

THE HERALD

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Please send in your subscriptions.

As will be seen elsewhere in this issue, Hon. Mr. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance in the Laurier Cabinet is now without a seat in Parliament. For nearly two years everything possible has been done to prevent the case coming to trial, and when at last the trial commenced, the counsel for Mr. Fielding made a strong fight to prevent its continuance on the pretence that the court had no jurisdiction. Formal technicalities constituted the ground for argument. The court, however, decided the trial should continue and it only took a short time to prove that Mr. Fielding's agents spent large amounts of money to corrupt the voters of the Queens-Sheburn constituency. The riding had been previously flooded with public money for real or imaginary public works. There was not a nook or corner of the county but had public works of some kind constructed. Bridges were built where there were no roads and wharves where there was no water. Notwithstanding all this, when the election came on, money was flying about the riding as thick as leaves in Valombrosa. A favorite method was to put a five dollar bill into the overcoat pocket of the man driving voters to the poll and allowing his pockets to be picked. The witnesses seemed to be all at once afflicted with loss of memory. A correspondent of the Halifax Herald at Liverpool states that the disease was first manifested in a witness who could not remember that he had given a voter's wife five dollars before election day, sworn to by the husband, suddenly became convalescent when he was told he took it out of his wallet.

"That is not true. I did not, he asserted. "Did not what?" "Did not take it out of my wallet." "Well, did you give it to her?" At this point the disease hopelessly supervened and he declared, "I cannot remember." From that point out, the witness remembered nothing. He had no recollection of attending any meetings, of receiving money or in fact of doing anything except what would have been proper in a Sunday school teacher. Other witnesses were equally useless. But after all enough was worked out of them to compel Chief Justice Weatherbie and Mr. Justice Russell to declare the seat of the Minister of Finance vacant. The something would happen to many other Nova Scotia seats if they could be brought to trial.

Ottawa Weekly Letter.

THE THIN RED LINE Investigation by the Election Laws Committee. How Four Manitoba Seats Were Stolen.—Mr. Leach, Party Organizer and General Reviser of Lists—9399 Names Struck Off—Mr. Leach, Rewarded With a \$2,000 Office, and Sent Out to Investigate Offenders. Another Boundary Question and an Indiscreet Map. Just and Duncan May Be Forgiven, Even Though They Did Not Steal Money and Seats—Rainmaker Hatfield Gets Away Safe—Not Necessary to Warn Others Since the Canadian Government Is the Limit in Easy Marks—The 'Arctic' Is Off On Her Second Romance—A Government Real Estate Deal.

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Ottawa, Aug. 11, 1906.

During the late session a special committee, charged with the amendments to the Election Law, took occasion to inquire into the circumstances of the last Dominion election in Manitoba. The

"thin red line" scandal was partially investigated. A number of the electoral lists with the lines through them were exhibited and a fair idea was obtained of the way in which certainly three and probably four seats were stolen for the government out of the ten seats in the province.

A BEAUTIFUL PERFORMANCE

The process was simple and effective. All it needed was the right kind of men to work it, and as the government had the appointment of returning officers the scheme worked out like a charm. It was safer than the trick ballot boxes of Frontenac and Hastings, more certain than the substitution of ballots performed in West Huron, Brockville and West Elgin, and was less public than the cruise of the Minnie M.

In Manitoba the original lists are prepared under provincial law, as they are in other provinces. The Manitoba system provides for the preparation of a list before each election, and for personal registration of electors every year. When the Dominion election of 1904 took place there was such a revised list.

Local electoral districts in Manitoba are smaller than the Federal divisions and the boundaries of polling places do not correspond. Returning officers have the power to arrange the list of polling places, assigning to each elector the place where he should vote. It was under this power that the "thin red line" lists were prepared.

HOW THE TRICK WAS PLAYED

When the revised lists were received from the Printing Bureau by the returning officers they were in a large number of cases carried or sent by these officers to Winnipeg. There they were received by Mr. R. E. A. Leach, who had been a government campaigner, and was at that time the chief organizer of the party in the province. It is almost incredible, but the fact is established on the oath of returning officers themselves, that they were instructed to send on or give their official lists to this organizer. In Leach's office the official document was carved up and hundreds of names were marked out with red lines. Voters whose names were erased had no knowledge of the change until they appeared at the poll originally designated and asked for a ballot. Some of them were then told that their names were probably on a list in some other polling place, though if they were Conservatives they could not learn which one it was. Hundreds were taken rapidly from village to village all election day looking for their poll and never finding it. Hundreds were struck off in one place and never registered in another. Hundreds were transferred to polls farther from their homes than the one where they expected to vote, and too far to be reached after they had learned the facts. Not one Conservative had any way of knowing before he went to the poll what had happened. The re-arranged lists were not posted as the law required. Private notice was given to any Liberals who might have been transferred.

