

ordered or even asked by the government, or by any member of it, or by any one in any way connected with it, or for that matter, by any one else to take part in the Guysborough election campaign held on the 16th March last, nor did I take any part in that campaign further than to deposit my ballot at Glenelg, an act which I am sure you will not characterize as offensive, or say that I have no right to do. I made no attempt to influence any elector in the exercise of his franchise, the threats of affidavits to the contrary notwithstanding.

I am pleased to say that I met many old friends of both parties with whom I had very pleasant chats during the three or four hours I remained at the Forks, my old home, on the 16th March.

(Sgd.) J. A. KIRK.

Dorchester, N.B., May 27, 1904.

I think that ought to clear up the record with regard to Mr. Kirk. He went to St. Mary's, his old home; he went there for the purpose of voting for the Liberal candidate—I have no doubt that that is what he went for—he deposited his ballot and no more. He did not canvass any of the electors, or attempt to influence the vote of any elector, or take any part in the election. Why should his name be bandied about in the newspapers or hints be thrown out on the floor of this House that he had done something that he should not have done? I feel that hon. members should exonerate Mr. Kirk, and I believe that such statements will not be repeated, because, I have not the slightest doubt that every word that Mr. Kirk has written in regard to this incident is true.

I was a little surprised that the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) should make reference to corrupt practices on the part of the Liberal party in the Guysborough election. I do not know that it is a good thing to wash our dirty linen here, but, if the hon. gentleman wants to discuss the question of corruption in connection with the Guysborough election, I am quite ready. If he wishes to compare the conduct of the Liberal party with that of the Conservative party in that election, I am prepared to discuss that question. I am ready to show the hon. gentleman certain facts that he would not care to bear the responsibility of or to have proven against his party. I have some proof under my hand that will be very interesting to the House, but may not be so interesting to hon. gentlemen on the other side. It involves the names of a number of gentlemen and I am quite willing, if it is thought necessary by the hon. gentlemen on the other side to go on—

Mr. BELL. Go on.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sinclair) can take his own course so far as I am concerned. I stated, as I am prepared to state again, that one of these

men had made very important declarations as to the part he had taken in the election, statements that indicated that he had not very much regard for the election law. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman whether it is or is not the fact that Mr. George N. Grant, inspector of cold storage plants, with a salary and allowances of \$2,167, is president of the Liberal Association of Guysborough?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I think that is true.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Did he take no part in the election?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I do not know whether he took any active part.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sinclair) know that Mr. Grant did not take an active part?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I am not aware that he took an active part. The president of the Liberal association is very often a figure head. I have been asked by hon. gentlemen on the other side to discuss this question of corrupt practices in the Guysborough election. That is my excuse for trespassing any longer on the time of the House. A great many charges have been made in the public press regarding corrupt practices by the Liberals, but I notice that there is an utter absence of detail. Our opponents have had an opportunity to protest that election, but they let that opportunity go by. It was an election that certainly aroused a great deal of interest in the eastern part of Nova Scotia, as well as in other parts of Canada, and, if there was anything done by the Liberal party on that occasion that they ought not to have done there is not the slightest doubt they would have taken the occasion to protest that election. On that occasion I had the assistance for a few days of Mr. E. M. MacDonald, M.P.P., of Pictou. I do not need to tell hon. members of this House who Mr. MacDonald is. He is one of the rising young men of Nova Scotia, and I am looking forward to the time after the next general election when he will take his seat in this House as a supporter of the government and representative of the once Conservative but now Liberal county of Pictou. I asked Mr. MacDonald, who was present at one of the polling booths at that election to give me a statement of the facts that came under his personal knowledge. I was aware that certain things were done in the polling booth at which I was, as I have already told the committee, and was aware that similar things were being done in other polling booths in the county. Mr. MacDonald wrote:

With reference to matters in Guysborough, I beg to state to you some things that occurred during my stay in the county. I may say I arrived there the evening before nomination day and spoke in Guysborough nomination night, in Port Mulgrave on Thursday night, and returned to Guysborough with Pre-