

Indeed every one of us was very pleased to have an opportunity of doing something to strike a blow in favour of better markets for the produce of the people of Manitoba and the West.

I do not desire to take up too much time, but I wish to read a declaration made by Mr. Sullivan, which is as follows:

Canada,
Province of Manitoba,
To wit:

In the matter of the election of a member for the Electoral District of Macdonald to serve in the House of Commons.

I, John J. Sullivan, of Regina, in the province of Saskatchewan, clerk, do solemnly declare:—

1. At the request of the committee in Winnipeg in charge of the candidature of R. L. Richardson, the reciprocity candidate in the recent election held in the constituency of Macdonald, Manitoba, I came to Winnipeg on Tuesday, October 1st, and went to the offices of the committee, in the Chambers of Commerce building. There I met Mr. Fred Woodrow, secretary of the Liberal Association, and Mr. J. W. Wilton who had charge of Mr. Richardson's campaign. Mr. Wilton told me that they understood that I had considerable experience in organization work in election campaigns in Saskatchewan, and that they were desirous of enlisting my services for strengthening their organization work. He asked me if I would take charge of the north poll in Carman, and pointed out to me that although there were several willing workers there, they had so far been unable to systematize their organization, and he thought that I would be able to be of considerable assistance to them. He said that it would be my duty to organize the poll and to see that the work was efficiently carried on and that the full vote was got out. I said that I would be very glad to help. I went to Carman on Thursday, October 3, arriving there in the morning. I introduced myself to Mr. Roland North, to whom I was told to report. We went to the Richardson committee rooms where I met workers and had a general discussion as to what work had been done and the steps that should be taken to get our work in ship-shape. On the following day, October 4, Sir R. P. Roblin came to Carman. He returned to Winnipeg. In the issue of the Winnipeg Telegram published on October 5, appeared an interview with Sir R. P. Roblin, in which he is reported to have said as follows:—

I want to make this further statement, not only to the electors of Macdonald, but also to the people of Manitoba, that in my thirty-one years of public life I never saw a constituency invaded or infested with such a gang of boodlers and political thieves and thugs, as are now wandering around that constituency. . . The gang is from the province of Saskatchewan. That province has sent down apparently the whole boodling and bribing brigade of political thugs, who appear to have been making Saskatchewan their home.

Mr. MACNUTT.

It could not be a very big gang when there was only one arrested, and that one not on a specific charge, but a general charge—and they were very glad to get rid of him, to have him leave before coming to trial. There could not have been less than 100 detectives throughout that district, and this was the only man they could find to arrest.

Members of the Saskatchewan legislature are there. Men who cannot put half a dozen sentences together grammatically, nor have any accomplishments that might give dignity or grace to a threshing gang—

This is not very complimentary to the threshing gang who are the farmers of the community.

—are swarming in the constituency and organizing or endeavouring to organize to debauch and bedevil, as far as they can, the honest, intelligent electors of Macdonald. Carman seems to be the centre. The leader apparently is, as far as I can gather, a fellow who is known by the name of Sullen, presumably an alias. . .

I have instructed the provincial police to arrest these men, and they will be placed in jail at the earliest possible moment when they attempt to do the work they have been sent there to do, and I want to say that because a man is an M.P.P. or an ex-M.P.P. in Saskatchewan or of anywhere else, it will not prevent justice being done.

2. I am informed and believe that I was the only worker from Saskatchewan in the said constituency of Macdonald in said election, exclusive of certain gentlemen from Saskatchewan who spoke on public platforms during said election, and among whom were the Hon. George Langley, the Hon. Thomas MacNutt, and R. E. Devlin, M.P.P. I deny that there were any persons from Saskatchewan engaged in organization work in said constituency other than myself.

3. On Friday, October 4, I observed and was informed that I was being shadowed by provincial constables, including provincial constable Laughlin. In the evening I attended a public meeting in company with Mr. Roderrick MacKenzie, at which he and I spoke in support of Mr. Richardson.

4. On the following Saturday morning I met Mr. Thomas MacNutt, M.P., at the committee rooms. After stopping there a little while, I went out and met Mr. Roland North. As we were going along the street together, we met a person whose name I do not know, and he came along with us. Mr. North spoke to him as to how he was going to vote. He replied that he was a ballot voter, and that nobody knew how he would vote. I asked him to come to our meeting and hear our speakers before deciding which way he would vote. Outside of this party, I did not mention or discuss politics with anyone in Carman, outside of members of the committee whom I met in the committee rooms. That Saturday afternoon I came down to Winnipeg and went to the general committee rooms, where I procured a considerable quantity of campaign literature, polling lists and cartoons and some newspapers.