

THE MORNING GUARDIAN,

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1901.

ELECTION REVELATIONS.

Following the very closely contested election in East Queens between Messrs McKinnon and Martin, has come the trial of an election petition against Mr. McKinnon and the cross petition against Mr. Martin, which has resulted in the seat being declared vacant. During the trial, as our readers know from the testimony published in THE GUARDIAN, very sickening revelations were disclosed as to unlawful and corrupt practices, and especially in regard to the amount of liquor with which the constituency was flooded. It is to be observed for the information of readers beyond the bounds of the Province that the constituency in question, in common with the entire Island excepting the City of Charlottetown, is under the Canada Temperance Act.

It is to be further observed that only witnesses called by the Petitioner against Mr. McKinnon were heard at the trial and probably not one third of those who had been summoned to give their testimony, were heard. The counter charges in the petition against Mr. Martin had not been reached and were not made the subject of investigation. There was, of course, the usual cross-examination of the witnesses who were brought into court to testify against the member elect, Mr. McKinnon. The trial was cut short by agreement of the counsel on both sides when it was in fact little more than begun. It cannot therefore be claimed that we have in the testimony submitted any adequate presentation of the corrupt practices which are known or believed to have prevailed on both sides during the election.

And yet such were the revelations of one single week in the Election Court that the learned Judges were justly moved to condemn in unusual terms the manner in which the election was conducted. We need here only quote a single sentence from each of the trial Judges in order to show the strength of their condemnation:

Mr. Justice Hodgson said, "After hearing the evidence I feel bound to declare that never before has there been brought to my notice such shameless corruption and debauchery in connection with an election contest."

Mr. Justice Fitzgerald said, among other things, "I do not think there has ever been in Prince Edward Island such a revelation in the way of deluging a country with intoxicating liquors. I am ashamed as a lifelong resident to find that an electorate during a campaign could be wholly debauched by liquor."

The moral sense of the entire community has been shocked by the partial revelations made, and we think it most regrettable that the trial was cut short merely because both of the parties to the proceedings in the Court became ashamed or afraid to proceed further. We think it would have been in the interests of justice and political morality to have had the matter probed to the bottom and the worst of the case disclosed. If our election laws and Courts exist for the purpose of securing honest and pure elections, and for the punishment of those whose election practices are corrupt, it ought not to be left to the discretion of the parties to escape all other penalties by merely relinquishing their claims to the seat and dividing the costs.

If such things as have been disclosed may be done at wholesale in an election and nobody be punished; if the only penalty is to be that the parties are compelled to contest the election over again, we may expect that they will again employ the same agents, and the same corrupt and corrupting practices. If such practices are to be permitted to pass unpunished the candidate who honestly strives to conduct a pure and lawful election will have no chance against a less scrupulous opponent. The honest and unbribed elector will find his vote nullified by that of the corrupt and drunken elector who sells his franchise for whiskey or for money. In such case we shall simply proceed from bad to worse until our entire electoral system, and the foundation of our Government and of

our liberties, has become a slough of corruption and rottenness.

Doubtless the deplorable revelations which have so shocked and disgusted the better class of the community are in large part the result of the strong partisanship which afflicts so large a portion of the electorate. It serves to accentuate what we have said of the evils of party Government and the necessity of cultivating an independent sentiment in the community. We appear to have reached the stage where "all are for the party and none are for the state." Zeal for party, the desire to control or share in the spoils of power, distrust of the opposing party and a desire to defeat them at all hazards and by any means fair or foul, seem to be the principal motives in our elections, and so long as these unhealthy conditions remain it will be extremely hard to have our elections properly conducted. None the less—in fact the more because of this unhealthy political condition existing,—it has become imperative that that violations of the election laws, especially when so flagrant and widespread as those revealed in East Queens, shall be checked by the imposition of the penalties which the law prescribes.



