

OTTAWA LETTER

Tory Corruption Instructions to Steal People's Franchise

Diabolical Plot to win Seats by Fraud--Agents given Specific Ritual whereby the Liberals would be Robbed of their Votes.

Devilish Ingenuity of the "Party of Purity" to Defeat the Expressed will of the People--Barefaced Fraud Practiced on Electors of Manitoba.

PLAIN QUESTIONS FOR PLAIN PEOPLE.

What reliance can the people of Canada place in the Conservative "party of purity" when they remember it was this same party that sent instructions to its agents how to practice "slipping," "switching," "stuffing" and "spilling" ballots so that the Liberal electors would be robbed of their franchise, and the Conservative be returned for a seat he did not win?

(Special correspondence to The Fredericton Daily Herald.)

OTTAWA, Ontario, November 23.—The history of the Tory party in Canada has been one long record of disreputable political practice, open and unblushing bribery both of constituencies and individual stealing of constituencies by expert gangs of personators and pluggers, ballot box stuffers, ballot stealers, ballot switchers, thumb nail artists and other equally criminal side line operators. The years of Tory rule in Canada have been marked by some of the most glaring instances of corruption, and stealing of the public moneys and public domain which have ever disgraced a civilized country. Conservative government was distinguished by an utter absence of constructive ability and a lack of intelligent grasp of conditions most deplorable, and had it not been for the progressive spirit of the Canadian people and the very prompt action in turning the rascals out, Canada would today have been nationally bankrupt, her prestige ruined, her resources dormant in the hills and valleys, her credit destroyed, and her public men of the Conservative stripe, the derision of the civilized world.

ENGLISH PRESS ON TORIES.

The London Times, the London Graphic the London Telegraph, the Birmingham Gazette, the London Echo, the St. James Gazette, the Graphic Despatch, and many others commented on the deplorable condition of affairs in Canada as conducted by Conservatives, and expressed the opinion "that only the most resolute and drastic purification can redeem public life in Canada from the taint of corruption, the like of which we had not seen in our own country for hundreds of years," said one paper. "Rascals out of office defraud the public in order to bribe rascals in office, and rascals in office prostitute themselves, sacrifice their honor and forsake their trust in order to keep on good terms with the rascals out of office."

Yet another London paper said "The existence of an organized system of corruption among public officials in Canada has been conclusively proved, and like everything else on the American continent the bribery has been colossal." The London Graphic Despatch spoke out openly and said: "Even Tammany Hall smells sweet and clean in comparison with the huge stink pot of the Conservative government."

RASCALS TURNED OUT.

Matters were brought to a climax in 1896 when the accumulating scandals led to the rout of the Conservative party, and the men who had brought disgrace upon themselves and made of Canada a by-word, were ignominiously turned out of office by an insulted people.

In view of the claims to political purity on the part of the Conservative party and press, and the vague but baseless charges laid at the door of their political opponents, it may be well to recollect Canadian history.

After Sir John Macdonald had been found guilty of that greatest of all political scandals, which involved the sale of the Canadian Pacific charter along with fifty millions of acres of land and thirty millions of dollars in cash to Sir Hugh Allan, in exchange for \$300,000 of a certain bond the people of Canada buried him and his party beneath an avalanche of votes. Even this foul blot on the history of Canada was partially overlooked by the people, who again trusted their affairs to a Conservative Government but after years of bitter experience, in which the corruption, thievery and fraud were practiced with undiminished vigor the Conservative party in 1896 was promptly and effectually buried.

CONCRETE CASES OF FRAUD

To come to concrete cases of Tory corruption. In the Chicoutimi by-election of 1892, Savard (Lib.) and Belley (Con.) ran. Just prior to the election, the returning officer telegraphed to hold a poll at Point aux Esquimaux. His telegraphed instructions were: "Proceed tomorrow as

follows: Get a small wooden box made, prepare a certain number of ballot papers and write the names of the candidates upon them."

Again on the day of election he wired: "If you have no list, allow those who are supposed to be electors to vote and it will be all right." The deputy took the hint and returned 63 votes for Belley (Con.) and none for Savard (Lib.). Belley had 39 majority in the riding without these votes; Savard was elected by 24 majority. The returning officer declared Belley elected, and a recount was asked for. It was held before a judge who was a brother-in-law to the Tory candidate. The 63 illegal votes were counted, and Belley took his seat and held it until 1896, backed by the Tory majority in the house.

