

pressing him. I have no doubt that these so-called officers of the law verily believed that as he was young and had had no experience, they would be able to force from him a confession of something of which he was not guilty, and thereby secure a justification for their action. I ask the House if they have ever heard in the history of this country of a more outrageous proceeding than that in the case of this young man, Prince, and I would ask the right hon. the Prime Minister and the members of the Government if there is not a serious difference between the cases I have mentioned in relation to the election in Macdonald and any other election of which he has ever heard in Canada.

I desire also to read the affidavits of W. B. Sifton:

Province of Manitoba,

To wit:

In the matter of the McDónald By-election, for the Electoral Division of McDonald, held on the 12th day of October, A.D. 1912.

Affidavit of W. B. Sifton.

I, William Blake Sifton, of the Post Office of Mannitonas, in the province of Manitoba, farmer, make oath and say as follows:—

1. Prior to the 12th day of October, I had no particular employment to take up my time, and came to Winnipeg, and went to Mr. Richardson's Central Executive, and volunteered my services in connection with the by-election.

2. As I had been a resident of Manitoba for some thirty-three years, of which time I lived for some twenty years on Lake Manitoba, and in the vicinity of St. Laurent; consequently being well acquainted with the people at St. Laurent and vicinity, I was requested by the committee to look after the organization for Mr. Richardson, the independent candidate at that point.

3. On the afternoon of Tuesday, the 8th day of October, I left Winnipeg and went to St. Laurent on the Canadian Northern Railway train, arriving at St. Laurent at 6.25 p.m. or thereabouts. I spent the balance of the evening of the 8th and all day Wednesday the 9th, and the evening of Wednesday the 9th, visiting my old friends in St. Laurent, whom I have known for twenty years or thereabouts, endeavouring to show those whom I interviewed why they should support the candidature of Mr. Richardson. On Thursday the 10th, I took a team and drove through that portion of the country lying to the northeast of St. Laurent, where I found that a good many of my friends had left the village and homesteaded in the country, and returned to St. Laurent that night.

4. On Friday the 11th, I spent the forenoon in the village, and was about to go to Oak Point, a distance of seven miles farther, which place I had not visited. While I was in the act of stepping aboard the train, my arm was seized by some person in the rear of me. I turned around and saw a party whose name I have since learned was Jarvis,

who told me that he was a provincial constable. Jarvis tried to pull me off by force, without having produced a warrant or notifying me that he had one, but I resisted and he was unable to do so. I finally extricated myself from the grasp of Jarvis. I then jumped off the train to find the reason of my being interfered with, and approached Jarvis and asked for an explanation of his seizing me on the train. He says 'I have a warrant for you' and immediately produced the warrant, and stating at the same time that he was a provincial constable.

4. Another party, whose name I have since learned was Thomas Steadman, of Winnipeg, was standing beside Jarvis at the time the latter grasped me while I was boarding the train, and I heard Steadman tell Jarvis to jerk me off the train. The same party, namely, Steadman, was standing beside Jarvis when I approached the latter demanding an explanation.

5. After the warrant was produced by Jarvis, he Jarvis, proceeded to read it, and I stated that I would prefer to read it myself, and he handed to me and I perused same, and having perused it handed it back to Jarvis.

6. After I had handed the warrant back to Jarvis, I stated to Jarvis and Steadman that I supposed they were paid tools of the government, to which Steadman replied 'we have the authority.'

7. I then stated to Jarvis that I did not know whether I would pay any attention to the warrant or not, or words to that effect, and he referred me to Steadman who at once stepped along side of me.

8. I said to Steadman, 'I do not know what your name is, but I presume I will find that out later, but I am not going to be searched, and I won't go to jail.' Steadman said to me, 'You are wanted in Winnipeg, you will have to go to Winnipeg.' All this conversation took place on the station platform at St. Laurent.

9. After Steadman said this, he and Jarvis walked off together, and held some private conversation, and then they came back to me, and the three of us entered the station. I knew that the headquarters were depending upon me to look after the interests of Mr. Richardson at this poll on election day, and I therefore felt that it was absolutely necessary to wire them informing them of my arrest, so that they might send some person out on the 4 o'clock train that day to take my place. I went up to the wicket in the station and asked for a telegram pad. The agent handed it to me, and I wrote a telegram out informing the executive that I had been arrested, and asked them to provide for the poll. I took twenty-five cents out of my pocket, and shoved the telegram and the money to the station agent. The station agent picked up the telegram and the money, and turned to send the telegram, but Steadman walked into his private office, and put his hand on his shoulder, and said in my hearing to the station agent, 'I demand that you shall not send that telegram under my authority as a police officer, this man is under arrest. The station agent handed the money back to me, and I refused to take it, but the station agent said that I might as well, as he could not send the telegram.'

Mr. OLIVER.