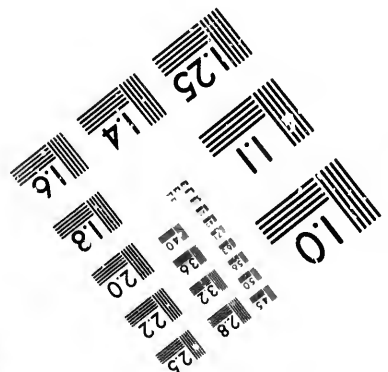
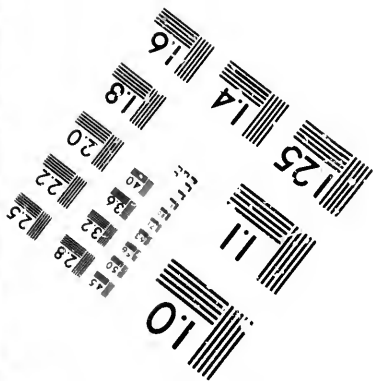
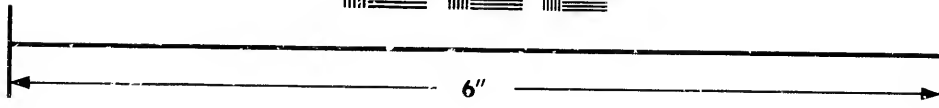
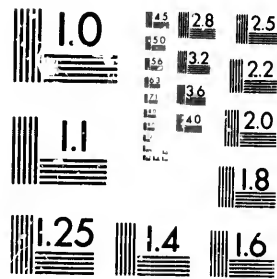


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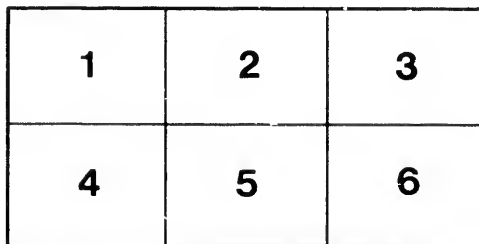
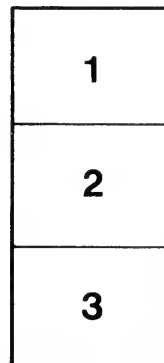
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Constitution

OF THE

Volunteer Electoral League.

Election Frauds.

HOW CAN THEY BE PREVENTED?

MAY, 1892.

JL 193

V6

1892

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
Volunteer Electoral League
OF MONTREAL.

1. *Name.* This organization shall be known as the *Volunteer Electoral League, of Montreal.*

2. Its objects shall be :—

- a.* To revise and perfect the voters' lists.
- b.* To encourage the nomination of candidates of known integrity for public office.
- c.* To use all *legitimate* means to secure their return.
- d.* To prevent fraudulent and dishonest practices in elections.
- e.* To follow up and prosecute, to the full extent of the law, those detected in any violation of the Election Act.
- f.* To suggest and promote any legislation, approved by the League, having for its object the purity of elections.

3. *Membership.* Members shall keep secret the work of the League, except as authorized by a majority of the Society. Election to membership shall be only on the written recommendation of five members and by a secret ballot, at which a two-thirds majority of those present shall be necessary to elect; and any member proving objectionable can be balloted out by a

two-thirds majority, while any member having lost interest in the objects of the Association is expected to resign.

b. Members shall sign the Constitution upon their election.

c. The annual fee for membership shall be two dollars.

4. *Meetings.* The annual meeting for the reception of reports and election of office-bearers shall take place on the second Tuesday of May in each year.

b. Ordinary meetings shall be held once a month when there is business to be transacted, or oftener if deemed necessary, at which meetings the reports of the several committees hereafter mentioned, shall be presented and considered.

c. Seven members shall form a quorum.

5. The officers shall be as follows:—President, 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Whip.

6. The committees shall be as follows:—

a. Revision ; *b.* Investigation ; *c.* Caucus and Interviewing ; *d.* Election ; *e.* Legal ; *f.* Press.

A. The duty of the *Revising Committee* shall be to check over electoral lists ; to have such names entered thereon as are entitled ; such names corrected as are erroneously inscribed, and such names struck off as it is evident do not belong on the voters' list. In fact, it shall endeavor by correcting the lists, to diminish, as far as possible, the opportunity for personating, or other illegal practices.

B. The duty of the *Investigation Committee* shall be to keep record of and make careful enquiry into the personal character and attainments of elected members of public bodies and probable candidates for office, and report the result of their investigation to the League.

After it has been decided by a majority vote, in full meeting, that this League shall be willing to support any one or more of the candidates mentioned, it shall be the duty of the

C. *Caucus and Interviewing Committee* to gain access where possible to caucuses and to use its influence to persuade such bodies to offer their nomination only to clean men.

After a candidate has been nominated by caucus, or allowed himself to be put forward by the requisite number of electors, it shall be the further duty of this committee to offer the more worthy candidate the support of this organization, agreeing to undertake the management of a specified number of polling districts, provided that the candidate agree, upon his part, that no corrupt acts shall be countenanced, and also to obtain from the candidate a written promise that the League shall have the naming of at least one scrutineer in every polling district they canvas, and that he (the candidate) will bear the expense of at least one prosecution, if transgressions of the Election Act are detected.

