

going to explain that it is impossible that this thing could be done and that it was not done.

It seems remarkable that this is possible in spite of the legal safeguards. Yet the scheme to defraud these electors was carefully planned. For federal elections we now accept the provincial lists which are compiled from the municipal records. The Liberals in St. Mary's, therefore, got control of the municipal machinery. Then they excluded all Conservatives from the assessors and the board of revisers, who have to do with the preparation of the municipal lists. Without notice to the parties concerned, and without even posting the preliminary lists, as required by law, the revisers struck off the names of 83 Conservatives whose qualifications for voting are undoubted. The thing was done so quietly that the by-election was on before the imposition was discovered. Then it was too late to enforce a remedy by legal means. That the plot was deliberately laid can hardly be denied since only Conservatives were made to suffer, and the whole business was done in the dark. The proceedings are so scandalous and so contrary to fairness that the exposure ought to be sufficient to effect punishment and redress.

This is a specimen of the editorials which are appearing in the leading Conservative newspapers in regard to this matter. The first statement is that the Liberals obtained a majority of 77 in the district of St. Mary's in excess of the majority they obtained in 1900, and the reason given by this newspaper is that the names of 83 Conservatives were struck from the lists thus enabling the Liberals to get a majority in that section. The municipality of St. Mary's consists of seven polling divisions and four of these divisions along the Atlantic seaboard comprise electoral district No. 1, and it is in the following districts that it is said the lists were tampered with: Mary Joseph, Liscomb, Sherbrooke and Port Hillford. Now as a matter of fact there was practically no increase in the vote polled for the Liberal candidate in Revisal District No 1. The increase was made in the remaining sections of St. Mary's where no question whatever arose about the lists. The editor says that:

Without notice to the parties concerned, and without even posting the preliminary lists, as required by law, the revisers struck off the names of 83 Conservatives.

I have a statement under oath from the reviser, Mr. Ross, who appears to have acted as chairman of the Board, that the facts were altogether exaggerated, that instead of 83 Conservatives being struck off, there were only 21 names altogether consisting of both Liberals and Conservatives struck off, in this revision that took place one year prior to the election held on the 16th March and that out of these 21 names there was not a single one of them that should not have been struck off, except half a dozen, and those were struck off in an error made in copying the list. Three of the six were Conservatives and three Liberals so that there could not have been

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anything political in connection with that, and it could have had no result whatever on the election. These are the facts as set forth in the declaration of Mr. Ross. It is said in the editorial that we have here that this was not discovered until it was too late. We begin the revision of the lists in Nova Scotia on the 20th January in each year. That revision is closed on the 18th March and the lists on which this election was run were completed and closed on the 18th March, 1903. The election did not take place until the 16th March, 1904, and there could be no change whatever in the lists between these dates. When they are completed the lists are deposited with the county clerk and any person has the right to get a copy. The county clerk sends them to the King's Printer and these lists on which this election was run were printed early in the summer of 1903, at the time that this House was in session. They were circulated amongst Conservatives as well as Liberals. I have no doubt that Mr. Gregory in the autumn of 1903, got his 21 copies of the lists for the election held on the 16th March, 1904, and that he was in possession of these for seven or eight months prior to the election. We heard no complaint. The municipal councils appoint these revisers. The municipal council at St. Mary's held two meetings during the period between the time these lists were made and the time that the election was run and there was no complaint made before the municipal council in regard to the conduct of the revisers or that of their officers. The local legislature of Nova Scotia held one session between these dates and the Conservative organizer, Mr. Tanner, who is the leader of the opposition in the local house, made no complaint in regard to the lists in Guysborough. We had six weeks of public discussion in that county. There was scarcely a schoolhouse or a hall in that county during the election in which there were not orators on both sides addressing the people and I never heard of any complaint being made in regard to the lists in Guysborough until six weeks after the election was over and the letter of 'Oculus' was first printed. If the names of a large number of Conservatives were surreptitiously struck from the lists a few days before the election would not the changes have been rung at every meeting in every schoolhouse during the election upon that fact?

Mr. BELL. Did any one ever make the statement that these names were struck from the lists a few days before the election?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes, I have read it.

Mr. BELL. This is not in the letter of 'Oculus.' That is only a summary the hon. gentleman has read. It is not the original.

Mr. SINCLAIR. It was said persistently by every Conservative newspaper. It may