

All the countries under English rule, home or foreign, have now practically free governments, free meaning popular governments, and consequently the same things that make a spectacle of the United States, such as every man whose heart beats with an honest love for the cause of freedom and human nature's best interests, must look upon with sadness and pity. Although the time is gone by when he need fear that the cause of freedom can be injured by their national crimes and follies (the people's cause was injured and retarded in England and other countries by the crimes and follies of the French Revolution), the same things threaten the peoples living under English rule. Fortunately, public men at home or in the colonies are as yet little tainted, but tendencies have shown themselves, to speak especially of Canada, which, if the people do not curb them by taking active interest in political doings at such times as are now over this Province, will surely place Canada beside the States as a nation of official thieves and bankrupt corporations.

Canadians placed their foot on the neck of such tendencies when they crushed the Canadian Pacific swindle which overthrew the Dominion Conservative party, and I am much mistaken if I shall not clearly show that another neck of similar character requires the Canadian foot to be placed with a crushing sternness exceeding even that given to the Pacific swindle. The Pacific swindle was strangled almost at birth, and before Canadian or English money had been swallowed by it. The neck that now requires crushing has grown older, and has gulped down hundreds of thousands of dollars of the public money, every dollar of which has to be made good by the citizens out of their hard earnings.

Reviewing the late Government's administration from the time of their taking the railways in hand to the present, the following is what I see :

First—The railway companies, baffled in their attempts to raise money in England by Grand Trunk hostility, and the idea that became general there that things in Canadian railway management and the promotion of undertakings were not all as they should be, they and their contractors looked about to find some way of carrying on the works. The only way open was to induce the Government, who already had a large stake in their continuance from the grants of subsidies and lands that had been made, to take over the Railways and finish them as public works. This and the influence brought to bear compelled the Government to make them public works.

A short time previous to this a change of government, although not a change of party, had taken place owing to the notorious Tanneries swindle carried through by members of the Cabinet, and the general idea was that Mr. DeBoucherville and some of his colleagues were simply put "to keep