

Current Topics and Events.



"Say not that the former days are better than these."

OUR COUNTRY'S SHAME.

It is with a feeling of shame that one reads of the strange spectacle in the Ontario Legislature of a member-elect charging a Minister of the Crown with the base and sordid crime of purchasing with filthy lucre—filthy enough—his desertion of his party. A deadly stigma is cast upon the fair fame of our country, as the news is telegraphed to every part of the civilized world. We may charitably hope that some explanation may relieve the accused of the shame and disgrace of sapping the very foundations of the commonweal; but if guilty, he should be driven from public life; if, indeed, a still heavier penalty should not be inflicted.

Are the basal principles of public morality being forgotten? Is one tithe of the current accusation of fraud and corruption true? The revelation of the lying and personation and ballot-box stuffing in the referendum vote shows a moral callousness that augurs ill for our country's future. These deeds of darkness should be brought to light. A commission of upright and incorruptible judges should probe to the utmost these

charges of wrong, whether in high places or low. At any cost, the purity of the elections, the safeguard of the commonweal, must be maintained.

BETTER DAYS FOR WORKING MEN.

There are chronic pessimists who continually tell us that the former days were better than these, that the world is getting worse instead of better, that everything is on the down grade. If these prophets of evil would only look around them they would see on every side contradictions of their hopeless philosophy. Only forty years ago a tremendous civil war over the existence of slavery almost rent asunder the United States. Now the nation is united as never before, slavery is abolished, and Bishop Hartzell declares that no nine millions of Africans in the world exhibit such a high standard of moral, physical, and social advantages as those in the great republic. Shortly before the abolition of American slavery the Czar of Russia emancipated by the stroke of his pen over twenty millions of serfs who were bought and sold with the land which they tilled. The wages