

avoid discussion in regard to the Guysborough election. I am quite willing that every transaction, so far as I know them, in regard to the Guysborough election should have the fullest and the widest publicity throughout the Dominion of Canada. The Liberals of Guysborough on that occasion fought a clean and an honest fight and won a very signal victory in the face of the most determined and persistent campaign of slander and misrepresentation and open and flagrant bribery on the part of the Conservative party. In this election we had some new experiences, such as we have never before had in the province of Nova Scotia. For the first time in the history of political warfare in Nova Scotia we had men introduced into the county from outside whom I shall describe as professional bribers, men whose faces we had never seen before, and whose names, post office addresses or places of residence, we could not discover. Two of these suspicious characters operated in the polling booth where I happened to be on election day. They did not belong to the polling district of Whitehead. They did not belong to the county of Guysborough and I feel confident that they did not belong to the province of Nova Scotia. They dropped down there at that polling booth at eight o'clock on the morning of election day and at five o'clock they disappeared; they folded their tents like the Arabs and as silently stole away.

The question arises: Where did they come from, and who supplied the funds they were paying out so lavishly on election day.

Mr. EMMERSON. The Montreal 'Star.'

Mr. SINCLAIR. In that particular booth where I was, I saw these men. I did not see them carrying on their operations, I did not see them pay out money, but I know they occupied a room close to the polling booth, and also carried on their operations in an adjoining shed, from which the fumes of whisky—bad whisky, I was told—emanated. The question arises who sent them there and who supplied the funds they were spending on that occasion. They could not have been sent by my opponent, Mr. Giffin, because he is a very pious and respectable gentleman, who would have nothing to do with anything of the kind. The organizer of the Conservative party, Charles E. Tanner, of Pictou, was in the county for a few days; he seemed to be taking a very active interest in the campaign although I believe he only addressed one meeting. But Mr. Tanner could not have had anything to do with these outside people because he has always condemned anything of that kind. The hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Bell) was also in the county for ten or twelve days during the election. I understood that he was in charge of the campaign in the western end of the county, not in the district

Mr. SINCLAIR.

where I was myself. I presume he does not know anything about where these men came from or what they were doing in the constituency. The agent of the Montreal 'Star' was in the province at the time and appeared to be directing the campaign.

Mr. KENDALL. Surely that must be a mistake, because I can assure the hon. gentleman that I saw the representative of the Montreal 'Star' during the famous Tupper-Murray campaign in 1896, and he seemed to be rather favouring the Liberals in Cape Breton county.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I do not want to hint that the Montreal 'Star' had anything to do with this, because every one knows that the Montreal 'Star' is an independent journal. I do not know that any one can say where they came from or who sent them or who supplied the money so lavishly. They may have come of their own accord and may have been using their own money for anything I know.

After all the abuse that has been heaped on our devoted heads by the Conservative papers during the last three months about this Guysborough election and about the part taken in it by Dominion officials, it seems to have come down to one case. I take very little account of the names read here, by hon. gentlemen opposite. They have secured the names of certain men in the public service in Guysborough and have said that they were told by some one that these men took an active part in the election. I do not know that they took an active part. Some gentlemen in discussing this question wanted me to deny that they did. I am not aware that those gentlemen did take an active part and there is not the slightest proof that they did. It appears that it comes down to the name of one man, a Mr. LeBlanc, and that they have secured some evidence that that man took some part in that election. They scoured Guysborough from end to end, for evidence in respect to this matter and we are told by the Truro 'Sun' an organ of the Conservative party in Nova Scotia that a representative of the Montreal 'Star' came to the province for that special purpose and spent about a week in the province looking up information, and yet they have only been able to discover one man against whom they can make a definite charge. Counting all the Dominion officials there, postmasters, and fishery officers and custom house officers and railway employees, I suppose there are between two hundred and three hundred men in that constituency alone, and if they are only able to find one who has actually overstepped the bounds and done something that he should not have done in this election, I think that is not a very bad showing for the Liberal party. In the case of this solitary official I am told that he