

on the street. Of course nearly all the red line names were those of Conservatives. By this means Sir Wilfrid carried at least three seats in Manitoba, which would otherwise have gone Conservative. Less than two months after the elections Leach was appointed Inspector of Dominion Lands Agencies at \$2,000 a year. This same Leach was in 1908 made chief officer for the distribution of Government seed grain with headquarters at Regina. The seed grain scheme so managed is chiefly intended to assist the Government party in Saskatchewan and Alberta, at the coming election.

#### SUTHERLAND, NICHOLSON, MOBERLY

The first was a Government farm instructor, the second a Dominion fishery inspector and the third performed various Government functions. In 1905 these three were sent out to hold polls several days journey north of Prince Albert. They went a short distance, and then sat down, wrote 151 imaginary names in a poll book, marked 151 ballots, all for the Government candidate, and returned without going within hundreds of miles of their district. This bogus vote gave the Government candidate his majority. The crime was discovered and the perpetrators arrested. They were represented by the Dominion crown prosecutor, pleaded guilty, were fined, and their fines were paid by a clerk in the Crown Prosecutor's office, presumably out of campaign funds. Moberly, who was represented by the Minister of the Interior as the instigator of the crime, was shortly afterwards in the pay of the Dominion Government.

#### H. A. LEMIEUX

This gentleman was in 1896 a customs officer at Montreal, salary \$1,000. His son was the Liberal candidate in Gaspé and the father obtained leave of absence, went to a Magdalen Island poll where under the assumed name of Lamirande he acted as the sworn representative of his son, signing the documents and taking the oath and receiving the power-of-attorney in the above false name. Formal complaint was made to the Minister of Customs of this officer who refused to take action for two years and then declined to investigate because the matter was old. In the House Sir Wilfrid Laurier pleaded that Mr. Lemieux "travelled incognito like the Prince of Wales," and that the indiscretion might be viewed with leniency as due to paternal affection. It was so leniently viewed that H. A. Lemieux was made assistant inspector in 1901, and his salary was raised in the next five years to \$1,500, \$2,000, \$2,250, and finally to \$2,400.

#### SOME OTHERS.

Zacheus Hall, a Postmaster in Annapolis was found guilty of bribing voters in elections. He was convicted and fined but retained in office until the matter had been repeatedly brought up in Parliament.

W. L. Nichols, who was returning officer polled the votes of the forty passengers of the famous Minnie M., got the office of Indian Agent at the Scult at \$1,000 a year.

D. F. McDonald, one of Mr. Preston's assistants, got the position of Indian Agent at Parry Sound, salary \$900.

W. H. Hoppins, who had a share in the West Elgin machine operations, was made a customs officer at Parry Sound at \$700.

## "Poisoning the Wells"

From July 1st, 1896 to March 31st, 1907, the Government has spent:—

In advertising..... \$ 1,279,136  
In printing, outside the Printing Bureau 4,391,183  
Total..... \$ 5,670,319

Shortly before the change of Government, Sir Richard Cartwright made this statement:

"There is One Act Which Even Among Savages and Barbarians is Looked Upon as Inhuman,—not to be tolerated even under the extremest exigencies of war, and That is the Poisoning of the Wells from which friends and foes alike must quench their thirst.

"But here in Canada we have a Government which does worse—which Does Not Hesitate Deliberately to Poison and Corrupt the Very Sources of Information from which alone the ordinary voter can learn how public affairs are being administered, and whether he is well or ill served by those to whom he must perforce entrust the guardianship of his interests, and I say that of all the corrupt acts of the Government, of All the Signs of the Degradation and Debasement of public opinion which are everywhere manifest, There is Not One Act so Fraught with Evil Consequences, not one sign so significant of degradation, as the Manner in Which the Public Press Has Been Openly and Systematically Debauched Year After Year with the full knowledge and, apparently, the full approbation of almost every class of the well-to-do supporters of the Government, and with very few evidences of any great disapproval even on the part of those who were not supporters."

#### THEN AND NOW

Sir Richard's charge was that the payments for printing and advertising were subsidies to the Conservative press. What is to be said now when the payments made to the Government press and are three or four times as large as before 1896. Here are the figures:—

	1896	1906	In-crease	In-crease
	Lib. Con.	Liberal		p.o.
Government Advertising.....	\$ 42,713	\$ 181,911	139,198	324
Government Printing, Outside Government Bureau.	189,320	689,796	500,476	263
Total.....	232,033	871,707	639,674	276

How far this great increase went for the benefit of the Government press may be judged from the fact that in the year 1906 no less than \$57,021 was paid to a single organ of the party, The Winnipeg "Free Press."

#### COSTLY INSPECTION

A few years ago an armoury was built at Sussex. Instead of engaging a mason or carpenter to inspect the work, the Government appointed a local tailor. This gentleman occasionally called on the mechanics on his way to and from meals. The contract price of the building was \$4,700 and the work was completed in four or five months. Over \$1,900 was paid to this tailor for inspecting the \$4,700 job.