MANITOBA ELECTION FRAUDS. Much is said just now about the frauds practised on Conservative voters in Manitoba. What did the Conservatives do in 1896 in Manitoba? A plot was hatched in Winnipeg to steal the elections, and it was carried out in this manner, according to the following instructions issued by the Conservative organizer in Toronto. These instructions read:

TORY CORRUPTION INSTRUCTIONS.

"We have the printing of the ballots, therefore a sufficient number should be printed extra to enable the deputy returning officer to have them marked for our candidate and ready to use after the count to replace those read out wrongly to the scrutineers. Or the deputy returning officer can have them marked and folded in his pocket, to slip into the box in place of an opposition ballot if the opportunity happens. This, of course, will occur quite frequently if we have the control of both scrutineers."

"To get control of both scrutineers, have one of our men, not a prominent one, but a supposed kicker, for instance, apply to the opposition to be put in as scrutineer inside. They are generally short of workers and a few plausible men will turn an election in a close constituency."

"Efforts should be made to give these methods work inwards and make the heaviest Opposition vote."

"Having control of both scrutineers a large vote can be polled—dead and absent voters, etc., can have their ballots marked; there is no redress if both scrutineers were present."

"The deputy returning officer should be a reliable, sharp plausible man, so that if we do not get control of the Opposition scrutineers, he can, when the counting time arrives, ask both scrutineers to take a piece of paper, and record the vote of their candidate as he reads the ballots which have been emptied on the table. He will then have a chance to read out wrongly so that a majority can be secured for our candidate. The ballots should be put back into the box as quickly as they are read. The extra ones will do to fix things correctly when he goes home."

"Spoiled ballots can be made sure by a little doctoring. Opposition ballots can be spoiled by the lead out of a pencil fastened under the little finger with beeswax drawn across opposite our candidate's name in opening the ballot."

Such was the devilish ingenuity practised by the "party of purity" to steal the election in Manitoba in 1896. It was the gambler's device of stacking the cards in defiance of all principle and honor. The men guilty of this crime are crying so loudly against what they describe as the

"Dick" Corsets

Modelled upon scientific principles a series of curves of grace and elegance is comprised in every pair of D. & A. Corsets. You can buy a "D. & A." at various intermediate prices ranging from \$1.00 to \$5.00. Are Fashionable Models.

"thin red line" in Manitoba, about which more by and by.

FOUR FRAUDULENT METHODS.

It will be observed that the instructions given above point out four distinct methods of corruption and barefaced stealing of the franchise advocated by the pure-minded Conservatives.

(1) Slipping—(calling out a ballot for the Tory candidate when it is in reality marked for the Liberal.)

(2) Switching—(stealing ballots marked for the Liberal candidate and putting into the box ballots marked for the Tory candidate.)

(3) Stuffing—(polling votes of dead and absent men with the connivance of both scrutineers.)

(4) Spoiling—(by defacing the ballots marked for the Liberal candidate opposite the name of the Tory candidate with a piece of lead fastened under the finger nail.)

These were the general instructions, and although some of the criminals were detected and punished, so widespread was the fraud that hundreds of electors were deprived of their franchise, and many criminals escaped punishment.

In the city of Winnipeg alone where 5,000 to 6,000 ballots would have been sufficient in an honest election, there were 10,000 printed, and yet all had been used up at two o'clock, and the polls had to be closed while more were printed. Altogether the Manitoba elections furnished an instance of the holdest and most colossal election fraud in history under the auspices of the "party of purity."

THE THIN RED LINE.

One cannot possibly follow up all the flimsy charges of the Conservatives, but in particular cases it is just as well to make known the real facts. Mr. Borden made many allusions during his recent tour through Manitoba to what is known as "the thin red line." He made it appear that agents of the Liberal party deliberately put a thin red line through the names of several thousand Conservative voters which appeared in the voters' lists, and he did not hesitate to characterize the proceeding as a huge fraud on the electors.

The matter has been thoroughly explained and a few casual words will make the reader understand clearly what was done.

