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A Little History--Not Ancient.

Before Liberals lend an ear to the outcry against the Ontario Government on the score of corruption, they will do well to consider a few facts.

The enemies of the Government would have them believe that the scandals which have smirched the good name of Liberalism in two or three constituencies are of peculiar and unexampled enormity, and that something new in the way of electoral crime has been invented by the so-called Liberal machine, namely, attacks on the sanctity of the ballot.

The West Elgin bye-election of six years ago is pointed to as typical of this new villainy, and Conservative speakers and writers would deceive Liberals into the belief that the case was absolutely unique, and that nothing quite so nefarious had occurred in the history of elections.

And yet the West Elgin case, about which such a clamor is made, was no worse than dozens of others which disgraced this country for years, and for which no Conservative paper or publicist had one word of reproach or regret. The most appalling and depressing fact was not the commission of these crimes, but the absolute apathy with which they were regarded by the great party in whose behalf they were practiced. It can at least be said for the Liberal party that it abhors the rascalities in West Elgin and Sault Ste. Marie, and has resolved to purge itself of all uncleanness. What has political purity to hope for from a party whose conscience was dead while crimes equally as heinous as those for which they reprobate the Liberal party were committed, not twice or thrice, but in dozens of constituencies, year after year, election after election? These are not matters of ancient history. We intend to go back no further than 1891, and to deal with ballot frauds only, not with bribery and the other forms of corruption which were rampant. The following record is absolutely authentic, being based on court and official records.

In the Haldimand bye-election of 1887 a deputy returning officer named Murray spoiled eight Liberal ballots, confessed his crime, and absconded to Buffalo. In 1890, in the same riding, the voters' lists were tampered with as they were being printed, and a few Liberal names were left off in nearly every subdivision, and a few Conservative names added. In Haldimand again in 1891, the polls were opened on the Indian reserve 55 minutes before the legal time, and a large number of bogus votes were polled before the Liberal scrutineers arrived. One of Montague's agents was tried for this crime, but escaped punishment, because one juror--only one--held out for acquittal. Four other Conservative agents implicated in the fraud were appointed to positions in the customs service. This was the famous election in which Montague forged Queen Victoria's name to a proclamation to the Indians.

In West Northumberland in 1891 Hargraff, Liberal, was declared elected by 26 majority. A recount was demanded and it was then learned that one of the deputy returning officers had taken the ballots out of his box and put them in his safe. The safe was opened, and the ballots tampered with. On the recount it was found that 48 Hargraff ballots had been stolen and replaced by 48 ballot papers printed on different paper and uninitialed. Seven more Hargraff ballots were detected. The deputy returning officers and scrutineers swore that all the ballots they had counted were initialed. Needless to say the judge found that fraud had been committed and gave Hargraff the seat.

In North Middlesex, in 1891, Taylor, Liberal, had a majority of three. The official figures gave Hutchins, Conservative, a majority of two. In the middle of a pile of Taylor ballots were found three ballots together, marked for both candidates. The marking was done after the election.

In South Victoria in 1891 several deputy returning officers without any reason rejected a large number of Liberal ballots. The Liberals applied for a recount, but because they deposited a check instead of cash the judge refused to hold the recount and they had no appeal. The fraud therefore remained uncovered.

In South Grey in 1891 Dr. Landerkin, Liberal, had a majority of 46. Seven ballot boxes were opened after the election, 25 Landerkin ballots were abstracted, and 25 forged ballots, marked for both, Conservative, were substituted. The Conservative deputy returning officers swore that their returns were correct and that the ballots must have been tampered with after leaving their hands.

In the Muskoka and Parry Sound election of 1891 the Liberal scrutineers were not allowed to vote, while as many as four Conservative scrutineers voted on certificates, although the law allows only two at a poll. The contents of two ballot boxes containing Liberal majorities were buried.

In South Wentworth in 1891 more ballots were found in the boxes in two divisions than were recorded in the poll book. On a recount it was found that one deputy returning officer had returned a majority of 30 for Carpenter, Conservative, when it was actually for Middleton, Liberal. Carpenter's majority was one, as a result of the recount, but fifteen good Liberal ballots were wrongfully placed in the envelope with the spoiled ballots. The judge had no authority to open this envelope; the fifteen good ballots were not counted, and Carpenter was unfairly returned.