Mr. Leach was not an election official. He was not openly known in the case until afterwards. But he had his agents all over the province beforehand ascertaining the political sympathies of the electors and preparing for this splendid operation. BETWEEN NINE AND TEN THOUSAND. Additional light is now thrown upon this deal by the statement of Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works of Manitoba, who has made examination of the "Red line" list, and declares that 9,399 electors were disfranchised by this process. The following is the record by constituencies:—Marquette 1,919; Provencher 568; Portage-la-Prairie 1,395; Souris 1,258; Lisgar 1,181; Macdonald 1,721; Selkirk 1,406. Now the government majority in Provencher was 10, in Portage 885, in Lisgar 180 and in Selkirk 507. Marquette, Souris and Macdonald elected Conservatives in spite of the conspiracy. It seems plain that if this fraud had not taken place the representation of Manitoba would have been 7 Conservatives to 3 Liberals instead of 7 Liberals and 3 Conservatives. A MATTER OF TESTIMONY. Some of the men concerned in this conspiracy were prosecuted and a number escaped to the United States. Several pleaded ignorance and the juries disagreed as to their personal criminality. But the main facts were well established. One deputy returning officer swore that he took the list into the office of Mr. Leach

who undertook to fix it for him. He left the paper with the organizer and afterwards went back and obtained it with a number of names struck out. Though the returning officer was responsible he did not take trouble to ascertain whether the changes were proper or not, as is shown by his own testimony. "Q. You did not know anything about the list?" A. No. "Q. They may have been different lists altogether for all you know?" A. Yes. "Q. They may have been lists for Macdonald or Winnipeg?" A. Yes, they may have been. "Q. You took his word (Mr. Leach's) that these were the lists you wanted with the different polling sub-divisions and that satisfied you then?" A. Yes. "Q. This officer admitted that he left the red line list open in the liberal committee room after it had been fixed. This was in Provencher, where 558 were disfranchised and where the government majority was 10. In one polling place 13 names were struck out and they were all Conservatives; in another polling division the red line went through the names of 15 men who had voted at that place for years, every one of whom was a Conservative. It will be seen that Mr. Leach did his work very well.

VERILY HE HAD HIS REWARD

And he was not left without his reward. The election took place in November 1904. Hansard for 1905, page 1152, contains the following question and answer. Mr. Boyce asked: "Is R. E. A. Leach at present in the employ of the Canadian government? If so what position does he hold, when was he appointed, and at what salary?" Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier: "Yes, he is inspector of Dominion lands agencies, was appointed Jan. 1st, 1905, at \$2,000 a year." The premier did not even wait until the criminal trials were concluded.

LEACH AS JUDGE

One of the first duties of Mr. Leach, after his appointment, was to investigate the delinquencies and embezzlements in the MacLeod sub-agency of Dominion lands. He found there a sub-agent who had collected money and had not paid it over, whose books were in some cases destroyed, in others mutilated by the tearing out of stubs. In certain records of payments dates were falsified. Evidences of fraud were everywhere manifest, so Mr. Leach reported. But Mr. Nixon had been a campaign manager for the government in that locality and was a great supporter of Mr. Oliver. On payment of the money missing, so far as could be ascertained, he was allowed by Mr. Leach to resign. The Inspector reported that Nixon charged his son with the whole offence. This lad was said to have been 15 years old when the stealing and falsifying of books began. When Mr. Leach was there the youth had withdrawn to a neighboring village. No effort was made to find him or deal with him, though he returned to MacLeod a few days after Mr. Leach left and lived there happily ever after. Mr. Nixon was not prosecuted. On the contrary, within a fortnight after Mr. Leach's report of the fraud and embezzlement was sent to the Government, the subject was appointed to another and better office in the same department.

AN UNFORTUNATE MAP

The department of justice is involved in a boundary dispute between Canada and Newfoundland, both claiming the same territory on the Labrador coast. The matter has become urgent through the seizure by the Quebec Crown Land authorities of timber cut under Newfoundland title in the disputed territory. Mr. Gervais, M. P., acting for the Quebec government, has been here consulting with the deputy-minister of justice. One of the difficulties that the Dominion will meet in making good the Canadian claim is a map published under the authority of the Interior Department which gives a very generous allowance of Newfoundland color to the Labrador coast strip. This map is evidently an indiscretion but Newfoundland will take all possible advantage of it.

