

day he pleaded not guilty and the preliminary hearing was set for next Saturday. 'Counsel for Sifton,' says the 'Free Press,' then made the remarkable discovery that the information on which the warrant of arrest was issued was dated October 7, while the alleged offence was not committed until October 10.'

This goes to show that the machinery of the law was set in motion in advance. The despatch concludes:

Later on in the afternoon Provincial Magistrate McMicken stated the case had been withdrawn.

Here is a man, Walkinshaw, arrested, taken to Winnipeg, from Winnipeg taken to Portage la Prairie, kept there in jail, and when the time for his trial came the case was withdrawn because there was no evidence against him.

The same thing applied to the other man, Sullivan. Now, Sir, this is not all. On the following day two personators were arrested by the scrutineers of Mr. Richardson. A day was set for the trial; the plaintiffs, their counsel and their witnesses came to court, and they were told that the men had been discharged from custody, that they had pleaded guilty and had been sentenced to a penalty of \$50. The law says that, under such circumstances, there shall be a penalty in money, a fine, or imprisonment. The magistrate undertook to dispose of the case an hour before the time set for the trial. The machinery of the law had been set in motion by somebody, but these men were not allowed to be tried in public. Their case was disposed of in camera. So that at the present time we have no opportunity of knowing what was the extent of their guilt, or whether they should have been punished by a fine or by imprisonment, or who were the parties behind them. That is the way in which the Macdonald election was carried on and won. But, Sir, that is not all. The activity of my hon. friend was not confined to the province of Manitoba. My hon. friend is ambitious in this respect. He had gone to Saskatchewan in the summer; he came to Quebec later on. He came to Richelieu, not himself, personally, but by proxy; he sent a proxy to Richelieu, and the proxy came with his hands full of promises of public works if the electors would vote for the Conservative candidate, Mr. Morgan. I again charge the Minister of Public Works, and I arraign him before Parliament, with having tried to bribe the electors of Richelieu. I call as witness a member of this House, the hon. member for Charlevoix (Sir Rodolphe Forget) and I say, on the word of the hon. member for Charlevoix, that he was sent by the Minister of Public Works to Richelieu to try

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and bribe the electors. I shall not use my own words; I have the words of Sir Rodolphe Forget published in 'La Patrie,' which is the paper friendly to the Government and especially friendly to the hon. member for Charlevoix. The hon. member for Charlevoix came to the town of Sorel, the shire town of the county of Richelieu and held a meeting, and this is his language as reported in his own paper, 'La Patrie':

He said that he was coming in the name of the government, at the request of the Hon. Mr. Rogers, to beg the electors of Richelieu to send to Parliament a member in sympathy with the present administration.

If my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works had sent the hon. member for Charlevoix simply to ask the electors of Richelieu to send to Parliament a member in sympathy with the administration, I would have nothing to say. He would have been within his rights. I would not have objected had he tried to influence the electors by any honourable means. But the hon. member for Charlevoix did not come empty handed. On the contrary, the hon. gentleman went on and spoke as follows:

I would not come here, said he, until I had the promise of the Government that you would have the marine railway, of which I spoke to you at the banquet offered to Mr. Hazen. It has been promised to you, and I now come to ask you to elect my friend Mr. Morgan, so that Sorel and the county of Richelieu may progress with the assistance of the Government.

I caused promises to be made to me, not electoral promises, but real promises, and I have the pleasure of telling you that if Mr. Morgan is elected your member on Thursday, you will have the marine railway of which you stand in such need, to procure to your city the progress to which it is entitled. I can assure you that you will have this just improvement which has been promised you for the last twenty years, and which you never obtained. You will have it not later than the next session, which opens in one month. The Government on the demand of your member, Mr. Morgan, will have the necessary subsidies voted, one hundred thousand, two hundred thousand dollars, if need be, and you shall have it.

What is your interest, I ask you? I do not want to say anything, gentlemen, of the Liberal party, against Mr. Cardin. Were this a general election, I might probably tell you to vote with your party, but in this election, the interest of the party is not the issue; the interest of Sorel is the sole issue. Well then; it is a Conservative government which is in office. Do you not believe that you must send a member in sympathy with it, so as to obtain all the favours which you may wish for?

That is the way in which it was attempted to bribe the electors of Richelieu.