

ganization absolutely independent, even of the candidates which it had selected, the organization being equally ready to unseat, as to elect, in case the candidate proved unworthy of trust. Matters relative to the general policy were to be determined by a council composed of three representatives from each ward organization, while those which related solely to a single ward were to be left to the ward council, the minority, however, always having the right of appeal to the central body. This, in brief, constituted the platform of principles as laid down by the Volunteer Electoral League at its inception.

By the close of the year 1892, the League had grown sufficiently in numbers to warrant it in undertaking the management of the election for an entire ward. Selecting a division in which the contest lay between the sitting member, notorious for his connection with unsavory contracts, and a business man of recognized ability and sterling integrity, who would have nothing to do with corrupt practices, the League endorsed the latter candidate. So vigorously was the campaign conducted, that, five days before the date set for the election, the objectionable alderman gave up the contest as hopeless, his retirement returning by acclamation the candidate of the League.

Relieved from further responsibility in the ward of their original choice, the force was now transferred to what is considered the most corrupt ward of the city, and four days before the election, the work of identification was there begun. It was a large ward and the time was short, but 1068 voters, equivalent to about one-third of the vote of the ward, were identified: five polls were manned, and on election day thirty-three attempts at personation were prevented. In the remainder of the ward the unprotected polls were at the mercy of the fraudulent voter, and the contrast thus exhibited was startling. The candidate of the League

was defeated by thirty-four votes had the entire ward been watched by the League, his majority would have been considerable. This time the system had been given a wider trial and had not been found wanting. The public eye was upon it, and the public purse was now open to its call. The workers had gained experience of value, and the veterans of this year were ready to become the commanders of the next.

Many defects in the statutes regarding election matters had by this time become apparent, and when in the fall of 1893 the Provincial Legislature was assembled at Quebec, a number of carefully prepared amendments were presented by the representatives of the League. These measures provided for the municipal disfranchisement of mere boarders and lodgers: for compelling the assessors to strike from the voters' lists the names of dead men and minors: for the appointment, after the current year, of an impartial Board of Revisors free from aldermanic control: for a minimum fine of \$100 for each detected case of personation: and for two constables at the door of every poll to preserve order and immediately arrest any person violating the election act. All these provisions, in due course, became law, and in the hands of the League have proven most efficient weapons.

Once more a civic contest drew near, and the League prepared to combat election fraud on still more extended lines. Five wards were now undertaken. Hitherto, it had been sufficient to watch the ballot box and ensure the proper casting of the vote as registered: now it was determined to investigate the composition of the registry lists while there should yet be time, according to the law, to make objection. Previously the League had been compelled to fight upon the ground chosen by the enemy: now the field should be of its own selection. A citizens' fund of somewhat over four thousand dollars was collected, for