

till at the present time it has become the most generally discredited organization in the Province.

It is to the influence of the centralized corporate interests, that has denominated its policy all through, to which this unfortunate state of affairs is to be attributed. When the Council was first organized a clause was introduced in the Act to enable it to require the re-registration—with the exaction of a fee—of every member then in practise, although they had all previously been in the possession of the right to practise their profession for life free from any such requirement. This encroachment on their vested rights was reluctantly complied with and made the Council an unpopular body at the outset.

When the feeling against it had pretty well subsided, it was again rekindled in 1874 by its securing the power to exact an annual tax. This tax was repudiated by the profession from the first as unjust and unnecessary; but so determined were the Council to use it that, despite a large and increasing surplus in the treasury, it kept on levying the assessment year after year, with its payment very generally ignored. After the members of the Council had increased their emoluments out of all proportion to the services rendered, and the salaries and allowances of all who served them, without destroying the yearly surplus (see proceedings of Council in C. L., of July 1878), they found it necessary to open up a new avenue for its absorption, and so entered into the real estate business, which has since been used as a pretext for the collection of the tax: so with duns, suits in court, and the penal legislation of 1891 the profession has been kept in open rebellion against it. This was evidently intended to lead to the destruction of the Council and the placing of its powers and privileges to the direct use and benefit of the corporate interests that control it. But instead of that it has had the effect of

arousing the profession to a realization of their rights which has already resulted in legislation—in spite of the Council's most determined opposition—placing the power of taxation entirely under the control of the profession's representatives.

The usual harmony of the Council was somewhat marred during the recent session while discussing, in Committee of the Whole, the propriety of renewing the subsidy to their editor. From amid the flood of eloquence with which the discussion was adorned some facts may be abstracted. From it we learn that the prestige connected with being the authorized organ of the Council has a commercial value attached to it; in consideration of which The Bryant Press (*Canadian Practitioner*) made a most generous offer, and the company that published the *DOMINION MEDICAL MONTHLY* were able to offer to do the Council's printing for the nominal sum of one dollar a year. But the Council decided to reject these liberal offers, and re-subsidized their old editor with another \$600 to do the work. Among the many sentimental platitudes by which this useless expenditure was attempted to be justified, there can be discerned the solitary fact, that Dr. Williams had discovered two Defence members in his division who had been converted to his views by their organ. This was an influence working in their favour not to be ignored, and taken in connection with the personal love and affection in which the opponents of the subsidy held the editor it resulted in all opposition being withdrawn, and it was unanimously decided that \$600 was but a small price to pay for such an efficient campaign organ.

The financial statement of this year contains the usual gross amounts with the details omitted. It is chiefly notable for its many refunds. Nearly all the service had over-drawn on the previous year and were making restitution, the subsidized