

that it is the property of such form of administration to be under the party system; soon also they learned that all administration cannot very well be looked after by one governmental body. From 1848, we can trace elections by program; and as early as 1856, was municipal government introduced in the public administration machinery. The ramification of powers which was thus brought to life, was followed in 1867, by a greater decentralization of powers, while, at the same time, the Federal body became invested with greater or at least more extended responsibilities. The Confederation Act marks the last and most conclusive step towards responsible government. That the territory was so vastly increased we have to be thankful to the Crown that permitted it; but that legislatures were created in each province we have to be most grateful, for this regulation gave the people most effective safeguard of their rights both as a whole country—by the Federal Government,—and as particular townships or counties—by the Provincial Legislature. Even though the Upper Chamber is not yet an elective body, and is not working in the best possible way we have to be pretty well satisfied with our actual governmental machinery.

That this development of responsible government was in accordance with the social development of the people, is too obvious to be disputed. The formation of the people who began to have faith in the popular government; the disinterestedness and activity of the members of the first Assemblies—would that they were all like that, nowadays,—the ever increasing influence of public opinion by the press; all were signs of popular awakening to social life; all gave reason for the existence of popular administration under its present form; all had also a marked influence on the evolution of its application and operation.

And if it were permitted, for such an untrained foreseeing faculty as mine, to anticipate the future by judging from the past, I would be led to say that Canada will ever be grateful to England, not only for the granting of responsible government as we now enjoy it—we owe it to ourselves as much as to her,—but also for the very creation of that political machinery. Our love for our mother country may not be so sentimental and hearty as that of the American Loyalist, who would rather suffer than disclaim against Royal despotism; but our love is still strong enough to make us speak of the "Old Country," and to make us bear an attachment, rational but true, to the power that has saved Canada from the abominations of a French Revolution. When we ponder over the wrongs that we had to suffer since 1760, we should not a