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SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of a Writ of Statute Execution to me directed, issued out of His Majesty's Supreme Court of judicature at the suit of John Longworth against the lands, tenements and hereditaments, whereof Donald M. Stewart and Roderick Stewart, deceased, I have taken and seized as the property of the said Donald M. Stewart and Roderick Stewart, deceased, all the right, title, and interests of the said Donald M. Stewart, and Roderick Stewart, deceased, in and to all that tract, piece or parcel of land situate, lying, and being on Lot or Township Number Sixty, in Queen's County, Prince Edward Island, bounded and described as follows, that is to say:—Fronting on the Wood Island Road north side and running along the Culloden Road to the Culloden farms; thence east for the distance of six chains; thence south to the Wood Island Road; thence along said road to the place of commencement, containing fifty acres, a little more or less.

Also, all that tract, piece, or parcel of land situate, lying, and being on Lot or Township Number Sixty-Two, in Queen's County, aforesaid, bounded and described as follows, that is to say:—Commencing on the north side of Belle Creek in the south-west angle of land now or formerly in the possession of James Cook, thence north to the Main Road; thence northwards westerly along the Road till it meets the eastern boundary of land now or formerly in the occupation of Angus Stewart; thence south to Belle Creek, aforesaid; thence northwards along Belle Creek to the place of commencement, containing by estimation hundred and four and one-half acres of land, more or less.

Also, all that tract, piece, or parcel of land now in the occupation of said Roderick Stewart, situate at Belle Creek, on said Township Number Sixty-two, and bounded as follows, that is to say:—On the north and west by land in possession of Donald Stewart; on the east by land in possession of Peter Stewart; on the south and above the Main Road by land formerly in possession of Charles Stewart, but now in possession of Peter Stewart, on the south and below the Main Road by land in possession of said Peter Stewart, and fronting on Belle Creek River, containing thirty-three acres, more or less, and all the marsh in front of said last mentioned piece or parcel of land excepting that part of it which was conveyed by Alexander Stewart to his son Peter Stewart.

And, also all that other tract or parcel of land situate on Lot or Township Number Sixty, bounded as follows, that is to say:—Commencing on the west side of the Selkirk Road, at the southeast angle of a farm of land in the possession of Alexander Stewart; thence west a distance of seventy-six chains or to the eastern boundary of Murdoch Matheson's land; thence south six chains and sixty-six links; thence east to the said Road, and from thence south to the place of commencement, containing fifty acres of land, a little more or less, the said three described tracts containing in the whole one hundred and forty-eight acres of land, more or less, exclusive of marsh land, in Queen's County, and I do hereby give Public Notice, that I will, on TUESDAY, the 6th day of August, A. D. 1901 at Twelve o'clock, noon, at the Court House in Charlottetown, in the said County, set up and sell at Public Auction, the said Property or as much thereof as will satisfy the levy marked on the said Writ, being One Hundred and Fifty-three dollars and fifty-seven cents, with interests on \$1,500 from 27th April, A. D. 1900, at six per cent, besides certain fees and all incidental expenses.

W. B. ROBERTSON, Sheriff, Sheriff's Office, Queen's County, Feb 4th 1901. GILBERT GAUDREAU, Plaintiff's Atty. 5 d1 w21.

Sew, read or rest, while the stove with the aid of "VICTORINE" does the back-aching work you used to do on the washboard. 2 cakes 5c, at all grocers. McKinnon & McNevin, Lower Queen Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

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TENDERS DEPARTMENT PUBLIC WORKS, 30th January, 1901. Sealed tenders will be received at this office until noon on Wednesday, February 13th, 1901 from any person or persons willing to contract for the repairing of Darnley Bridge according to specification to be seen at the store of the Hon. Peter McNutt and at this office. The names of two responsible persons willing to become bound for the faithful performance of the contract must accompany each tender. The department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. Tenders to be marked: "Tenders for Darnley Bridge." RICHARD SMITH, Secretary Public Works. Feb. 5 '01 w21.