

Hector McInnes, K.C., presumably a reputable and honorable barrister of Nova Scotia, recklessly plunged headlong into carrying out these colossal election frauds, which if even faintly attempted in British elections would have secured his sentence to penal servitude for life. The assistance of Sir George Perley, High Commissioner for Canada, and Lord Beaverbrook (erstwhile Max Aitken of cement merger notoriety), also became necessary.

THE INCRIMINATING CABLE.

Sir George Perley received the following cable, dated Nov. 12, 1917: "Sir George Perley, London.

"Give the following to Lennox, Gray, Hogarth, Armour, Hepburn, Sharpe, Daly and others whom you think necessary. Laurier's friends say they have arranged an organization whereby they will secure soldiers' vote in each constituency to defeat Government. Please assist in arranging for organization to watch this and do your utmost to prevent same. Special attack will be made in following constituencies. REID."

The constituencies mentioned include every one where fraudulent practices were rampant. The statement about "Laurier's friends" was a barefaced lie to cover up the meaning of the despatch.

OUTRAGING THE KING'S CONFIDENCE.

Among the officers mentioned in the cable is Major Barney Hepburn, M.P., one of the most notoriously prominent in the election frauds. He was subsequently recommended to the King for a C.M.G. as a reward for activity at this work. His Majesty cancelled a D.S.O. awarded to Lieut.-Col. Gingras, of Montreal, for unbecoming conduct. His conduct was an offence only too prevalent. Hepburn's is a crime. The political morality of this country has reached a low ebb when the honor of the Crown is dragged in the dirt to reward illegal, disreputable and dishonorable work of this character. Some day His Majesty, who jealously guards the honor of the throne, will learn what Union Government politics have brought his favors to. (Applause.)

SCOTLAND YARD CALLED IN.

Sir George received the cable referred to a moment ago at 10.30 a.m., November 13th. I had a copy of it at noon. (Laughter and cheers.) By three o'clock I had sent a copy to Lord Derby, Minister of War, directing his attention to the flagrant breach of the King's Regulations (that officers shall not take part in politics) contemplated, inasmuch as all those mentioned were officers in the C. E. F. Lord Derby sent copies of my letters to Sir George Perley and the Canadian General Headquarters. Sir George summoned to his office all the officials through whose hands the cable had passed seeking for information as to "how this got into Preston's hands." His language will not bear repetition, even in a lumber camp. (Laughter.) Scotland Yard detectives were brought to the office. The most diligent enquiry was made to discover the channel through which the leak had occurred, except that they did not ask me (laughter), but all to no purpose. (Cheers.)

KEEPING IN TOUCH.

The possession of this cable to Sir George Perley confirmed the information reaching me that the High Commissioner was an active participant with Hector McInnes in this criminal programme to thwart the honest electorate of this country. From that time until January 12th, 1919, when Hector McInnes met Lieut.-Col. Frank Reid (his chief assistant in