

sons for railway purposes, and each State in turn would make her demand and soon the public lands would be alienated in 20,000,000 acre blocks, and the Secretary of the navy would be kept building battle ships enough to enforce the Munro doctrine and extend its operations over the entire globe. In every town you would have a school to train military snobs to live in illdness and insanit the people by their very presence. You would be deluged with a saturnalia of corruption that would make the late Boss Tweed turn green in his grave with envy or very shame for the deminutiveness of his punny frands; and what will you think when I tell you that Canada has been governed on that principle ever since she has been governed at all, and the same system prevails in every Province. Do you wonder that contractors, monopolists, office holders, the landed aristocracy and other vampires are loyal, of course they are loyal. Why wouldn't they be loyal?

The effect of this responsible government so called has been to make our capital city of Ottawa a great political ulcer, that through its endless ramifications has poisoned the blood of the whole body politic, until the entire Confederation is sick, and incapable of healthy public opinion; constituency after constituency has been openly and shamelessly debauched with public money, until anything approaching public spirit or national honor only asserts itself under excessive stimulants and high pressure, and we are under extremely high pressure just now. Poverty is a great educator, and the people are quite alive to anything that promises a solution of their increasing difficulties and C.P.R. thralldom.

Of the absent and the dead I would speak no evil; but in speaking of loyalty I must refer to the man who led the conservative party in Canada ever since Confederation, the later Sir John A. Macdonald, who died a year ago last June, and just to show the hollowness of this loyalty cloak which is put on and off to suit party and individual exigencies I will tell you what this great man said at a general election. This man, who confessedly for material consideration was willing to endanger British connection when an anti-British trade policy was popular, said in my presence before a vast audience, "I was born a British subject, I will die a British subject," and immediately the election campaign poet immortalized the sentiment by this doggerel:

The patriot raised his aged arm,  
And Heavenward gazed with reverent eye,  
"A British subject I was born,  
A British subject I will die."

It was easy to prophesy in his then state of health, for he died within four months from that time at a very advanced age, and his end was said to have been hastened by the publicity given to the proven charges of wholesale corruption that existed among his colleagues and subordinates, and that threatened the destruction and annihilation of the powerful Conservative party; and of which he ought not to have been ignorant; but whether he was or not it is not profitable to enquire, now that the man is dead. except for the purpose of demonstrating the rottenness and hollowness of this absurd loyalty cry which is used for purposes of personal preferment and aggrandizement. It is

#### LOYALTY FOR REVENUE ONLY.

and like every fraud it had its day, a long day, but the people are now asking who is going to pay the butcher, the baker and the grocer, and who will meet and satisfy the public creditor.

Under responsible government a mere handful an infinitesimal minority, sometimes a single family, controls the State and its vast resources and revenues.

One would think that an appeal to the Court of Last Resort of the sovereign people would practically settle a question, but you have a case in point where the popular verdict is only one small step towards the solution of a great national issue.

In the recent English elections Mr. Gladstone was returned by an immense popular vote, but has he a free hand to carry out and execute his promised reforms? No, so far from that being the case, his administration has no guarantee of seven days existence, although the people have said in express terms that they want him to govern for seven years.

I could not give you a better illustration of the effects of responsible government than by referring you to the Irish Home Rule question that now occupies so much of the attention of the world. This case, thank just Heaven, is an illustration of the landed aristocracy falling into their own trap. Here are 71 Irish members forcing a measure of Home Rule through a hostile House of about 650 members.

This is the only case within my ken where the good end justifies the bad means, and the means are very bad and vicious for it is government by minority.

But to everything earthly, there is an end. Canada has been governed on that basis until the grandest country on the face of the globe, with such native wealth that the fabulous resources of the Indies are thrown in the shade, has become crippled and restricted and lags in the race for national supremacy. We had exceptionally good credit, but the public creditor is now knocking at the treasury door of the once proud and wealthy Province of Quebec, and our fair Dominion will soon have the same experience unless we at once do away with responsible government and adopt a policy of fixity of tenure, economy and retrenchment.

But while we are thus reduced to this deplorable condition I would not have you think that political union with this great country is our only way out. I am free to admit that it is the most natural and ultimately the best way out. I think it was Lord Macaulay who said that "such was the creative power of man that the individuals of Europe and particularly the British portion of Europe, could create and accumulate wealth faster than the armies of Europe could destroy it." And I would impress upon you the fact that the recuperative power of Canada is immense, inexhaustible and immeasurable. We have all the known minerals in abundance and a practical monopoly of some of the rarest and most valuable kinds. Our natural reservoirs of wealth are such that all we have to do is to abolish responsible government and all manner of customs, duties and taxes on industry and the products of labor, and resort to a single tax on land and the natural resources of wealth.

The proclamation of democracy, the abolition of responsible government, and the removal of all shackles from capital, labor and industry, would attract the eyes of the world to Canada as the right and literal home of the free in name and substance. Our powers of production would then be such that we could undersell your manufacturers in your home markets, notwithstanding your sixty per cent. tariff, or rather because of it. And further, we could force you to adopt our policy, for hundreds of millions of dollars worth of our goods would reach your markets free of duty via the secret under-ground railway used only by smug-