

not offer themselves, and honorable workers would not take part in the election. It was necessary to devise some means by which honest men could be elected by honorable means, or else to surrender the entire business of municipal politics to the unscrupulous element of the community. To this end, the young men made the following experiment. A parliamentary election was close at hand, and selecting a candidate whose character was good, they offered to man and operate, free of expense, the two worst polls in his constituency. Their offer was accepted, and the experimenters were given full control. The two lists comprised about 400 names. A portion of these were merchants, but the great majority were of the poorest and most ignorant class. Thirty-five fraudulent votes had been polled in this locality in a previous election, and the people of the district fully expected to maintain their reputation. The first step on the part of the would-be-reformers was to devise printed cards as follows:

District No.	Poll No.	Voter No.
Name		
Registered Residence		
(If removed)		
Qualification		
Occupation		
Height		
Build		
Complexion		
Whiskers		
Color of Eyes		
Age		
Peculiarities		

Inside.

District No.	Poll No.	Voter No.
Name		
Business address		
When to be called for		
Sentiments		

Outside.

There was one of these cards to correspond with each elector. The heading was filled in from the voters' lists: the description was obtained by personal visitation. For four weeks, every night was spent in looking up these voters and obtaining the requir-

ed data, but the work was done thoroughly, and when election day arrived, not even the prefect of the Paris police could identify his people better. At each poll sat the watcher with his pack of description cards, and no man polled his vote unless the watcher was satisfied. Six attempts to pass the watchers were made, and when it became evident that further attempts were not only useless, but extremely dangerous, these efforts ceased. This system, with slight modifications, has now been in use in Montreal for three years, and has proved effective when applied on a scale much more extensive than in the case of its first application.

Encouraged by their unqualified success, the young men determined to form an independent organization, and on April 1st, 1892, the first constitution of the Volunteer Electoral League was promulgated. The objects, as therein set forth, are as follows:—

1. To revise and perfect the voters' lists.
2. To encourage the nomination of candidates of known integrity for public office.
3. To use all *legitimate* means to secure their return.
4. To prevent fraudulent and dishonest practices in elections.
5. To cause to be followed up and prosecuted, to the full extent of the law, those detected in any violation of the Election Act.
6. To suggest and promote any legislation, approved by the League, having for its object the purity of elections.

It was also clearly stated that the organization should be purely non-political, its members believing that civic affairs should be wholly divorced from national issues: that it should not aspire to become a nominating body, this function being left to municipal organizations composed of older men; that possible aspirants for municipal honors, and officers of political clubs, should be excluded from membership: that its funds should be raised by subscription among citizens, no donation to be received from any civic official, representative or candidate; that the services of every member should be voluntary, and the or-