In North Perth in 1891 one Henderson

swore to a list of 150 names at the revising barrister's court in Stratford, and being questioned on oath confessed that he had a personal knowledge of only two of them. This is a sample of what took place in scores of constituencies under the infamous franchise act, by which the whole electoral machinery was in the hands of creatures of the Tory party.

In the Chicoutimi bye-election of 1892 the returning officer telegraphed a man named Gossop to make a small wooden box and hold a poll at Point aux Esquimaux. "If you have no list," he wired, "allow those who are supposed to be electors to vote, and it will be all right." The deputy took the hint, and returned 62 votes for Belley, Conservative, and none for Savard, Liberal. Without these bogus votes, Savard would have been elected by 21 majority. The recount was held before a judge, who was the brother-in-law of the Tory candidate, and who counted in the 62 votes. Belley held his seat in the House of Commons until 1896 with the approval of the entire Tory party.

In the Kent, N. B., bye-election in 1892 the Conservative scrutineer at Ba-touche Bay was permitted to mark the ballots of 52 illiterate voters, who desired to vote for Leblanc, Liberal. He made the crosses so that part of the line cross on each came down over the line between the names of the two candidates. The deputy thereupon threw out the ballots.

In the above we have recounted only a partial list of the crimes committed in the interests of the Tory party in the general election of 1891 and the ensuing bye-elections. There were similar cases in Prince Edward County, Carleton, Brome, Que., and Chateauguay, Que. A gang of personators, pluggers and side-line artists operated in South Victoria, East Elgin, East Hastings, East Bruce, East Simcoe, South Perth, West Northumberland, West Huron and Haldimand. Liberal was declared elected by 56 majority.

The seat by 3 on a recount, ballots being allowed him which were not initialed by the deputy returning officers. How did those ballots get there?

In North Ontario in 1896 McGillivray, Conservative, was declared elected. A recount disclosed the fact that the envelopes containing the ballots had been opened and that in five polls, 21 ballots marked for Graham, Liberal, had been stolen and 21 marked for McGillivray substituted. The judge found that fraud had been committed, but McGillivray sat in the House one whole session and pocketed his indemnity.

In the Lincoln election of 1896 a number of shady characters, one an ex-convict, were appointed deputy returning officers. They met by appointment at the Breen House, St. Catharines, and were there instructed by a New York sharper, named Quackenbush, how to substitute Rykert ballots for those marked for Gibson, Liberal. They were given duplicate ballots for this purpose, also a sum of money on account and a promise of a bonus to the man who would steal the largest number of votes. A large number of the bogus ballots were used, but Gibson's majority was so large that the plot failed.

In 1896 there were three candidates in Parry Sound--Pratt, Liberal; McCormick, Conservative; and O'Brien, McCarthyite. McCormick was declared elected. Afterwards 40 ballots in one box, marked for Pratt and O'Brien, were found to have been tampered with. In some cases the crosses were erased, but so clumsily as to leave the pencil marks visible to the naked eye. The conspirators inserted a number of new ballots marked for McCormick, and neglected to remove a corresponding number of old ones.

In London in 1896 there were 280 rejected ballots in 15 subdivisions. In one subdivision, No. 8, the deputy rejected over 40 ballots marked for Hyman on the excuse that he could not recognize his own initials. These ballots were, of course, allowed by the judge on the recount. The deputy was given money to leave the country before the election trial came on. He returned when the clouds blew over and was rewarded with a position at the city hall.

In 1896 a plot to steal the entire Province of Manitoba for the Conservative party was engineered from Conservative headquarters in Toronto. A gathering of deputy returning officers was held in Winnipeg at which they received instructions how to spoil and "slip" ballots. The conspiracy succeeded but the Liberals afterwards unmasked it and sent a number of the criminals to prison.

Now for the Liberal record. Two men named Wildfong and Cummings were reported by the trial judges in North Waterloo in 1899 for defacing and fraudulently miscounting ballots. It was afterwards discovered that two witnesses in the trial, Shantz and Bosard, upon whose evidence the judges reported Wildfong and Cummings, were paid to give evidence, one of them being threatened with the loss of his liquor license in the event of a Conservative victory. Shantz admitted that he tried to sell his evidence to the Liberals. Wildfong and Cummings were prosecuted, however, by a Conservative crown attorney, and there was not a tittle of evidence to show that they were guilty of any offense. They were acquitted by the magistrate.

