

A Clean Ballot : A Pure Election

**The Law Against Ballot-Box Stuffing Made Effective
and Searching**

**Every Man's Vote is Safe, and the Gerrymander
No Longer Rules**

To the task of putting an end to the coercion, the ballot frauds, and the corruption practiced by the Ross Government, the Administration has given a great deal of thought. As a result, the First Minister and Attorney-General Foy have introduced an important body of legislation.

No More Coercion

The first reform accomplished was the abolition of the numbered ballot. The late Government insisted upon numbering all the ballots so that the votes of the electors could be traced after the election. The meaning of this manoeuvre was obvious.

Having the means with which to follow the ballots and to find how the elector had voted, the Government could coerce persons having business with it, and could punish those who did not vote as it required. It could also see to it that the bought vote was duly delivered. In addition, it was in a position, when an election took place, to determine where to lay on pressure.

The Whitney Government promptly repealed the law allowing the numbered ballot, and now every elector is a free man.

To make it doubly sure that there shall be no coercion, Section 173 of the new law declares that any person who represents to a voter that the ballot, or the mode of voting at an election, is not secret, is guilty of a corrupt practice, and is liable to a fine of \$200 and to imprisonment for a year.

A Clean Ballot Ordered

The old ballot, as provided by the Ross Government, was capable of manipulation with a view to spoiling. When a vote was spoiled it did not count. The opportunities for fraud furnished by this ballot were illustrated in many elections, particularly in North Waterloo, where ballots were defaced by Government agents; and again in North Grey, where the election of Mr. A. G. MacKay, the present leader of the Opposition, was achieved through the placing of a little cross on the margin of each of four ballots that had been marked for the Conservative candidate, thus spoiling them, and excluding them from the count.

The fraud which elected Mr. MacKay is provided against by the law which calls for a ballot paper that has no white margin upon which the little crosses or other defacements can be placed. The only white compartments on the paper are those in which the names of the candidates are printed, and those reserved for the cross of the elector. It is hoped that this improved ballot will afford the elector protection.