

not understand why in many cases, constituencies which were looked upon as safe to the Reform party returned Conservative candidates. I am satisfied that corrupt practices prevailed in the constituency I had the honour of representing for nineteen years—that ballot switching in some cases was resorted to for the purpose of defeating me, but notwithstanding that I fortunately was successful in five successive elections. Reference has been made to Macdonald, Manitoba. The Conservative party overdid the work there. In 1896 they returned their candidate by a majority of over 350. The Reform party could not understand how that happened. They were amazed at such a result, but Dr. Rutherford, the defeated candidate, was rather inclined to accept the verdict. He could not understand how polling subdivisions which had been counted on to give large majorities for him gave majorities the other way. I do not know that the truth would have ever been found out had not Mr. Freeborn, before he left Manitoba, when in Winnipeg, let the cat out of the bag. He got a little more in him than he could carry with prudence, and while in that state said that the Reformers in the constituency of Macdonald had got it in the neck; they would never find out how or in what way, but they got it all the same. After that Dr. Rutherford made up his mind that he would test the whole thing. He sent out an invitation to every elector in a polling subdivision who had promised to cast his ballot for him to meet him at a central place in that polling subdivision. They came in forty-five or forty-seven men, and all swore that they had marked their ballot for Dr. Rutherford, and when the ballots were counted, only 17 were found in the box marked for Rutherford. There was a case of ballot switching. For whom was that done? For the Conservative candidate in Macdonald. There was a case where ballots were switched and the mischievous work done. Nobody was suspicious. How did it come that Mr. Freeborn went there to do that work? It appears that Nat Boyd was under the impression that he could not be elected unless there was some such move, and he telegraphed down to Birmingham, the chief organizer

of the Conservative party, that he wanted some man, wanted an assistant, wanted to know if they could not send him a man there who would devise some method by which he could be elected.

He telegraphed back that he would send Freeborn, and he said he was a good man in North Bruce; he had accomplished a lot of work there. Well, we never found out about North Bruce. We did not know anything about it. He went to Winnipeg, but he overdid it—at least he was found out. Notwithstanding this fact the hon. leader of the opposition holds up his hands in holy horror at what has happened in London, as if the practice was new and the Reform party alone responsible; that they were the guilty party and that they should take the blame for the whole thing. I regret very much that the Reform party ever stole the patent of our hon. friends in the matter which he speaks about. They controlled that business for years and years, and we knew nothing about it, and I am ashamed to think that the Reform party ever did use the same weapons as were used against us, although when two men get into a quarrel, and after the quarrel starts, if one finds that the other has a pair of steel knuckles on his hand, if he has a pair in his pocket he will very likely put them on, or when a fight starts one draws a club from behind and begins pelting his opponent, the probabilities are that if the other fellow can get a club he will use it too. That is natural in a fight. Both parties have adopted ballot switching, unfortunately. In the case of London I do not believe from all the evidence I have seen, that Hyman was a party to the wrong doing that was practised there. I have not the slightest doubt that perhaps his friends, in a feeling of enthusiasm and a desire to see him elected, resorted to the means that were adopted, and they borrowed the weapons of their opponents and used them. It is a pity they ever did it. I have no doubt whatever that Hyman would have been elected in any event, but after all they did it. Now let us pass a law which will strike at the root of all these things. Let us put a stop to this ballot switching and ballot stuffing. Surely the legal ability of this country, the men who have for years and years been investigating these cases, in-