

didate and then they came back to Prince Albert, their caps in the air, heralding a great victory, moral and otherwise, and especially otherwise. When this matter was brought to their attention, did the government put the Minister of Justice on the trail of the guilty parties? Not at all. What did occur was this: Through the efforts of private individuals these gentlemen were brought up and the Crown attorney, the representative of the Justice Department, appeared once more to defend the guilty who threw themselves on the mercy of the court, pleaded guilty and got off with a nominal fine. With that record staring him in the face a recount of the ballots was held. The judge holding that recount, notwithstanding that these men had pleaded guilty and had been fined, held that he had no official notice of this and counted every one of these 150 ballots.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not a lawyer, and in view of that I am not even a judge and I thank heaven for it, but while that may be in accordance with strict legal technicality, according to the technicalities of the law, there is no person in this House or out of it who will claim that this either was justice or common sense. They were advised that if anything were wrong they were to take it to the election courts of the land, and they acted on that advice. They took it to the Supreme Court presided over by five gentlemen, three of whom were appointees of this government, one of whom is a brother of the late Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), none of whom you may say, or some of whom, never had an important brief as lawyers in their lives before they were put on the bench. No high legal attainments had they; no practice at the bar. These three out of the five declared—although the judge advised that these cases be taken to the election courts—these three declared: We have no election courts in the province of Saskatchewan competent to try any election case. The other two judges, men of eminence at the bar, men of high legal attainments, men who have for years served the public in the capacity of judges and who have the confidence of the people, they ruled otherwise. But the majority was against them, and this is the kind of thing that is practically placing a premium on crimes of this character. The hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Crawford) spoke of some gross irregularities in the province of Manitoba in regard to voters' lists. I shall not now discuss the making of the voters' lists in that province by the respective governments, for that will come up on the amendments to the election law, but there are one or two remarks made by the hon. gentleman either through ignorance or because of an attempt to mislead the House that I wish to draw attention to. He declared that in the province of Manitoba the present government did exactly what their friends did at the last Dominion election; he said they

Mr. W. J. ROCHE.

drew a black line through the names. He was mighty careful not to say that the Conservative government disfranchised these men. What we complain about is, not that the Liberals drew a red line through the names, but that many of these voters were not placed on any other list and were disfranchised, and that among those who were placed on other lists many did not know to what poll to go because they were kept in the dark, while the Liberals were informed in advance as to the polls they should vote at. This is what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Crawford) said with regard to the lists made by the present government of Manitoba:

Owing to the fact that the polling division and boundaries do not coincide with those of the Dominion districts, it is necessary to make some changes in the voters' list.

If the changes had been made in the last Dominion elections, only in those places where there was absolute necessity there would be no fault found if the changes had been made honestly and by the proper party. But who was the proper party? Was it the Liberal organizer? Did the hon. member ever know in any province of this country of lists sent in by presumably non-partisan returning officers being handed over to a party organizer to be doctored and tampered with? Would you expect to have fair play shown to political opponents by that process. The hon. member further says:

In the list I have in my hand there is a polling division, and there are about sixty names on the list who do not belong to that division. To get a list of that polling division it is necessary to do that kind of work because the polling divisions arranged for by the provincial authorities overlapped. The provincial authorities in Manitoba have undertaken to go after the Liberals for doing just what they did themselves.

That is absolutely foundationless. The Conservative government of Manitoba did not do that. The Liberals did not merely draw a red line through the names, but, as I said before, they dishonestly disfranchised hundreds of Conservatives.

If they had any excuse for doing what they did in their own voters' lists it would be different.

And the hon. gentleman flourishes the list before the House and says:

Here is a list of voters certified to by a judge. Those were entirely taken off the list, I understand, through instruction of the Attorney General of that province. And under the certificate of Judge Walker there is a list of voters in a certain polling division in Manitoba put on the list and certified to by Judge Walker, of Winnipeg, but under the instructions of the Attorney General, Mr. Campbell, they were all taken off and every one disfranchised.

Mark his words: Certified to by Judge Walker as a correct list and then under