

and being in the charge of the election frauds in France, although a Government officer, as Sir George Perley, by the way, was then. Lieut.-Col. Reid carried out Hector McInnes' instructions in letter and in spirit; these instructions by letters and telegrams enumerated the fraudulent votes that were to be switched to the various constituencies. These included the Prime Minister's, the Finance Minister and the Speaker of the House of Commons. Perjury, forgery, personation and threatened despatch to the front trenches aggregated tens of thousands of votes for the Government.

### **COL. REID'S LITTLE BOAST.**

Lieut.-Col. Reid's verbal account of his accomplishments includes the voting of several British regiments. This was effected by his explanation to British officers that it was necessary to "down the pacifists in Canada." His story is also garnished with an account of sending twelve or fifteen men, who declared that they would not vote for the Government, out on a forlorn hope to "No Man's Land," not one of whom ever returned. (A voice, "Good God.") This is Lieut.-Col. Reid's own story, as given to me by one of his friends in London.

### **SWORN TESTIMONY AVAILABLE.**

I don't know whether it is true or not, but I am prepared to prove, under sworn testimony, that more than a score were either sent into the fighting line because they declined to vote for the Government or were threatened with immediate return to the trenches if they would not mark their ballots for the Government in the presence of commanding officers. To one whose brother had been killed the warning was added, "And you know what happened your brother." The situation created by such threats has no parallel in history. Liberty subject to coercion of this character is slavery of the worst kind. The martyrdom of John Brown, ill-advised enthusiast as he may have been, had a semblance of legal setting, but it became the great rallying cry throughout the North in the fight for freedom. Every one connected with this coercion among the soldiers in France and England should be brought to account, no matter how influential may be his position. (Hear, hear.)

### **FAITH IN THE COUNTRY.**

No man can make me believe that this country will stand for the least even of these offences. (Cheers.) I should say crimes. (Cheers.) I have seen voting at elections in England, Holland, Germany, Hungary, South Africa, Australia and Japan. In all these countries the right to vote is a sacred trust. Great Britain went to war with the Transvaal because Paul Kruger would not confer the franchise on Englishmen who had taken out naturalization papers. That is the value the British nation puts upon the value of a vote. From the signing of the Magna Charter by King John in 1214 down to the passage of the Franchise Act by the British Parliament in 1918, the masses have only secured their rights through great tribulation. The right to vote is the pearl of great price.

### **PURITY OF ENGLISH ELECTIONS.**

In Great Britain so jealously are these rights guarded and the purity of elections secured, that by a corrupt act on the part of an agent, a member is not only unseated, but he is disqualified from being a candidate for the House of Commons during the continuance of the then Parliament, nor can he ever look for political preferment or official or royal recognition. This is the standard of politics the world over, except in this, the finest country on the globe, and where there is the finest type of manhood and womanhood in the world. (Cheers.)