

Tricks to Avoid Exposure

Another reason why we have not a full view of this iniquity is the circumstance that the Government when it knows that the truth has been discovered takes measures to prevent investigation.

For example: An election is stolen. There has been corruption and ballot box stuffing for Ross and his candidate. The private individual who has been asked to help defend the votes of the people has the facts discovered. The trial is called. —The Government, if it thinks the prosecution does not know much about the case will allow the enquiry to proceed, in the hope that nothing will come out. But the moment the Government finds that the prosecution does know the particulars it throws up the case. That is to say, a plea of guilty is put in. This at once vacates the seat. No evidence is taken, and as a result the full facts are concealed.

This course has been pursued in numerous instances, and it explains the failure of the public to know the complete story of crime. What we have, it will be observed, is a slight surface indication.

The Crimes of 1898

The first series of election crimes came to view after the election of 1898, which was conducted by G. W. Ross. A few of them will bear relation.

188 Charges of Corruption

In Lennox 188 charges of corruption and fraud were made and Government officials were accused of wrong-doing. Mr. Aylesworth, the machine member, resigned his seat rather than stand a trial. Thus the inquiry into the work of the machine there was prevented. At a later trial—in Waterloo—it was admitted that the Government ballot box stuffers had operated in Lennox.

Nobody was prosecuted.

400 Charges of Corruption

In East Northumberland the Government candidate, Mr. Douglas, was elected by the machine. There 400 charges of corruption were made. After two cases had been enquired into the accused resigned the seat. One of the Liberal papers says the record of the trial was a story of "continuous treating, drinking and wholesale whiskey lushing."

There were no prosecutions.

Corruption by Officials

Mr. John Loughrin was the machine candidate in Nipissing. After the election Sheriff Varin declared him duly returned by a majority of 61. At the election trial held on November 1st, 1898, Sheriff Varin admitted that he had accounted for only 43 polling sub-divisions out of 45, thus ruling out a large number of voters.

It appears from the evidence at the trial that the Nipissing election was corrupt and that whiskey was used. Mr. H. J. Gilligan, the Crown Lands Agent at Mattawa, confessed as follows:

"I took much interest in the election of John Loughrin, and gave liquor to be used on election day; I purchased some six or eight dozen flasks, also some six bottles. I owe about \$75 in Papineau township, all spent for illegal purposes. I owe \$25 in Cameron township spent for corrupt practices."