It must be remembered that in Manitoba there were no special voters' lists for Dominion constituencies and the lists used were the ones applicable to the local constituencies. In many instances the Dominion constituency contained portions of several local constituencies so that the voters lists contained names of men who resided outside the Dominion boundary. The local lists were used and they were made for the constituencies whose boundaries do not correspond with those of the Dominion seats. This difficulty imposed upon the election officials, a very disagreeable duty, a duty they did not desire but could not shirk—of cutting and fitting the local lists to the larger area. In other words hundreds of names, Liberal and Conservative were on the lists for certain constituencies, but had no right there, from the fact that the Dominion boundaries were different from the local boundaries for which the lists were originally intended.

It meant that all those names improperly on the lists had a line drawn through them, something that had to be done, that it was right should be done, but nevertheless was a very unfortunate and disagreeable duty for the responsible officials and very annoying to the elector whose name had to be removed, and this is all that is meant by the "thin red line" and it is the very unsatisfactory foundation upon which rests the charge that ten thousand Conservatives were deprived of their franchise.

It must also be stated that in removing names from the lists improperly there, no consideration of party influenced the officials. If a name had no right on the list it was taken off, whether a Liberal or a Conservative, another charge that the officials were actuated by partisan motives falls to the ground.

MORE TORY LIES NAILED.

The Conservatives often claim that while in office they expended more in public works than the Liberals in the same length of time. Let us examine the figures. For the eleven years previous to 1896, when they went out of office, the Conservatives spent \$80,000,000 on capital account, and to their everlasting credit be it known, that they borrowed \$62,000,000 of this, that is, they went in debt for public improvements. During the past eleven years the Liberals have spent \$127,000,000 on capital account, and instead of going into debt have accumulated a surplus exceeding \$90,000,000. At the end of the Conservative administration they were \$62,000,000 deeper in debt than when they started, and after eleven years of Liberal rule there is no appreciable addition to the public debt, but a very substantial surplus, greater in amount than the Conservatives expended on public works in eleven years by \$10,000,000.

DOMAIN SQUANDERED.

During eighteen years the Conservatives were in power they alienated no less than 29,000 square miles of timber lands, and of this immense area 23,000 square miles was granted without any competition, and without any payment of the kind whatsoever. In contrast with this not a single mile of timber has been granted by the Liberal government except in open competition where the bidding was open to all the world.

The government in redeeming the pledge to complete the Trent canal, and recently let a contract for the first section, being all that portion extending from the Bay of Quinte until the second section is met with. The contract involves the sum of \$870,000, and when finished will mean the beginning of the end of that great waterway. Work on other sections of this great canal is under way. The next contract to be let will be that of the Rideau section, between Cam-

eron and Lalsam Lakes and west of Fenelon Falls.

GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC.

This great government work goes on apace. An unbroken stretch of 430 miles of grading on the Grand Trunk Pacific from Portage la Prairie to Saskatoon is now completed. Three-quarters of this distance is traversed by the steel, and the track laying gangs are rushing the work on the last hundred miles, and by the new year this whole division will practically be ready for traffic. Three hundred and fifty miles yet remain before Edmonton is reached, and sixty per cent of this is graded, and half of the remainder is the easiest work along the route, and it will be completed early in the new year.

KEEP THE RASCALS OUT.

Against their black record of political crimes and reckless disregard of public interest, the Conservative party makes no plea, excepting to be taken again into public favor. Many attempts have been made to discredit the Liberal administration, but no charge coming from the Conservative party is entitled to any consideration. It is the custom of the guilty to accuse the innocent, thereby seeking to hide their own delinquencies.

WHAT ELECTORS WON'T DO.

The people of Canada are not prepared to place in power a party which would make advisers of His Excellency men who lined their pockets by speculating with the funds of widows and orphans.

The electors will not vote for a party, one of the prominent leaders of which distinguished himself in the infamous "nest of traitors."

The business men of Canada will not support a party that brings into power as Finance Minister one who ran the country in debt \$62,000,000 during his brief term of office.

Honest men will be opposed to a party which has as leaders the originator of Haggart's ditch, and the men who upon all occasions raise the cry of race and religious prejudices.

