

was not then in the employ of the Inter-colonial Railway; that he obtained three months leave of absence owing to some accident that had happened to him and was not fitted for work. It was during his vacation that he took his little trip down to Guysborough. I am informed that is a fact and I believe it to be true. Do you imagine, if the position was reversed and hon. gentlemen opposite were in power, that we would only have to complain of the interference of one official in Guysborough? Under the system that prevailed prior to 1896 nearly every single official was an election agent of the Conservative party and they were expected to be election agents. The bounty cheques, for example, were used as a sort of campaign fund in Guysborough in those days and I am informed that the time for the distribution of these cheques was arranged so that they were handed out to the fishermen at the time that the Conservative candidate was making his canvass along the shore. Another scheme was to levy fines against the fishermen for political purposes, fines that were never attempted to be collected. A fisherman was selected and was charged with having small lobsters in his possession or some such offence and a fine of \$15 or \$20 was entered against him but no attempt was made to collect the fine. Then, when an election came on, we would have a list of the names of these fishermen along the shore of that county—and I believe of every county in Nova Scotia—that were popularly known as lobster votes. We used to mark opposite them that they were lobster votes and we could not expect to get any of them to support the Liberal party. The heeled of the Conservative party came to these men and said: If you vote for the Conservative candidate, this fine will not be collected; but if you vote for the Liberal candidate, a distress warrant will be issued to-morrow morning. In this way they used to hold the fines over these people and secure their votes from election to election. These were some of the methods adopted by hon. gentlemen opposite when in power. That was only eight short years ago, but since they have got into opposition they have grown very pure and go into hysterics over the case of one official who took an active part in an election.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Will the hon. gentleman give us the name of one fisherman who was dealt with in that way?

Mr. SINCLAIR. They will be found in a return which was brought down to the House in the year 1891, and they will also probably be found in 'Hansard,' because this matter was then discussed in the House. Hon. gentlemen opposite take the ground that no man who is an official of the government should have anything to do with an election, but they surely do not forget that when they were in office we had some

200 revising barristers, many of whom were active and offensive partisans. They were the men who made the lists and decided who should and who should not vote. The discussion we are having to-day seems to have been deliberately planned by our hon. friends opposite. It is nearly two months since the Truro 'Sun' made the following announcement:—

During the recent by-election in Guysborough, Mr. B. A. Macnab, a Montreal newspaper man, well known in the commercial metropolis, journeyed to New Glasgow. There he remained a week. His presence in that place drew from the local Grit paper a perfect tirade of abuse. The visitor was accused of being a corruptionist; he was styled a second edition of 'Cap.' Sullivan. A more flagrant series of prima facie libels could not well be conceived.

Mr. McNab made no sign. He left New Glasgow when his work was over. What that work was is now becoming apparent. The revelations of corrupt methods employed in the Guysborough campaign are alleged to be due to his initiative. It would appear that during the campaign he had arranged a plan to bring to light the devious methods of the Liberals. And now, day by day, some new phase of crooked work is being brought out. The climax will, it is said, be reached when the matter is brought up in the House of Commons in connection with the passage of salaries, in the estimates, of some of the government employees who took an active part in the fight. The affidavits in these particular cases are said to be very interesting.

We did have one affidavit mentioned by the hon. member for Pictou, but I do not think he told us the name of the man who made it, nor did he give us the whole affidavit. He read some remarks from a paper which he said was an affidavit, and said that Mr. LeBlanc had taken an active part in this election. The Truro 'Sun' is one of the leading organs of the Conservative party in Nova Scotia. The editor of that paper is said to be high up in the ranks of that party and ought to know what he is talking about. He tells us that Mr. McNab came to Glasgow and remained there a week without making any sign. He is evidently a mysterious character is Mr. McNab. He was to old a campaigner to make any sign by which his real mission to Nova Scotia might be understood. The 'Sun' goes on to say that he was the author of all these revelations which we have been having in the Conservative papers with regard to that county. In other words, that he was the instigator of all these slanders and falsehoods scattered throughout Canada in the Conservative press regarding the people of Guysborough. The statements of the 'Sun' may or may not be true, but I have it on good evidence that the room which this hon. gentleman occupied at the Norfolk House at New Glasgow seemed to be the headquarters of the Conservative party and was the place where the Conservative agents and heeled got their instructions before starting out on their various routes for the county of Guysborough. I am not