JUST AND DUNCAN

Mr. Oliver will find in England a rather strong demand on the part of resident Canadians to have two dismissed officials of the Immigration Department restored to their position. The cases of Mr. Just and Mr. Duncan, who were dismissed by Mr. Preston, Chief Commissioner of Immigration, is weak in one respect. It is not shown that they have ever stolen from the Dominion Treasury, or paid money to procure perjury, or disfranchised a few thousands of voters by a process of election fraud, or that they swindled ignorant immigrants out of their scanty savings, or that they procured trick ballot boxes, or held a bogus poll on the prairie. Since they are not Nixons or Wagners or Jack

sons or Mobleys, or Thessalon post-masters their chances for restoration are reduced.

THE CRIME OF JUST

Mr. Just committed the offence of writing to the Deputy Minister that the Department was apparently paying three prices for printing farm out to the Arundel Printing Co., otherwise Roy Somerville, intimate friend of Mr. Preston. Mr. Just did not state, because he probably did not then know, that Arundel was endorsing one quarter of the proceeds to Leopold, of the notorious labor bureau, and another quarter to Mr. Preston's other intimate friend Karlberg of the North Atlantic Trading Co. But Mr. Just told as much as he knew. He did not last long in the office after Mr. Preston got home. It should be said that Mr. Preston was away and Mr. Just was in charge when he made the discovery which proved so unfortunate for himself. His fate was an illustration of the maxim set forth in the Biglow papers.

A TOUGH CANDID YOUTH

The other candidate for re-instatement was a clerk in Mr. Preston's office. It came to his notice that circulars were going out inviting artisans and mechanics desiring to emigrate to call upon Leopold of the Labor Bureau and hear something to their advantage. It was also noticed by Mr. Duncan that when persons not of the agricultural class came to the government office they were told to go next door, where Mr. Leopold, owing to the good offices of Mr. Preston, had secured a place of business. Knowing that the declared policy of the government was opposed to this proceeding the young man explained the situation to the Department at Ottawa and it got out to the general public. Mr. Preston explains that Mr. Duncan's financial accounts were not in good shape. So he caused the clerk to disappear. Mr. Oliver may find it in his heart to forgive the two great candour of this ingenious youth and give him another chance to learn and practice the policy of concealment, duplicity and graft, as it prevails in the Department of the Interior.

EXIT THE RAINMAKER

Word has come that Rainmaker Hatfield has been practically driven out of the Yukon. The miners who did not get any water from his operations, got tired seeing him there in the pay of the country, and made it unpleasant. At Dawson, the public proposition was made that notice be sent all over the world warning the people against engaging Hatfield to work for them. On reflection, however, it seems to have been decided to let him go. There was no probability that any other concern could be found in the universe so rich and so reckless with money as the Dominion Government. Therefore, Hatfield could find no future victim. He reached the limit of official credit when he came to Canada. Hatfield has drawn the "expenses" as he went along, and so his experiment has not failed. He made money, if he didn't make rain.

THE ARCTIC OFF AGAIN

After several hair-raising escapes, the "Arctic" has once more got away from the St. Lawrence and is supposed to be streaming at full speed of 53 knots for the far north. Seeing that the "fine old crusted port" vintage of 1878 has been consigned, and that the campaign was exhausted in christening Prelontaine Harbour and Cape Laurier, there is a possibility that the ship may get somewhere and do something. The hope is expressed that the spare propellers are now so made by the favored contractors that they will fit the place where they belong, and that the windless will not require any immediate inquest as before by a coroner's jury of engineers.

ON A RAISING MARKET

Progress is reported in the purchase of several blocks of land in Ottawa East for the new departmental buildings. It is estimated that the grounds alone will cost well on to \$1,000,000. It would cost a good deal less if the Government had not patiently waited for the building on one corner of the land requiring of a stone structure which is now one of the largest departmental stores in this part of the country. It will all have to be torn down and the business paid for. It is understood that the company concerned has added to its share holders several prominent politicians, and perhaps one minister of the Crown. It is open to any one to believe that the property will be purchased a little cheaper by the government on this account.

Biggest Robbery.

Mail advices from Dawson City tell of the biggest robbery ever recorded in the Yukon's history, the amount involved being \$75,000, gold dust and bars to this value were shipped on the steamer Ida May by the Washington Alaska Bank to the Washington Trust Co., Seattle, Wash. The mystery is a deep one, not the slightest clue to the thief having been obtained. The theory is that the box was stolen before the ship left Fairbanks and a dummy substituted and watched down the Tanana River by a confederate of the thief who threw away the box upon reaching Fort Gibbon. On the voyage down the river a number of the passengers were marked on the lightness of the box and could not believe it contained nearly \$80,000 in pure gold. The theft was

discovered at Fort Gibbon and a large reward offered, but without success beyond the finding of dummy box in a sloop where it is supposed to have been thrown by a confederate for the purpose of making the people believe the robbery was committed at Fort Gibbon instead of at Fairbanks. Several Protection detachments had been sent but up to the time this dispatch left no trace had been obtained of the whereabouts of the stolen money or the thief.

