

scrutineer at every poll is purposely omitted. There can be but one Liberal scrutineer for the United Kingdom and he can be present only at the final count of the votes.

The provision that a Liberal scrutineer may be present at the distribution of the ballots and envelopes is deliberately left out.

The provision that a Liberal scrutineer may be present to watch the marking of the ballots is carefully excluded.

The provision that a Liberal scrutineer may be on hand to oversee the closing of the envelopes and the posting of the same to the agent-general is studiously omitted.

The provision that there shall be scrutineers at every poll who may exercise all the rights which may be exercised under the Elections Act by candidates or their agents is excluded from the copy.

The government takes power to appoint an army of officers and deputy officers to take charge of the polls, agents who will be expected to do its bidding. They are to be paid out of the public chest. The two scrutineers for the United Kingdom receive no remuneration from the treasury of the province. Hundreds of Bowser officials will be well remunerated. The single Liberal nominee must pay his own way.

It will thus be seen that in drafting the Soldiers' Vote Act Mr. Bowser has purposely excluded all the safeguards and provisions contained in the federal act for ensuring an honest election. From the opening of the polls till the last ballot is cast every Liberal candidate, every Liberal agent, every possible Liberal scrutineer will be rigidly excluded from the polls. The entire proceedings are to be conducted by a myriad of Bowser appointees in absolute secrecy and no prying eye will be permitted at any stage of the game.

The results sought to be obtained are obvious. In supreme control of the vote is an agent-general drawing a princely salary, and enjoying palatial surroundings, which he owes to the Bowser government, and is no doubt anxious to retain. In actual command will be F. W. Welsh, who is charged with doubly corrupting an honest merchant, and who is being rushed to London with indecent haste, while the committee of investigation is still in session. This is the Welsh who insisted that Pendray should continue to retain an agent who could be relied upon to be "diplomatic" in his dealings with the school board. He is the Welsh who destroyed the J. L. Sullivan wireless telegrams and the Seattle letter, and whose name has been stricken from the Conservative list of candidates as unfit to go before the electors. With such a creature in charge of the administration of the most rascally legislation which has ever been placed on any statute book, what may we not expect?

It is because of the desperate seriousness of the situation that we do not hesitate to place it fully before the electors. In the name of patriotism a conspiracy has been hatched and an act put through the legislature for the purpose of robbing the electorate of its franchise by the manipulation of ballots in secret five thousand miles away. What can be done to prevent the accomplishment of this grossest of all outrages? Is there nothing for the electorate to do but tamely submit to this most indecent and criminal outrage against representative government and liberty itself? Mass meetings to protest against this crowning infamy should be called in every section of the province to make representations to the Dominion and imperial governments, and devise drastic means for putting an end to a foul plot.