In West Elgin it is not denied that three or four persons, not residents of the riding, deceived the returning officer and were appointed deputies. There is every indication that they intended to resort to crooked practices, and Mr. McNish, a thoroughly honorable man, took it for granted that they had succeeded in their designs, when he afterwards learned of their presence in the riding. But all the evidence, including that of the Conservative scrutineers, goes to show that these strangers failed in their purpose, probably owing to the vigilance of the scruti-

ners. There was much ado over the accidental burning of the bye-election ballots in the Parliament buildings by the officials charged with the destruction of ballots cast in the general election, as the law requires. The public should be reminded that these bye-election ballots had been already thoroughly scrutinized by the court, and that only a trifling discrepancy existed between the returns of the deputy returning officers and the count by the court. There was no reason for wishing these ballots to be destroyed--quite the contrary, as the inadvertent burning of them enabled the Opposition to make some capital.

The only other Ontario election in which any gross irregularity occurred was in Sault Ste. Marie, where an official of the Lake Superior Consolidated Company, on his own responsibility, organized a band of scoundrels, who were carried from an American port, to personate voters in Michipicoten. The Attorney-General and the Liberals of Sault Ste. Marie, when notified of it, could not believe that anyone would conceive so crazy a project. The seven men reported for their connection with it are to be tried, and it is to be hoped punished severely if they are found guilty. Under the premiership of Mr. Ross, some 47 persons have been prosecuted for corrupt electoral practices.

It is no condemnation of Liberal corruption to say the Conservatives did worse. But there is one test which Liberals may apply with some satisfaction. Let them ask themselves which party has shown the greatest moral sensitiveness? The indignation in the Liberal party over a few crimes against purity has already resulted in a reconstruction of the party machinery. There is now no provincial organization, except for the purposes of distributing literature and imparting information. The Liberals of each riding must take care of themselves. They cannot even call in outside organizers to instruct them, for there are no such persons. They have no Albany Clubs, no Beattie Nesbitts to aid and counsel them. The Liberal party can work its own cure; it has within itself principles which will save it from the moral decrepitude into which the Conservative party fell, and where there is reason to think it still remains.

The Free Press complains that this great home journal is "too bitter" in its references to the municipal elections. The reproach is keenly felt. Our contemporary has earned the right to admonish us by the sweetness and light it always diffuses during an election campaign. It is scrupulously fair to opponents, and, like charity, thinketh no evil. It eschews personalities, counsels moderation, and would rather lose an election than stoop to anything petty or mean. While leaning to the Conservative side, it is always ready to recognize merit in the opposite party. Its passion for truth has earned for it the title of the George Washington of the Canadian press. Naturally it is pained to find its good example thrown away upon its contemporaries, but we realize that it rebukes us entirely out of kindness and for our own good. It is a beautiful exhibition of the Christmas spirit and we feel greatly chastened.

The Winnipeg Free Press sends its contemporaries every year a Christmas present, emblematic of the West. The year before last it was a tiny sack of No. 1 hard winter wheat and this year a gold-mounted gopher's tail. The Free Press is a great paper, and is sure to be charged with western enterprise. From the Victoria Times came a bunch of violets and a sprig of holly as a reminder of the range of climate in the broad Dominion.

The Patterson Woman.
[Milwaukee Sentinel.]
If Nan Patterson secures her expected acquittal and finds herself free to spend Christmas under the roof of her father, as has been her continual hope, she will not come in for any heartier congratulations than it will be in order to extend the reading of the public on the close of this scandalous case.

However innocent she may be of the crime for which she has been on trial, facts have come to light through her own admissions that are a reproach to her womanhood and which should stir sympathy in the exuberant order for her. There are offenses almost as dangerous to society as murder, and the Patterson woman out of her own mouth has confessed herself one of the greatest of them. Society can no more afford to look with lenient eye on such transgressions than it can on premeditated murder. Something more than mere loyalty to the moral code is involved. The integrity of society as a whole is at stake, and the well-being of the American home demand unsparring condemnation of the corrupt moral code, or rather the lack of anything that might properly be called a moral code, by which the consort of Caesar Young regulated her conduct as a wife and as a woman.

The least she can do, if acquitted, is to spend the remainder of her life in practical penance for the misdeeds to which she confessed with a sang froid that gives little reason to hope that she will do anything of the sort.