Fielding Unseated.

The trial of the election petition against Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance was concluded at 11 o'clock on Friday evening last when the judge gave his decision declaring the election void in consequence of corruption by agent. The decision was that the personal charges against Mr. Fielding should be dismissed. But the Chief Justice, considering that the agency of E. M. Farrell had been established and that the payment to Seldon Weeks before the election of \$550 being unexplained, it must be presumed to have been illegal. The Chief Justice in delivering judgment said that he was impressed with the hardship of making a statesman whose whole duty was to serve his country responsible for the corrupt acts of a few agents among so many persons who innocently assisted in securing his election. The rules of agency were he said relaxed in election cases, and it was important for a judge to inform himself as to the practice of the election courts. He was sorry to relax the rule; but he felt himself bound by the decisions to hold that Farrell was an agent, and that Mallhal and Seldon were also agents.

Forest Fires in New Brunswick.

The following intelligence bearing date of Sunday last comes from Chatham, N. B. An immense amount of damage has already been done by forest fires along the line of the I. C. R. from Bathurst to Rogersville, and unless rain comes soon, several settlements are in imminent danger of being wiped out. Fires have swept from Rogersville to Barnaby River for a distance of eight or nine miles, and a terrible fire is now raging within a short distance of both villages. One hundred and fifty to two hundred men have been fighting the flames for several days, but on Saturday the heat was so intense that the men were forced to abandon the first line of trenches they were digging in an effort to control the flames and were compelled to start on a new line closer to the settlements. The whole country for miles around is a mass of flames, and a thick pall of smoke hangs over the Miramichi valley, shutting out the sky and turning the sun into a dun colored disc. As yet the fire had been mostly in the government lands, but now some of the best timber lands of this section are threatened, and the loss to private owners may be a heavy one. Yesterday the F. B. Snowball Company sent out a gang of men to look after their lands near Barnaby River, and to aid the settlers in fighting the flames. On Wednesday a fire was discovered by Wm. Knight of Black River in the rear of the farm lands, but before the men of that party could gather it had spread beyond control, and this with another supposed to have started on a spot called the Dry Hill, swept through the lands lying between Napan and Black River; and the latter place was only saved by a shift in the wind to the eastward. This forced the flames towards Bay du Vin, and reports from down river points state that the flames are dangerously near the settlements there and that a stretch of about seven or eight miles of country has been devastated. There are thirty or more men fighting the fire between Napan and Black River, and the McKnight road, which is the thoroughfare to Chatham, has been entirely cut off by the flames, which are sweeping along on both sides of the highway. Arch, Cameron, a milk dealer of Black River, stated on Saturday that the flames were at the fences at the back of the farm, and he had to destroy these to keep the flames from eating their way to his barns. Gillie's woods are reported destroyed, and the timber lands of John McEae and James Cameron were closely threatened at a late hour Saturday.

The Scottish Gathering.

The annual Scottish Gathering held at the Riverside Driving Park, Vernon River Bridge on Monday the 20th, was eminently successful, quite as successful, everything considered, as any gathering held under the auspices of the Galedonian Club for some years. There was a very large number of people from Charlottetown and from every section of the Province between Charlottetown and Murray Harbor. The members of the Galedonian Club and visiting clansmen arrayed in plaid and bonnet escorted by the boys' Highland Brigade with pipes and band and with banners flying, marched from the Club room to the railway station where the departure for Vernon River was made shortly after ten o'clock. The people came by special trains from Charlottetown, Murray Harbor and Summerside, by teams from the surrounding country, which came pouring in all day long, and on foot from the nearby sections. The train from Charlottetown consisted of eleven cars drawn by two engines, and was packed to its utmost capacity. It is estimated that there must have been over three thousand people on the grounds. The immense concourse of people was orderly in the highest degree and the day passed as agreeably as possible, considering the intense heat. The proceedings opened with addresses by his Hon. Lieutenant Governor, President Paton, and ex-Chief McEae. This was followed by the presentation to the Club of an address of welcome read by Mr. Daniel McDonald on behalf of the people of Vernon River Bridge. This was suitably acknowledged by President Paton, Chief Alexander McDonald, and by Alexander Martin, Esq. M. P. The programme of games was then entered upon and carried out with keen interest and spirited competition. The games were conducted by Mr. John McPhee and Mr. W. A. Scott, was clerk of the course. Following is the Prize List:

FUTTING THE LIGHT STONE.

