

### Haldimand Elections.

Until February, 1887, when Dr. Montague was first a candidate in Haldimand, the county was considered safely Liberal. By one of the most disgraceful carnivals of corruption and fraud ever known in Canada, he succeeded in reducing the Liberal majority to 13, which was converted into a majority of one for Montague on a recount. The Liberals protested the election and not only exposed the wholesale corruption which had been practised but it was actually shown at the trial that Colter (Lib.), had a majority and should have been returned as the member. Dr. Montague had held the seat which had been stolen for him and had pocketed the sessional indemnity which rightly belonged to Colter.

At the next election in November, 1887, one, James Murray, was deputy returning officer at Hagersville, and it was afterwards proven that he had spoiled eight ballots cast for Colter by marking them for Montague as well. In face of this, Murray was again appointed deputy returning officer, notwithstanding the protests of the Liberals, and at the polling place where he presided wholesale personation was carried on with his knowledge and assistance. Criminal proceedings were taken against him, he was committed for trial, released on bail and absconded to Buffalo, where he fully confessed his crime.

Another deputy returning officer, Henry J. Ince, to whose appointment the Liberals had strenuously objected, went to the polling place on the Indian reserve the night before the election, and next morning when the Liberal scrutineers arrived at the polling place at 8.05 (55 minutes before the poll should have been opened), they found that voting had been going on for some time, and that a large number of bogus votes had already been polled.

A number of Montague's agents were present, aiding and abetting in the fraud. Four of them were afterwards appointed to positions in the Customs. Ince was put on trial but the jury disagreed, only one man holding out for acquittal. The poll clerk at this poll drove into the adjoining County of Brant and voted before five o'clock on the same day, after the Haldimand poll had been closed and the ballots counted.