

thieves—who were present, but after all, the only one they could discover was Mr. Sullivan, and they were very glad to let him go. The gentlemen to whom I have previously referred—Messrs. Brown, Fowler and Martin—took this matter up, and wrote an open letter to Sir Rodmond Roblin as follows:

Sir—The attention of the executive committee, acting on behalf of Mr. Richardson's candidature in Macdonald, has been called to your recent repeated utterances to the effect that at the present time the constituency of Macdonald is swarming with a gang of election crooks and thugs, from the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Upon making the most careful enquiries we have every reason to believe that the only persons from those provinces who are taking part in the campaign, on Mr. Richardson's behalf, are: Hon. Frank Oliver, M.P.; Hon. Thos. MacNutt, M.P.; W. E. Knowles, M.P.; Dr. Clarke, M.P.; Hon. Geo. Langley, M.P.P.; Mr. Devlin, M.P.P.; Mr. S. Latta, M.P.P., and Mr. J. J. Sullivan.

On several occasions recently, and particularly in your telegram interview of the 5th instant, you call upon the Liberals of Manitoba to join you in an effort to safeguard the liberties of our citizens. In view of the facts cited above it appears to us that a very plain and important duty lies at your own door, namely, the production of the names of the imported political crooks which you allege are here from Saskatchewan and Alberta. If there are any such men in our midst we can assure you, as well as the electors of Macdonald, that they are not here with our knowledge, or consent, and you may rely on our committee joining you in an effort to rid the province of their presence.

Signed on behalf of committee.

EDWARD BROWN,
FRANK O. FOWLER,
E. D. MARTIN.

The day afterwards this same committee sent the following letter to the same paper, also addressed to Sir Rodmond Roblin, Premier of Manitoba:

Sir—Twenty-four hours have passed by and so far as we are aware you have only made public the names of two of the men whom you describe as crooks swarming into the constituency of Macdonald from our sister provinces to the West. Further careful inquiries on our part convince us that the list already furnished you by the undersigned comprise all the persons from Saskatchewan and Alberta who are aiding Mr. Richardson in his campaign. You furnish no evidence that one of the men mentioned is from Saskatchewan or Alberta, leaving the number of your hosts of crooks at one. You say you are prepared to give further information.

Under these circumstances our duty to the public demands that we should again call upon you to give evidence of the sweeping charges which you made.

Regarding Mr. J. J. Sullivan, we are reliably informed by a prominent priest of this city that he is a member of the Catholic

church and that he is a man of excellent character. That there were no real grounds for his arrest is apparent from the fact that the only charges trumped against him was for unlawfully, by false and fraudulent pretenses, endeavouring to induce a voter to vote for one of the Macdonald candidates. The charge itself is preposterous and, besides, is not founded on fact, as will be proven in due course. In the meantime every legitimate effort to secure Mr. Sullivan's release on bail has been flatly refused by the officers under your control.

If, as premier of this province, you consider the ends of justice and British fair play are to be served by such tactics, we are prepared to leave the matter in the hands of the electors of the constituency of Macdonald.

Signed on behalf of Mr. Richardson's committee.

EDWARD BROWN,
FRANK O. FOWLER,
E. D. MARTIN.

Rev. A. Gerritsma, a priest well known and much respected in the West, made the following statement to which the committee refer regarding Mr. Sullivan:

'I have known Mr. Sullivan well for a number of years. When I was priest at Esterhazy he was the president of our church committee. It was due principally to his efforts that our Catholic church was built there.

'Mr. Sullivan is highly respected by the citizens of the place of all denominations. If my memory serves me correct, he was one of the councillors of the village.

'Mr. Sullivan is a man in whom I personally would trust everything. Needless to say I was much surprised to get a message that he was in the provincial jail. As soon as I heard he was incarcerated I went to see him. In speaking to him I became convinced that he has done nothing wrong. Consequently he is not worrying.

'If that's the only way the Conservatives can win the Macdonald election, by putting an innocent man in jail, then I've nothing more to say. It's disgusting—too ridiculous for expression.

'The facts of the case are clear. The man was arrested, having done nothing illegal. He was rushed off to prison, and until yesterday afternoon his counsel was denied access to him.

'I am certain, absolutely positive, there is nothing wrong in his case.'

That I think is stronger evidence than any that has been produced on the other side.

With reference to my visit to the constituency of Macdonald I have nothing to apologize for. I was invited there by this same committee but if, as a citizen of the West, I desire to go into any other province of my own accord and take some platform, I feel justified in doing so. There was not however, one man who went from Saskatchewan to that constituency without the invitation of the electors of Macdonald.