Beware of the Vimmens.
[Washington Star.]
The Chadwick business grows in seriousness and importance. It is stated that the bankers of Pittsburgh are refusing to confer with women on financial matters through the agency of being trapped in some wildcat money venture. This is the admonition of the elder Weller to his son, "Samuel," enlarged. He feared only "vimmens," and warned his son against them. The financiers of the Smoky City fear all women, and are adopting extreme measures against the "vimmens" which have been appearing so numerous in European and American newspapers, and in the Port Arthur, but of an obscure rear-admiral of the same name.

The amount of beer consumed in 1900 per inhabitant was 379 liters in Munich, 232 at Lille, 160 in Berlin, 145 in Vienna, 48 in Budapest, 28 in Moscow, and 11 in Paris.

The Best of Life.
[Spectator.]
Not till life's heat is cooled.
The headlong rush slowed to a quiet pace,
And every purblind passion that has ruled
Our noisier years, at last
Spurs us in vain, and weary of the race,
We care no more who loses or who wins--
Ah! 'till all the best of life seems past.
The best of life begins.

To toil for only fame,
Handclappings and the fickle gusts of praise,
For place or power or gold to gild a name,
Above the grave whereto
All paths will bring us, where to lose our way,
We, on whose ears youth's passing bell has tolled,
In blinding bulies, even as children do,
Forgetting we grow old.

But the world widens when
Such hope of trivial gain that ruled us lies
Broken among our childhood's toys, for then
We win to self-control!
And mail ourselves in manhood, and there rise
Upon us from the vast and windless night
Those clearer thoughts that are unto the soul.
What stars are to the night.

The Polecat.
[Toronto Star.]
Meanwhile the Conservative party in Ontario suspends judgment on the question whether Mr. Ganey is a horrible example, or a brand plucked from the burning.

She Didn't Sing Au Revoir.
[Toronto Star.]
Patti has given another last farewell at St. Petersburg. And of course some time during the programme, she sang "Home-Home Sweet-Home-Home-Home."

Where Yankees Teach Us.
[Hamilton Star.]

Yankees taunt us with the old worldly failure to appreciate and reward superior merit so as to keep Canadian talent in Canada. Perhaps something is to be allowed for greater wealth and population (at least, in the shape of rewards), of superior ability, trustworthiness and devotion that is found among our neighbors, and few Canadians there. Fleming's case is only one example, but it is typical of a fault. Let us hope that as our great west develops, and our country grows in wealth and population, we shall cease to give ground for reproach. And when that time comes we shall not have to lament the extinction of so many of our best men in quest of the appreciation they should have at home.

Seeing Things.
[Toronto Star.]
Having known what it is to "see things" when in liquor, the Baltic fleet is now said to have induced a drunken sailor to imagine a few Japanese torpedo boats among the trawlers on the Doggerbank.

A Clever Case.
[London Tit-Bits.]

A story is told of a speech recently made by an attorney. He was for the plaintiff, whose cow had been knocked down and killed by a train, and this was the contents of his speech: "If the train had been run as it should have been run, or if the bell had been rung as it should have been rung, or if the whistle had been blown, or if they did neither, the cow would not have been injured when she was killed."

"LAYING" FOR LEROY
Ohio Sheriff Balked in Efforts to Get Hold of Dr. Chadwick.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 27.--Sheriff Berry, of Chenango County, Ohio, who expected to arrest Dr. Leroy S. Chadwick, husband of Mrs. Chadwick, when he lands in New York today, on the charge of forging the name of Andrew Carnegie, met a check in his plans yesterday, when he failed to obtain from Gov. Odell the requisition papers necessary to permit the transportation of Dr. Chadwick to Ohio for trial. He called at the executive chambers in the Capitol yesterday morning, but was informed by Judge John T. Boyce, the governor's pardon and requisition clerk, that his papers were defective in that they failed to prove that Dr. Chadwick was in the State of Ohio on March 5, 1903, when the alleged forgery was committed.

Sheriff Berry decided not to try to correct his papers now, but to go on to New York and arrest Dr. Chadwick, and arrange for his requisition afterword.

"SWISS FOOD" TASTES GOOD.
You don't have to acquire a taste for "SWISS FOOD"--the best of breakfast cereals--it's delicious. P. McIntosh & Son, Millers, Toronto.

