

By-Election in Victoria County, N. S. 1914

"Corrupt Practices Extensively Prevailed."

"Abundant evidence was offered of acts of bribery and corruption, and subornation of personation, on the part of agents of the respondent."—Extracts from the report of Mr. Justice Russell, in his decision in the Victoria (N.S.) bye-election trial, in which he unseated Philip MacLeod, the Conservative who had been elected February 12, 1914.

Who are the agents of the Conservative candidate, thus found guilty of such illegal and immoral conduct? Mr. Justice Russell, in his judgment November 18, found "guilty of a corrupt practice" no less than **twenty-three of the most prominent Conservatives in Nova Scotia**, including:

Dr. Joseph Hayes, secretary of the Nova Scotia Conservative Association;

W. H. Muirhead, employe and right-hand man of **F. B. McCurdy, M.P., of Halifax**; member for Shelburne and Queen's;

J. R. McNeil, councillor, Bay St., Lawrence;

Hugh Dan McLean, councillor, New Waterford, assistant Conservative organizer, who admitted getting \$600 of which he testified, under oath, that \$300 came from Muirhead, **F. B. McCurdy's man**; and

Nineteen other Nova Scotia Conservative workers.

Others charged with equally corrupt and nefarious practices included: J. R. MacLeod, president of the Nova Scotia Conservative Association; A. L. Davidson, federal member for Annapolis; J. C. Douglas, M.P.P. for Cape Breton, (whom the politicians of Nova Scotia call the "Bob Rogers" of the province); Howard Corning, M. P.P., Yarmouth; and

One hundred and twelve other N.S. Conservatives. They escaped legal responsibility, on technicalities, but not freedom from the stain of moral obliquity.

Dominion Government Boat Carried "BOOZE".

It was amazingly easy for voters to procure liquor from Conservative workers and hangers-on during election day and the days preceding. Even in the northern part of the riding liquor could be had a-plenty—because, on two occasions at least, the Government boat "Alert" was used to carry barrels of liquor and parties of party heelers up the coast!