japan such a system has produced the marvellous self-abnegation of the Japanese people. In the schools, the colleges, the churches, and on all possible occasions we should insist on public spirit, which is another name for unselfishness. Without it, inspiring the nation on a large scale, our progress will be like the climbing of a cliff of dry sand. We shall be met at every point by greed, fraud, intrigue, apathy.

Meanwhile, thank God, there is plenty enough of honorable men in public life to carry through the first steps towards saving the situation to a large extent for the present generation. To them the people should appeal, should strengthen their hands, and call for a halt in the dissipation of our resources, and of the natural advantages of a virgin national career.

But what if after all we can do, we should still see the process continue? What if our voices are raised in vain, and we cannot obtain the laws and institutions requisite to protect the weak of future generations, for whom we hold their heritage and ours in trust? What if, even after obtaining good laws and institutions, we are betrayed, as we have too often been, by base and venial representatives? In that case, it is a constitutional question which rises—of the profoundest importance to us. I have heard some of the most absurd principles propounded in the legislatures as founded on the British Constitution, and I have seen its trivialities of form made much of. But deeper than all written and all traditional constitutions is the unwritten constitution—the fountain of all constitutional principles—no other than Right itself! That is the rock-bottom of our constitution and nothing can deprive us of our recourse to it in rock-bottom matters. If a partner in a business firm found the agent of it in a distant city, selling away the assets for a song to his friends or to buyers who knew better or to promoters for stock in their enterprise, he would serve notice upon all the parties and refuse to allow either himself or the absent partners to be bound by the transaction. Now, parliamentary representatives, notwithstanding a great deal of bombast to the contrary, are simply agents. We have said that "no generation has a right to disinherit another from its share in the property of the nation," and that no government can deprive it of this natural right. I will raise my voice here and now, and I know that it speaks for hundreds of thousands of other Canadians—as a notice for myself and partners to all such acquirers and their assigns—that they be held strictly to account for every part of the national