

"THIN RED LINE"

Did not disfranchise any person, but was used to cross out names on lists where the electoral subdivisions overlapped, otherwise the voter would be on two lists.

What is known as the "Thin Red Line" has been exploited by the Conservatives from one end of the country to the other. It is alleged that in the general elections of 1904, the Voters' lists in Manitoba were tampered with by drawing a red line through the names of upward of 10,000 voters. The purpose being to disfranchise Conservative voters.

This charge has not an atom of truth upon which to rest. That the lists furnished in 1904 by the King's Printer, and sent by him to the Clerk of the Court in Chancery, were corrected by the returning officers in charge of the elections is absolutely true. That the lists were inapplicable to the Dominion Elections is also true, and that there was a necessity to revise the lists and make them conform to the electoral divisions to which they applied, is beyond question.

CONSERVATIVES AT FAULT

TO-DAY THERE IS NOT A LEGAL VOTING LIST IN THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA FOR DOMINION PURPOSES. The object is to retain the lists which were made for purposes of provincial elections years ago, and which to-day are stuffed with names of men long since strangers to the district, and upon which the names of men who are entitled to vote do not appear.

The most serious defect, however, is the one explained below, caused by the Geographical differences between the Provincial and Dominion electoral divisions. The Provincial list may, with the exceptions noted, be applicable to a Provincial election, but in the case of a Dominion election, one constituency is found to consist of portions of four to ten Provincial electoral divisions. Therefore, it becomes the duty of the returning officer to retain on the list only such portions of the overlapping electoral division as pertain to the Dominion constituency.