

and deliberately omitted from the Act? Why has the control of the elections been taken out of the hands of commanding officers who could not depart from the straight line of rectitude without incurring disgrace and dismissal from the service, and given over entirely to Welsh and his gang of kindred spirits—Welsh, who has torn up letters and telegrams of serious importance; Welsh, whose connection with recent election crooked work is not above suspicion; Welsh, who as a school trustee has acted as a tout for the Conservative association; Welsh, who sells places on the patronage list; Welsh, who has recently used his position on the school board to extort money from merchants who are tenderers for supplies to the board; Welsh, whose name had to be scored from the Con-

servative ticket in order that it might be deodorized?

Why has Mr. Bowser departed from the federal Act and deprived the opposition of agents and scrutineers, if it were not that dirty work might be done in the dark? Why has he left out every sane provision in the federal Act intended to ensure purity of elections? It will not suffice for Mr. Bowser to assume an injured air and whine that to suggest manipulation is to "insult" him. There can be nothing clearer in the world than that manipulation is the sole object he has in view. The Act proves it. Its provisions demonstrate it. Its omissions make it clear beyond all possible doubt. If to state these things is to insult Mr. Bowser, we state them, nevertheless, and every intelligent elector will agree with us.

CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE SOLDIERS

(The Sun, Monday, July 31, 1916).

Mr. Bowser informs the World: "That the government is giving every attention to the requests from the Prohibitionists regarding suggested changes in the procedure for safeguarding the soldiers' vote on the prohibition referendum was the assurance given by Premier Bowser to a World reporter this morning.

"The whole intent, he said, was to give the soldiers all the privileges of the voting as we would have it in British Columbia both on the referendums and the candidates and under just as rigid safeguards."

Coupling this statement with the editorial remark of the morning Bowser organ that it is not yet too late to make needed changes, there is some hope that the lieutenant-governor-in-council may yet adopt regulations amending the Act as provided

in section 17. The Sun's complete exposure of the conspiracy to manipulate the soldiers' vote may therefore not be ineffectual. We will not cease to scrutinize the amendments, however. Mr. Bowser has demonstrated how carefully he needs watching.

If the whole intent was to apply "just as rigid safeguards" to the soldiers' vote as the law provides for a general election, it is strange that the safeguards are left out of the Act. It is even more strange that while pretending to base the provincial Act on the federal Soldiers' Voting Act, Mr. Bowser has copied the latter slavishly until it comes to a question of safeguards, when he has found it convenient to skip them entirely.

If Mr. Bowser is at last driven to