After a certain number of polls have been entrusted to the League the

E. *Election Committee* will see to it that every elector possible in these districts be canvassed, his support solicited and a full description of him obtained for the use of the scrutineers ; the Committee shall also provide on election day that every possible voter favorable to its candidate be brought to the polls, and in this work shall be assisted by the entire membership of the League.

As this League is pledged to secure the arrest of persons guilty of corrupt practices there shall be a

F. *Legal Committee* to follow up detected attempts at bribery, personation and subornation, and to secure the conviction and punishment of the same to the fullest extent authorized under the Electoral Acts in operation in this Province.

It shall be the duty of the

G. *Press Committee* to agitate through all the public prints for good nominations and pure methods ; to expose dishonesty and corruption wherever found ; to advise the public of the attitude of candidates towards this League and its methods ; and give the public from time to time such information as may

serve to promote the aims of this Organization, and awaken public opinion to right action.

7. A Board composed of the Officers of the League and Chairmen of the above mentioned Committees shall constitute one *Central Executive*.

I. All services rendered by this Organization, whether as a body or through individuals, shall be purely voluntary; any donation from friends of the cause will be used to defray the necessary running expenses of the Association.

II. No member shall be forced to support any candidate disagreeable to him, and at any time, by special consent of the Executive, a member may be exempted from any particular service.

III. In general, this Organization shall not enter the field where both candidates are, in the opinion of the League, good men, or where both are objectionable—reserving its strength for such contests as contain a plain issue between a good and a bad nominee.

IV. The above Constitution may be amended or altered at any time by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting, notice of motion having been given at a previous meeting.

V. Special meetings may be called by the President at any time at the request of four other members.

JUNE 1ST, 1892.

ELECTION FRAUDS.

HOW CAN THEY BE PREVENTED?

Few of those outside the circle of active politics realize to what an extent the crime of personation is practised in city elections.

It is no exaggeration to say that in certain Wards fully 15 per cent of the entire vote is "telegraphed." Elections are on record—notably the McShane—Keys and the James—Kennedy—Anderson, where there is ample ground for the belief that it was this fraudulent vote that carried the day. This evil is undoubtedly on the increase, and what is worse, many of our young men, honourable enough in other ways, do not consider an election perjury as anything but a shrewd, and if successful, a commendable proceeding. It is no common thing after election day to hear men boasting of having voted five or six times under different names, although in the eyes of the law liable to a fine of \$500 for each offence. (See Article 419, Quebec Elections Act.)

But the thoughtful and honest taxpayer, with a stake in the community, who may have put himself to no little inconvenience to record his *one* legitimate vote, hardly appreciates having it nullified five times over by some perjured individual whose interests in the country are next to nothing.

Unfortunately, both sides in an election are usually more or less guilty of such practices, and the greater advantage naturally accrues to the more unscrupulous and unworthy candidate. Scrutineers there are at each poll, supposed to know everybody, but often with instructions to let the "telegraphers" of their own party go unchallenged if they give the right countersign. With no conscientious scruple in the matter, it is not to be wondered at that both scrutineers are often purchased by the same candidate, and then the poll is at the mercy of the false voter. The Curran-Guerin election affords striking examples of this. An instance is reported in the James-Kennedy-Anderson contest where both scrutineers and the returning officer were bought over for the same side, and in that poll a certain man voted seven times on different names without once leaving the booth.

To facts such as these is largely due the controlling power that the worse element of our population is gaining over the better, and from the election of corrupt men by corrupt means what else can be expected than corruption in our civic councils and "boodling" in our legislatures?

If ever there was a time for honest citizens to stop and ask themselves "whither are we hastening?" that time seems to be now.

An interesting experiment, with a view to discovering a means to check this growing evil, was tried during the Provincial elections just past.

A few earnest young men, not hitherto known in political contests, offered their services as canvassers and scrutineers to one of the candidates, *on condition that*, in the polls of which they took charge, no "telegraphing" should be attempted by the party organization with which they worked. Their offer was readily accepted, and the canvas at once vigorously commenced. Not only were the electors interviewed, and strongly urged to support their candidate, but these canvassers took accurate descriptions of each elector on identification cards, as follows :—

NAME.....
Registered Residence.....
 (*if Removed*)
Qualification.....
Occupation.....

Height.....
Build.....
Complexion.....
Whiskers.....
Color of Eyes.....
Age.....
Peculiarities.....

Sentiments.....
Where to be called for.....
When.....

