

The Toronto World

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 St. Lawrence Hall, Montreal.
 Peacock & Jones, Buffalo.
 Waverley News Co., Buffalo.
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 P.O. News Co., 217 Broadway, Chicago.
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THE SPRINGS OF CORRUPTION

Too little has been said on both sides
 of politics about the source from
 which corruption funds are derived.

We can conceive of persons high in
 office being driven from power, and
 even imprisoned, and of the springs of
 corruption still remaining untouched.

We can conceive of a government be-
 ing defeated, and of the springs of
 corruption still flowing. The defeat of
 a government is often wholesome in
 its effects, and there is no doubt that,
 in this case, it would do much to
 break up a bad system.

But there is more. We regard the
 humiliating incidents of the last few
 years in Ontario as coming from two
 causes. There was a weak govern-
 ment, a government which had out-
 lived its strength, and which could
 not maintain itself in power by hon-
 orable means. It is not necessary to
 assume that its members were corrupt,
 in order to show that its weakness
 was a cause of corruption. Pass the
 word along the line that a weak gov-
 ernment must be saved, and it will be
 saved, not by impassioned appeals to
 the high-minded electors, but by the
 foulest devices known to the heels,
 including bribery and tampering with
 ballots. This, at least, is the case
 where there is no great issue between
 the parties and nothing remains but
 a fight for offices, and an unreasoning
 party spirit. But this is not all. There
 are persons and corporations that have
 a tremendous interest in legislation,
 and in administrative acts, an inter-
 est, contrary to that of the people. They
 want profitable contracts; they want
 railway subsidies; they want fran-
 chises of all kinds. They can afford
 to pay, and they are willing to pay,
 high prices for these things. They are
 willing to be assessed for campaign
 funds. The other day, The Toronto
 News, in a remarkable article, printed
 in Italian, said:

More words than this deliberate
 abuse of the contract system in the
 regular assessment of contractors
 and manufacturers doing business
 with the public departments for
 political contributions. It is the set-
 tled policy that contractors shall
 carry assessments, that orders shall
 be tolled for the party treasury;
 that concessions shall yield revenue
 to the politicians. The political
 agents are insatiable; their victims
 rebellious, but subservient. Any
 open revolt would "hurt the party,"
 and perhaps bring peremptory ex-
 clusion from the patronage list.

And contracts are not all. There
 never was a great political scandal in
 Canada which had any other basis
 than the corrupt use of contracts, rail-
 way subsidies, and public franchises.
 The corporations obtain great privileges
 from governments or parliaments; they
 pay for them out of money virtually
 robbed from the taxpayers; and the
 campaign funds thus raised are used
 to debauch the electors and to bribe
 members of parliament. Such was the
 charge in the case of the Pacific canal,
 in the exposures which caused the
 downfall of Mercer, in the exposures
 which drove Langavon out of the
 ministry. Always corruption moves in
 the same vicious circle. The money,
 the land, the franchises of the people
 are given away to make rich men rich-
 er; the grafters are assessed; a little
 of the people's own money comes back
 to-bribe electors and members, and thus
 to sustain the very system by which
 the people are robbed.

That is what we want to discover,
 and, if possible, destroy. It will be of
 no avail to put this or that criminal in
 jail if another comes to take his place.
 We must try to strike corruption at its
 source. If the present government
 should fail for a time, but the corrup-
 tionists still remain, the system of
 corruption should be thoroughly investi-
 gated, and a remedy found, if possible.

THE RETURN FOR OUR CON- CENSIONS

Senator Miller did well to point out
 the absurdity of the claim that the pre-
 ferential tariff has put Great Britain
 in the humor for gratuitously assist-
 ing Canada. A practical example
 which he stated is a complete answer
 to these claims.

If Great Britain had been greatly im-
 pressed with Canada's preferential tar-
 iff, and if she was so willing to re-
 ciprocate, it is not to be supposed that
 Canadian cattle would be excluded

GERMANY HEARS STORY OF VENEZUELAN AFFAIR

Lively Discussion of the Alliance With
 Britain, Resulting in Collecting
 From Southern Republic.

Berlin, March 19.—In the Reichstag
 today, during the discussion of the
 Foreign Office section of the Budget,
 Hans von Hertling, Centre party, re-
 ferred to the Venezuelan affair. He
 said public opinion at first demanded
 action since Germany's honor seemed
 engaged, but after action had been
 taken, apparently with success, public
 opinion changed, and doubt arose as
 to whether it was necessary for Ger-
 many to risk so much. Chancellor von
 Buolow replied. He said:

"The Venezuelan matter was from
 the very beginning neither a question
 of territorial acquisition nor of glory for
 us, but of a settlement through extraor-
 dinary means of a dispute which should
 have been decided by the courts. It was
 complicated by the debtors' un-
 trustworthiness, whereby our course
 was made more difficult. We were able
 to obtain only through common action
 with England and Italy, the necessary
 question of arranging the matter in
 hand, but of giving a warning which
 would serve as a precedent. The mere
 money question here is seen from a
 such case. We dare not submit to
 breaches of law."

Not Always by Force.
 "Otherwise we should not need ships
 or cannon. But of course, the Vene-
 zuelan case was exceptional. We shall
 not always dispose of such matters
 thus, but our action will depend
 upon special circumstances. Proof that
 force was necessary here is seen from
 the fact that the English government
 also resorted to forcible measures,
 whereas it is a well-known principle
 of England's commercial policy that
 every body investing private capital
 abroad does so upon his own risk."

We found ourselves in a dilemma,
 but nobody can reproach us with acting
 without sobriety and with not having
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Will Remain Drubland.
 Turning to the "Drubland," the Chan-
 cellor said: "It will be renewed un-
 changed at the proper time, which
 will be the time when the Drubland
 is again a subject of discussion. Its
 maintenance of the status quo and
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 posed to know better, drew false con-
 clusions from those words. With that
 I took care that the Drubland was
 not a subject of discussion. Its main-
 tenance of the status quo and peace.
 The Drubland. The Drubland
 had to take care that our relations with
 other powers should not be disturbed
 through this relatively subordinate mat-
 ter. There was no lack of attempts to
 create such a disturbance. I here re-
 fer, of course, to the Venezuelan mat-
 ter. The Drub