

"There is a report that many of the applicants were not really sure that they drilled in March and April, 1866, and consequently had no right to it. I think **I can assure you that nothing will be done to our friends in that connection**", thereby clearly intimating that unless the veterans voted for MacLeod, prosecution on a perjury charge would follow.

This circular was signed "Philip MacLeod", but the candidate denied all knowledge of it, though some twenty of the signatures were **so like his own that he could not tell them from signatures which he admitted were his.**

Dr. Hayes—Secretary of the Provincial Conservative Association—took the stand and admitted full responsibility for the preparation and sending out of the circulars, but said that **he saw Muirhead sign them.** This was the first time that such an idea had been even suggested, and the blame was thrown on Muirhead, because this scape-goat (?) was in England, encamped on Salisbury Plains, and therefore could not appear at the trial. Hayes admitted that Muirhead's "**forgery**" was so like MacLeod's own signature, that he had remarked that Muirhead did it "**even better than Philip himself.**"

Treated as a Criminal Case.

Judge Russell treated the question of disqualification of MacLeod, on the score of the **signature** as a criminal question, and gave the disqualified candidate the **benefit of the doubt always extended to accused criminals.** His Worship added that the circular was, beyond doubt, "an efficient piece of machinery, for the **manufacture of political friendship,** and, as such, came "within the prohibition of the statute".

Two other equally glaring pieces of political chicanery were exposed at the trial. It was shown that either Dr. Hayes, or some one acting under his orders, had added to a school board circular the words: "Philip MacLeod dissenting" to mislead and delude the electors into thinking that the candidate had voted in opposition to a motion to increase the school rate. **This, if true, might have been a popular dodge, but it was an absolute lie, as MacLeod had voted with the rest for the increase.**

Hundreds of circulars were sent out, signed by the name of James G. Dunlap, Secretary of the Victoria County Conservative Association, enclosing a false memo of estimates alleged to have been made by the **Dominion Government for public works contemplated in Victoria County.** MacLeod took the stand and denied all connection with the "estimates" circular; he asserted that it had been prepared by Hayes and Douglas, without his consent. **Hayes took the stand, contradicted MacLeod flatly, and shifted the responsibility for this "estimates" circular to a man who died a few weeks before the trial!**