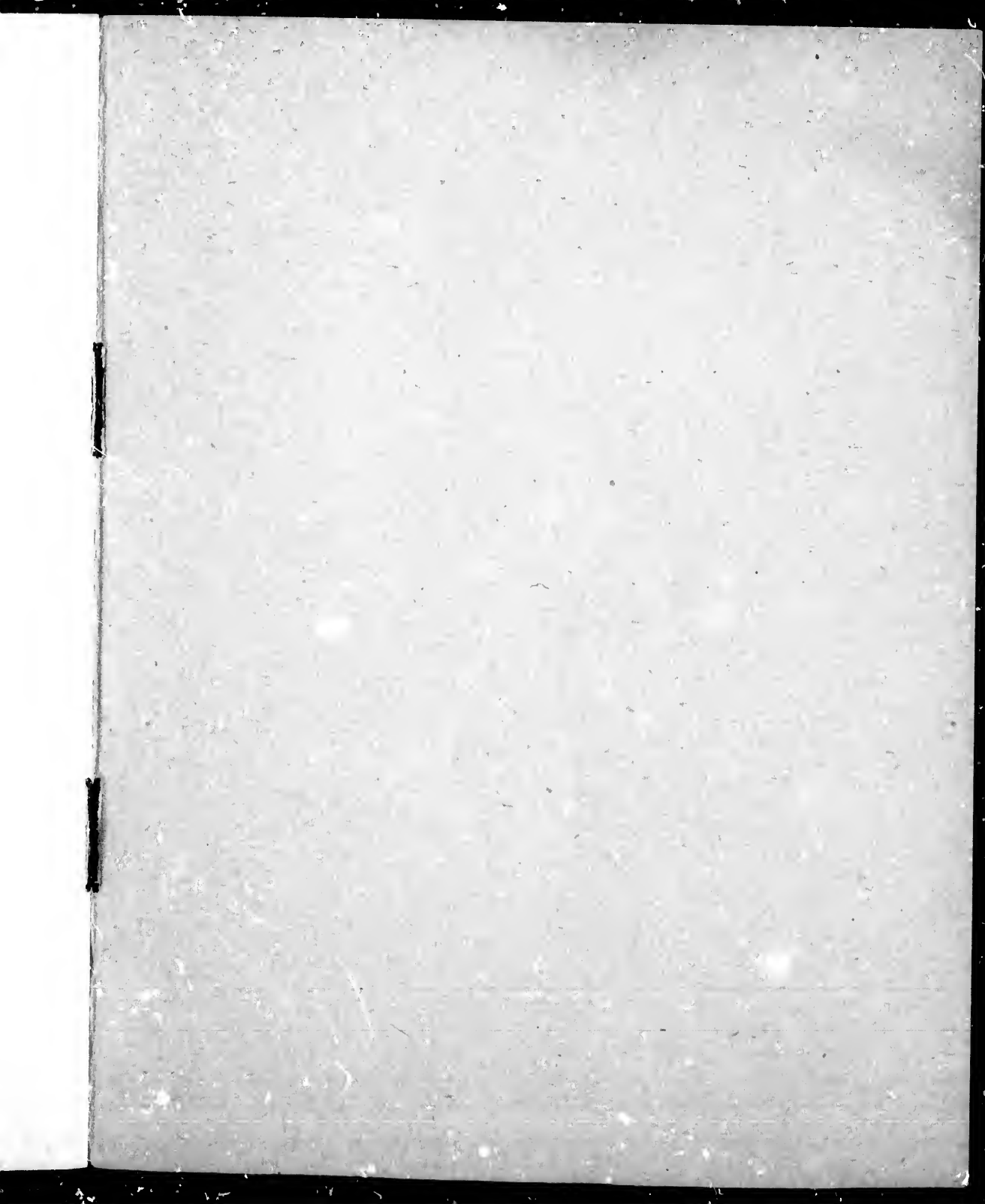
The work was done principally at night, as the canvassers were busy men, whose time was limited during business hours.

Before election day several hundred voters were described, and the whereabouts of each known to the scrutineers at their polls. As the candidate had placed his interests in their hands, these young men procured private sleighs and saw to it that every favorable voter possible was brought to the polls. The result was very satisfactory. Only one "telegrapher" succeeded in passing the scrutineers, although no less than six attempts were made. As it became noised abroad among the workers that it was of no use to try personation at these polls, the attempts naturally ceased; thus it is impossible to estimate how many were actually prevented, but it is safe to say the number was not small, since not less than 35 votes were "telegraphed" at these same polls during the election just previous.

There is now a movement on foot among the originators of this scheme to form an *Electoral Purity Association*, composed of young men who can be depended upon to do *hard work* in elections, for no other remuneration than the success of a good cause. Should this organization become sufficiently strong, it would endeavor to take under its control an entire Ward or a range of notoriously bad polls, working only in the interests of a candidate whose reputation was stainless. It would endeavor also to secure the enforcement of the law regarding personation, and would further prosecute (under Article 418 of the Electoral Act) the crime of Subornation—that is, of inducing another to take a false oath—thus striking at the root of the matter.

ARTICLE 418 of the Election Act provides that "every person who induces anyone to take a false oath shall be liable to a fine of \$200, or to an imprisonment of six months in default of payment."

ARTICLE 419. "Whosoever applies for a ballot paper in the name of some other person shall be deemed guilty of personation, and shall be punished by a penalty of five hundred dollars, or imprisonment for six months on default of payment."



This Constitution was accepted
by the League at its first Annual
Meeting in May, 1892.

For further information, apply to

LOCK BOX 76, MONTREAL.

