

politics which become increasingly pressing and important as science and invention, annihilating space and time, contract the world: the national spirit would be fostered; national prosperity would be largely increased; Canada would no longer be called upon to deplore, after each decennial census, a meagre percentage of increase in wealth and population.

One can easily foresee objections. There are those who habitually see lions in every path except the one to which they are accustomed. There are those to whom our thirty-five-year-old Constitution has already become a fetish. Then there are, of course, real difficulties. But the Constitution itself is an attempt to overcome just such difficulties.

Declared to be "similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom," the Constitution was in fact an attempt to graft upon its supposed model certain

features of the Constitution of the United States. Excellent in theory, it has, none the less, failed under the test of practical working. Surely a frank acknowledgment of that failure and an honest effort to amend the Constitution—a work to which can be brought the experience of thirty-five years—is better and manlier than to stumble along from one readjustment to another. In these days, when every other science is pressing on to perfection, why should the science of government lag behind? The prison cell or the gallows would await the surgeon who dared to treat the physical body as it was treated fifty—even thirty—years ago. Shall the body politic continue to suffer under antiquated and unscientific treatment? Shall statesmen alone remain untouched by the progressive spirit of the age? Shall it be held wiser to risk a revolution than to dare the making of a precedent?

PERILS OF ELOQUENCE

WITH THE DIFFERENT FORMS THROUGH WHICH A SPOKEN PARAGRAPH RUNS BEFORE IT APPEARS IN PRINT

By Robert C. Dunbar

BY the majority of readers a newspaper report of a speech is taken as a direct message to them from the lips of the speaker. Nothing is thought of the men who have toiled the night through to lay that message by the breakfast plate. The message lies there, neatly headed, indexed and pigeon-holed into its proper column, but since leaving the speaker's lips it has encountered grave perils and assumed many disguises; it has been twice reduced to a skeleton, written in shorthand, in longhand, in telegraphic dots and dashes, typewritten, cast in single lines of type, carried about in pieces on little brass trays, moulded in paper, cast in solid metal, printed, folded, cut, pasted and hurled at the

front door, all between midnight and daylight. Should the speaker, in his beauty sleep, dream of all the drawing and quartering and boiling and melting to which his winged words are being subjected he would despair of ever seeing them in print.

To follow a few sentences from platform to breakfast table will give some idea of the perfection of the newspaper system and the innumerable chances of error to guard against which is the primary duty of every newspaper man. In Canada there are so few large centres of population that the great dailies are practically dependent on their own staffs for full reports of such events as political meetings in whatever part of the Province they may be held. A re-