ACCUMULATION ASSISTED

Every cent a man puts into life insurance is laid by toward the formation of an estate. It is in many cases an estate which would never have been otherwise accumulated. Most men find that life insurance saves for them the money they would have otherwise spent in non-essentials. Get rates from V. Reeve, general agent for the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company, Masonic Block, London, Ontario.

Sore Throat and Coughs

A simple, effective and safe remedy for all throat irritations is found in **Crescogene Antiseptic Tablets**. They combine the germicidal value of Crescogene with the soothing properties of slippery elm and licorice. 10c. All Druggists.

A mail bag captured by the Boers in 1899 has just been recovered. It contained 47 registered letters, in which were about \$350 in cash, a number of postal orders, a draft for \$1,000, documents involving a sum of \$25,000, and two wills.

Coughs, colds, hoarseness, and other throat ailments are quickly relieved by Vapo-Crescogene tablets, ten cents per box. All druggists.

The railway traveler in Japan buys a first, second or third class ticket; or, if he wishes to go cheaper still, he can get a ticket entitling him simply to stand on the platform. Many of the cars can be entered either from the side or the end.

The war correspondent of the Manchester (England) Guardian states that the portraits of Admiral Togo, which have been appearing so numerous in European and American newspapers, and in the Port Arthur, but of an obscure rear-admiral of the same name.

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DRESS GOODS SPECIALS

For Children's Dresses.

Nun's Veiling, in cream, pink and navy. Sale price 25c to 32c.

Cashmere Serges.

All-wool, 46 inches wide, in leading shades of light blues, navy, cadet, fawn, grays, beaver, reseda, heliotrope, mauve, brown, cardinal. A bargain at 40c.

Cream Serges.

Various weaves. Prices from 40c to \$1.20.

Special for Wrappers and House Gowns.

Table of odd lines. Regular prices from 50c to \$1.00. Your choice for 25c.

Dress Patterns.

A good assortment of colorings, and exclusive patterns. Regular price from \$6.00 to \$10.00. Your choice for \$3.00.



Ladies' Silk Blouses.

SPECIALS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

Silk Blouses.

In white and colors, latest styles, very dainty. Prices from \$3.00 to \$5.00.

French Flannel Blouses, in sky, white, cardinal and red. Prices from \$1.50 to \$3.50.

Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Skirts.

Ladies' Skirts, in all-wool materials, newest styles. Prices from \$2.00 to \$8.00.

Ladies' Coats.

Coats in All-Wool Frieze, three-quarter lengths, tight-fitting styles, also box backs. Regular \$7.50. To clear for \$4.00.

Golf Jackets.

Golf Jackets, all wool, blouse and tight-fitting styles, in cardinal, navy, black, white. Special at \$2.00.



"What We Advertise Is So."

KINGSMILL'S

Standard in Quality--Always Satisfactory.

DRY GOODS STORES.
130 DUNDAS AND 131 CARLING STREET.
LARGEST CARPET HOUSE IN CANADA
CARPET HOUSE, 125 AND 130 CARLING STREET

My mother has the prettiest feet.
Or any lady on our street.
She's most particular about
Her rubber shoes when she goes out.
And GRANBY RUBBERS--trim and neat,
Are just the ones for pretty feet.

There are two special features about GRANBY RUBBERS.
THEY LOOK WELL, AND THEY WEAR LIKE IRON.

Matured Stock.

We have been maturing stock since April, 1899. The cut to the left is a reduced fac-simile of check No. 12,183, paid June 11, 1902.

\$3 Deposited Monthly Does the Trick.

Get union earnings for your savings, as well as for your labor. The People's Co-operative Plan carries unionism to its logical conclusion. CALL AND TALK IT OVER.

Peoples Building and Loan Ass'n.,
428 Richmond Street, LONDON, ONT.

Begin Jan. 2, 1905.

Formerly in Devonshire the reapers, when they had finished, would weave a ring of wheat. Holding to this the last of the year, and the reapers would form a circle and shout together "Wee wee!" (we end), after which one bore the ring to the house and had the privilege of kissing the first maid he met.

The Indian rhinoceros is nearly extinct. There are two specimens in the London Zoological Gardens and two on the island of Sumatra. Very few are left in a wild state in India and Assam, and unless special measures be taken for their preservation they will soon disappear.

The British Government is experimenting with a new torpedo for destroying submarine mines. Its mechanism is such that, if it misses the mine it has been elementary school in existence.