

PERJURY IN HIGH PLACES.

Much has been said about "The War Times Election Act," fittingly fathered by Hon. Arthur Meighen. Infamous as it was in its conception, worthy of its parentage, and of Mr. W. F. O'Connor, who drafted it, it was yet capable of honest administration. The extensive opening for the outrageous frauds that were committed under the direction of the Ottawa Cabinet was only possible by the most wholesale, deliberate and systematic perjury on the part of responsible officers in the Canadian overseas forces. The extent of this criminal perjury was truly appalling. Not only perjury, but subornation of perjury—compelling others to blast their souls with the foulest crime, except the taking of human life, of which humanity is capable, and from which humanity the world over, whether pagan, Mohammedan or Christian, shrinks with horror. (Hear, hear.) The first thing we teach a child is truthfulness, as it is the final aspiration of manhood. It was into this awful crime of wholesale perjury that the organization for electoral frauds by the Ottawa Cabinet arranged to plunge so many of the Canadian officers.

SOLEMN OATHS OF OFFICE.

The law provides that every official acting under this Act "shall be sworn to the faithful performance of his duties." This oath had to be sworn and subscribed to before "an official authorized to administer oaths under the laws of the country where such duties are to be performed." And the oath contains the following concluding words: "And that I will act **faithfully** in that capacity, without partiality, fear, favor or affection. So help me God." The manner of voting outside Canada provided that "The voter shall answer under oath, before the Deputy Presiding Officer, the questions set forth in the certificate, which is form B in the schedule." Only British subjects could vote, **only at their place of residence**—(1st) Six months prior to enlistment, and (2nd) If no Canadian residence immediately previous to enlistment, then **only** at such other place as there had been residence some other time. Then if they had never resided in Canada, but were British subjects and enlisted in the Canadian forces, they were entitled to name a constituency where their ballots could be placed. Of the last named there were less than 500 in the overseas forces who voted.

COVERING FRAUDS BY BOGUS SCRUTINEERS.

The Act made the usual provision for the appointment of scrutineers for each party. In counting the ballots I was puzzled to find so many places where "Opposition scrutineers" had been acting to whom I had not given authority. The problem was solved when I discovered that scrutineers holding authority from Lieut.-Col. A. T. Thompson, the Government scrutineer, had been sworn in as official representatives of the Opposition. I have here the following two original authorities:—

"Appointment of Deputy Scrutineer.

"By virtue of the powers vested in me by the Military Voters' Act, 1917, I hereby appoint 400,287, Sergt. C. L. Grannacome, C. A. M. G., as my deputy.

"A. T. THOMPSON, LT.-COL., Scrutineer."

"Appointment of Deputy Scrutineer.

"By virtue of the powers vested in me by the Military Voters' Act, 1917, I hereby appoint Hy. Stevens, Corporal, as my deputy.

"A. T. THOMPSON, LT.-COL., Scrutineer."