

were to be the rule and the limit of our debate on the subjects most deeply concerning the public welfare. Whenever one of these ridiculous attempts to gag a nation is made we are sure to be told, with more or less distinctness, that some commercial enterprise requiring British capital is on foot, and that Canadians must hold their peace about their own destinies for fear of frightening away the birds. Let people play their commercial game and call it loyalty if they please; but they will not be allowed, for their selfish ends, to prevent the consideration of any policy which may seem likely to bring wealth, happiness, and the virtue which is their attendant, into the homes of the Canadian people.

A journal which is sometimes pleased to style itself Liberal has received some damaging rebukes from its Conservative brethren, who, feeling their loyalty more above suspicion than that of politicians who once banqueted under the portrait of Lyon Mackenzie, do not care to prove its fervency by flinging ordure at their neighbours. But there is no tyrant like the extinct demagogue. Liberals who voted for a change in 1878 must by this time be satisfied that they made no mistake.

Since the prodigious inflation of the affair each of the two regular parties has been trying to lay this portentous birth at the other's door. It belongs to neither of them, but to a movement which, if we mistake not, will in the end swallow them both. It has its origin in the same growth of opinion as the popular vote of September, 1878, the import of which neither of the two parties yet understand, though one of them owed to it the recovery, the other the loss, of power. By that vote the people clearly showed that they would prefer their material interest, when they saw it, or thought they saw it, to less substantial considerations. The policy of the country has hitherto been directed by sentiment; and the dominant sentiment, in possession of all the places of power and the leading organs of the press, has been able to brand everything but itself, and especially all avowals of Canadian patriotism, as treason. But the economical forces, stimulated by years of com-