

Canada ballot-stuffing and ballot-plugging was being legalized.

What did we see at the last election? Polls were held in the United States, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, to take the votes of those men who knew nothing of Canada, men who did not know the names of the electoral divisions, much less the names of the candidates. Polls were held in very many places in the United States, and electors voted there to determine the fate and policy of Canada for the next four or five years. I said that these men would have to be coached and that their ballots would go to the doubtful counties. I never expected that that would be but a hundredth part of the truth. The military of Canada, here and in Europe, were entitled to state their preference as to the county to which their vote would go, if they could not remember the place in Canada where they had been for a time, or if they had not been four months resident in this country prior to their enlistment. Here are the questions that were put to them by the Military Voters' Act:

6. Specify the names of the place or places in Canada (giving streets and numbers, where possible) whereat you last continuously resided during at least four months of the twelve months immediately preceding your appointment, enlistment, enrolment or calling out on active service.

7. State if you can the electoral district wherein such place or places in which you so resided are situate.

8. If you cannot specify as required by question No. 6, or state as required by question No. 7, then state in what electoral district or place within Canada you have resided at any other time than is referred to in question No. 6.

9. If none of your answers to questions Nos. 6, 7 and 8 specify or state as required thereby, to what electoral district do you desire your vote to be applied?

This question was put to all the soldiers on the other side and to those in camp in Canada. This Act, needless to say, opened the door to fraud. The Canadian soldiers were invited, honourable gentlemen, to switch their votes from the county in which they had resided to a county wherein their vote would be effective. In the very heart of the province of Quebec, within striking distance of the city of Montreal, in broad day-light, in the presence of representatives of both parties, eight hundred votes were switched into one county where they could be more effective. I have seen the instructions given to those eight hundred soldiers, and under the placid eye of the colonel and with his co-operation the trick was done. The instructions to those soldiers stated

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that it was needless for them to lose their vote if it would not be effective in their own county, and that they should put it where it could be effective. The questions which I have read to you were printed in a small weekly, published for the soldiers in barracks, and an answer was suggested to enable them to switch their ballots to a county near Montreal. They were told: "To the sixth question, 'what place did you live in for the four months preceding your election?' You will answer, 'Cannot say.' To the seventh question, 'Can you name the county in Canada wherein you resided?' answer, 'Cannot say.' To the eighth question answer, 'Cannot say.'" That allowed them to vote for the Government in a county where the Government were badly in need of those switched ballots.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: May I ask the honourable gentleman if those are not the votes that Mr. O'Connor, the General Returning Officer, threw out here?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I was just going to say that. The evidence will show that many of the officers, from the highest to the lowest, made a false oath.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: What is that?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Took a false oath.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: They were sworn.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: They took an oath declaring that they did not know what their residence was, previous to their enlistment, although most of them were Canadians, some of them officers of high rank, and they switched their vote to a county where it would be more effective.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUTON: How could the Government prevent that?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: By seeing that no such legislation was placed on the statute-book. I will answer my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Sharpe) who has just asked me a question. Yes, the General Returning Officer did reject those eight hundred votes. But let my honourable friend understand that a similar effort was made and carried on in Europe, according to correspondence I have from the other side.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: Successfully.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: In the case of many constituencies where there was a large number of soldier electors, the soldiers were asked to switch their vote into a doubtful county and not lose it in a county where there was no need of it.