Canadian people cannot accept the Conservatives merely because they have formulated charges they were unable to prove, but the Canadian people will reject a party that, whenever the opportunity offered, abused the trust committed to it.

HAPPY RETURNS TO SIR WILFRID.

All Canada, on Wednesday, November 20th, extended congratulations to Sir Wilfrid Laurier on attaining his sixty-sixth birthday. This great French-Canadian statesman entered public life in 1871 as member for Drummond and Arthabaska. In 1887 he was chosen as the leader of the Liberal party, and in 1896 he led his party to victory. For the dignity of Canada, for the well-being of her teeming millions, for the furtherance of honest and economical government, all will unite in the hope that this brilliant statesman will long be spared to lead his party to greater conquests, and guide Canadian public affairs with the industry and wisdom which has distinguished his administration for the past eleven years.

Nature Revolts against high living, and it has set its seal to it by adding to man's ailments the scourge of diabetes. Eminent medical men until recently proclaimed it a "no cure" disease, but South American Kidney Cure has knocked down their pet fallacy and has proved itself master of kidney diseases in all forms. Relief in six hours.—110 Sold at Central Pharmacy, A. J. Ryan.

W. J. IRVINE, D.D.S.

And Special Practitioner's Certificate from Chicago College of Dental Surgery

Artificial Teeth Inserted in Gold, Aluminum and ordinary Rubber Plates

Crown & Bridge Work

Executed in Gold and Porcelain after latest and best methods

Anesthetics

Local and General applied and administered for Painless Dentistry

OFFICE: CHESTNUT'S BUILDING 1133 1/2 St., opp. City Hall, Tel. 78

G. T. WHELPLEY

A Large Stock of

Corn Meal, Cracked Corn Bran, Middlings, White Middlings, Oats and Barley Five Roses, Royal Household and King of Patents

FLOUR

500 bags Peerless Scotch Granulated Sugar.

G. T. WHELPLEY

QUEEN ST. FREDERICTON

GRAND CLOTHING BARGAIN SALE

Now going on at

S. KERNER'S

450, QUEEN ST.

THE STORE OF SATISFACTION

HOW ARE YOUR CLOTHES.

Are they suitable for the coming season? Come in and let me measure you for a New Fall Suit. I have a nice selection of New Goods to show you. You will find the Fit and Style the Latest.

W. E. SEERY - Merchant Tailor 550 QUEEN STREET.

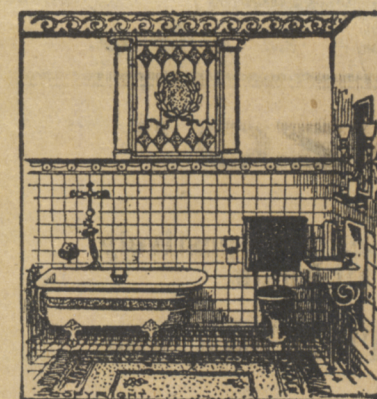
Gun Repairing

We Repair all kinds of Fire Arms

WM. C. BURTT,

KEYS. SECOND HAND WHEELS.

FREDERICTON, N. B.



A SOURCE OF COMFORT

A neat, well equipped lavatory is, without a question, a source of comfort to a household. It's one to us to install such a convenience in your home—an aid to the toilet, you'd never abandon after once experiencing its manifold advantages. Where there's running water you need our services.

D. J. Shea, FREDERICTON.

FRESH

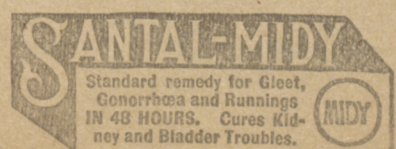
OYSTERS

Arriving Daily

Shelled to Order and Delivered to all parts of the city.

W. A. LINDSAY

KING STREET.



SUIT PANTS or OVERCOAT

Made to order at a moderate price, call on

WALKER BROS.

The West End Tailors

Always on hand, a choice selection

of Cloths to select from

WALKER BROS. Merchant Tailors

Fresh Cut Flowers

Roses, Big Spicey Carnations, Violets, Lily of the Valley, Smilax, Yellow Daffodils, Lettuce, Celery, Parsley, Floral Designs, Bouquets

J. BEBBINGTON & SO

The Leading Florists

Phone 254. FREDERICTON, N.B.