- 1st, John McPheerson, Montague, 36 ft. 1 in.
- 2nd, Daniel P. McPheerson, Montague, 33 ft. 8 in.
- 3rd, J. M. Matheson, Murray Har. Rd. 33 ft. 7 in.
- 4th, B. F. Stewart, Boston, 33 ft. 6 in.

RUNNING HIGH LEAP.

- 1st, John McLeod, Valleyfield, 5 ft. 5 1/2 in.
- 2nd, Herbert M. Campbell, Montague, 5 ft. 4 in.
- 3rd, John McPheerson, Montague, 5 ft. 3 in.

TROWING LIGHT HAMMER (PES).

- 1st, Daniel G. McCormack, L. Duching, 97 ft. 7 in.
- 2nd, William McLeod, De Grey M. H. Rd. 97 ft. 6 in.
- 3rd, B. F. Stewart, Boston.
- 4th, Daniel J. McDonald, City.

220 YDS. RACE AMATEUR ALL COMERS.

- 1st, Parker Hopper, City.
- 2nd, P. A. Duff, City.

50 YDS. RACE.

- 1st, John McPheerson, Montague.
- 2nd, Daniel P. McPheerson, Montague.
- 3rd, P. Durrant, Summerside.

VALUING WITH PUMP GUNS.

- 1st, Charles McGregor, City, 8 ft. 9 in.
- 2nd, P. Durrant, Summerside.
- 3rd, Malcolm Matheson, Montague.
- 4th, John McLeod, Valleyfield.

120 YDS. RACE.

- 1st, John McPheerson, Montague.
- 2nd, Daniel P. McPheerson, Montague.
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150 YDS.—BOYS' HIGHLAND BRIGADE.

- 1st, Wallace McDonald, City.
- 2nd, Guy Scott, City.
- 3rd, R. J. Crosby, City.

1/2 MILE RUN—AMATEUR ALL COMERS.

- 1st, Phil Duffy, City.
- 2nd, Ivan Haddie, City.
- 3rd, Heath Horton, City.

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- 1st, John McPheerson, Montague, 19 ft. 11 in.
- 2nd, D. P. McPheerson, Montague.
- 3rd, B. F. Stewart, Boston.

SACK RACE.

- 1st, M. J. F. McKinnon, Charlottetown.

2nd, James McEhearn, City. 3rd, Malcolm Matheson, Montague. DANCING HIGHLAND GALLOP. 1st, James McDonald, Vernon River. 2nd, William C. McPhee, New Dominion. DANCING HIGHLAND FLING. 1st, James Calder, City. 2nd, Guy Scott and Charles A. Campbell, City.

FUTTING LIGHT STONE.

- Open to All comers who had not already competed in this event. 1st, D. M. McDonald, Heatherdale, 30 ft. 9 in.
- 2nd, Peter F. Campbell, Newport.
- 3rd, Malcolm Bell, Belle River.

220 YDS. RACE.

- 1st, D. M. McDonald.
- 2nd, John McLeod Valleyfield.
- 3rd, Herbert M. Campbell, Montague.

BOYS' RACE UNDER 10—150 YDS.

- 1st, Everett Dewart, City.
- 2nd, W. McDonald, City.
- 3rd, Guy Scott, City.

700 YDS. WALK.

- Vernon River vs Murray Harbor 10 men on each side. Decided a draw. A prize of \$5 given to each side.
- President's prize five dollar gold piece presented by President Paton to the best all round athlete awarded to John McPheerson, Montague Bridge.

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PROWSE BROS., Ltd.

Pinafores 29c.

Dainty little articles for children three to seven years, ready to slip on—another saving on mother's time and trouble. These are extra value and should be seen to be appreciated.

Pinafores of fine White Lawn well made and carefully finished, prettily trimmed with Hamburg at yoke and sleeves. For children from three to seven years. Special advertised price 29c.

Post Free to any Address.

We will mail any number of these Pinafores post paid on receipt of price. Money will be refunded if not more than satisfactory.

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Tailored in New York and designed from the very latest fashions. These linen suits are very swell and stylish. We have but five suits left and these five we offer at more than a third off to clear. New York Suits in Union Butchers Linen very prettily made. Coat in pony style—latest style skirt, perfect fitting and full proportioned. Regular \$6.50 now \$4.25

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The most stylish coat of the season at a snap! Now, just when wanted with the approach of fall, we were fortunate to