

e. The attempted bribery of Conservative members, such as Mr. Gamey, member for Manitoulin; Dr. Reaume, member for North Essex, and Mr. Sutherland, member for South Oxford, either by payments of money, offers of patronage, or threats of litigation over election matters.

f. The voting of an immense sum of money, \$2,000,000, in the shape of a guarantee for the Sault Ste. Marie industries, by a slender majority made up of men who were personally interested in the payment of the money.

g. The violation of law and common decency in the Sault election by chartering the steamer "Minnie M.," and conveying a party of ruffians to a remote polling place, whose illegal votes swamped the votes of honest electors and secured the return of the Government candidate.

h. The employment of bogus ballot boxes so as to secure the defeat of Conservative candidates with a majority of the honest votes.

These are a few of the more flagrant outrages committed to sustain the Ross Ministry in office. Nothing in the history of Tammany Hall or any corrupt organization in the United States equals this record. No party could possibly win against such methods, which if persisted in and condoned could only end in popular violence and clamor.

Violation of the Constitution

2. That political leaders styling themselves Liberals should violate the constitution, so as to deprive the Province of the safeguards of British freedom, is an extraordinary thing, seeing that the Liberal party has always claimed to be the special guardian of liberty, enlightenment and progress. Yet it is a fact that various ingenious methods have been employed to defy the plain meaning and intent of the constitution, which is designed to guarantee equality of treatment to all the parties in the State; fair elections; a stated term for the Legislature to last; and that vacancies in the House by the death or resignation of members shall be filled within a reasonable period. The Government have violated every one of these safeguards. Responsible government has been reduced to the level of farce by the actions of a Ministry supported by a narrow majority of members, or at times none at all; and since 1902 not even enjoying the popular majority of the vote cast in the Province.

The Legislature Prolonged

During the session of 1901 the Ross Government introduced and passed an Act providing that the 1902 session of the Legislature, which according to the constitution expired on March 29, 1902, should not so expire, but that the House if in session should continue in existence until it was adjourned and for ten days thereafter. This bold attempt to set aside the constitution and extend the natural term of the Legislature called forth strong expressions of condemnation from all quarters. If the term of the Legislature for one session could thus be prolonged, in defiance of the plain letter and spirit of the constitution, why could it not be prolonged indefinitely, say for another four years, thus depriving the electors of their constitutional right to vote in a general election upon the policy and conduct of Ministers? This measure is a fitting illustration of the kind of politicians that now rule Ontario. In order to avert a political danger visible only to their guilty consciences, they would stop at nothing. They failed to see anything improper in the measure, and all the so-called Liberal members in the House voted for it. What did they care that the constitution distinctly provided for a Legislature lasting from a certain date in 1898 to a certain date in 1902? They were afraid that their own bad legislation might cause the Opposition to obstruct proceedings to that the House would not be able to get through its business in 1902 by the date set for dissolution, and, therefore, they altered the law to meet a possible political embarrassment. But the Opposition are not obstructionists. The House was allowed to conclude its labors previous