

the work undertaken was now too large to be covered by volunteer effort, and the task of identification required skilled men, able to devote to it their entire attention. An office, with paid secretary and canvassing staff, was established for each ward. Voters' lists were obtained, identification cards prepared, and the canvassers sent forth with instructions to secure accurate descriptions of the *bona fide* voters and full data regarding cases where the right to vote could be questioned.

The civic elections in Montreal are held on Feb. 1st. Nomination takes place on January 20th, after which date no changes can be made in the voters' list. The Board of Revisors meet on January 5th, and from that date until nomination consider objections and make additions to the list. According to law, no name can be taken from or added to the roll by the Revisors, unless written notice has been given not later than January 4th. Usually the work of the Revisors has been a sinecure. They have held a few sittings, added several names, and, as a mere matter of form, certified the lists when presented. But when the Board met on January 5th, 1894, they found that the Electoral League had prepared sufficient work to occupy them at every possible sitting until the date of the nominations.

The canvass of fifteen thousand electors had been nearly completed by the League's identifiers, and many and astonishing had been the discoveries. Over six hundred persons were found to have been incorrectly inscribed, through carelessness or inefficiency on the part of the civic officials; thus, Hy. J. Head was entered Hy. J. Mead; B. Radford appeared as B. Bradford, and John Craig was found to be John McCuaig. Had any of these parties applied for a ballot under this mutilated title it is more than probable that he would have been denied his vote. To each of these parties, thus incorrectly entered, a notification of the error was sent, together with in-

structions as to the manner in which the Revisors should be communicated with in order to rectify the error.

It was further found that some four hundred permanent non-residents were entered as entitled to vote. That they did not and could not vote was evident. That they were frequently voted for was an inference most admissible. No law, however, existed under which these names could be expunged. It was only possible to so mark the names upon the list that the vote could not be accepted at the poll.

But besides incorrect names and the names of non-residents, were the names of seven hundred and twenty-three persons whose right to be upon the list at all was seriously in question. These names the League, through its attorney, notified the board of Revisors it would challenge. Of this number, two hundred and eight names were those of deceased persons. When they came up for consideration it was not sufficient for the League to establish a reasonable doubt; the Board of Revisors insisted that they were required to institute no inquiry. "The names were there, and unless indisputable evidence could be produced, there the names should remain." But the Board found the proof prepared, and for nearly every name a certificate of decease, duly signed by a relation and the attending physician, was produced, and it was only where a party had been so long dead that no relation or friend could be found thus to sign, that the worthy Revisors were able to rule that the name must still stand.

Next were considered the minors. The names of forty-seven children, heirs to estates, had been discovered, although no one is by law entitled to vote under the age of twenty-one. Again, certified evidence was demanded and again produced. But there were some instances where, though minority was admitted, the parents or guardians had refused to sign a writing to that effect; in such cases the worthy Revisors left the names