

"If you cannot get control of opposition scrutineers, have your deputy returning officer announce that he is against you, so as to lead him astray if possible."

In the city of Winnipeg where 5,000 or 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 boldest and most colossal election fraud in history, under the auspices of the "party of purity."

#### **Tory plot to Steal the Seats of the Liberal Members in 1896.**

The circular of instructions sent out from the Conservative headquarters King St. Toronto in 1896 pointed out four methods of doing up the Grits as follows:—

- (1) *Slipping*—(i.e. calling out a ballot for the Tory candidate when it is in reality marked for the Liberal.)
- (2) *Switching*—(i.e. stealing ballots marked for the Liberal candidate, and putting into the ballot box ballots marked for the Tory candidate.)
- (3) *Stuffing*—(i.e. polling votes of the dead and absent men with the connivance of both scrutineers.)
- (4) *Spoiling*—(i.e. by making a mark on the ballot marked for the Liberal candidate opposite the name of the Tory candidate with a piece of lead fastened under the finger nail.)

The extent to which the last method (Spoiling) was practised is shown by the very large number of rejected ballots in 1896 as compared with other elections. The following table is taken from the official returns:—

	Number of rejected Ballots in	
	1896	1900
Addington.....	181	32
Bothwell.....	167	37
Brant South.....	165	32
Brockville.....	101	38
Bruce East.....	133	34
Bruce West.....	115	16
Cornwall and Stormont.....	103	42
Durham East.....	59	6
Elgin East.....	99	32
Essex North.....	96	28
Grey North.....	125	37
Hastings East.....	79	25
Hastings West.....	84	27
Huron South.....	70	8
Ken.....	180	49
Kingston.....	215	32