

THE DAILY EXAMINER

SEPTEMBER 24, 1900

**SIR LOUIS DAVIES
AND THE ELECTION LAW.**

We understand that Sir Louis Davies has instructed his canvassers that the provisions of the election law regarding objected votes will enable them to ascertain how the electors mark their ballots. According to Sir Louis the process is quite simple. All that has to be done is to make an objection at the time of polling, which will lead to the ballot being numbered. On counting the ballots the deputy returning officer can compare the number on the ballot with the corresponding number on the poll book,—and they have the whole story.

We are aware that the railway men and other officials are being told that the secrecy of their vote is gone. Even if all this were true, it is more than doubtful if Sir Louis would reap any benefit from it, as it is certain that the Conservatives will be in power after the election.

But it is not true,—and hereby hangs a tale. Sir Louis Davies deliberately attempted to destroy the secrecy of the ballot in the case of these objected votes. At almost the last stage in committee in the House of Commons he succeeded in putting in a clause to effect this object. It appears that he is of the opinion that his trick succeeded. After his departure for Paris, and while the bill was in committee in the Senate, Senator Ferguson discovered what was being attempted, and amended the bill. In order that the public may understand the matter fully we produce extracts from the bill as it left the Commons, and as it finally became law. Section 96 is headed "Secrecy of Voting," and contains 8 sub-sections, the first of which declares what are the offences against the secrecy of the ballot and the 8th fixes the penalty. Here is sub-section 5, as it passed the Commons:

"No candidate, officer, clerk, agent or other person shall communicate at any time to any person any information as to the number on the back of the ballot paper given to any voter at a polling station, or attempt to ascertain at the counting of votes the number on the back of any ballot paper, but this provision shall not apply to ballots marked in accordance with sections 67 or 74 of this Act."

The words in italics are those Sir Louis inserted in the *Ecu-e of Commons*: section 67 is the one which provides for the numbering of objected ballots in Prince Edward Island. The object of Sir Louis' amendment is plain. It was intended to remove the obligation of secrecy regarding these objected votes in Prince Edward Island. His game was spoiled by the Senate when the italicised words were struck out.

The Senate's action retains the full obligation of secrecy on every person connected with the election, and here is the penalty for a violation of that obligation. It is, as we have said, sub-section 8 of section 96:

"Every one who violates any provisions of this section (including sub sec. 5 as amended by the Senate) shall be guilty of an indictable offence, and liable to a penalty, not exceeding two hundred dollars, and to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, with or without hard labor, in default of payment of such penalty."

Grit canvassers will do well to consult Sir Louis again on this subject; and if they wish to escape the two hundred dollars penalty or imprisonment and hard labor they will cease canvassing railway men with a threat that they have the means

of ascertaining how they may mark their ballots!

The scheme appears to have been to object to voters of undoubtedly good qualifications with a view to find out for whom they voted. Sir Louis did his best to make the scheme workable, but he failed.

We ask all electors who value honesty and the secrecy of the ballot to decide whether Sir Louis is worthy of their support.

In this connection the Mail and Empire refers to the ballots cast in the other Provinces of Canada, where there is registration, and says:

"It must not be forgotten that in the Federal election the coercive numbered ballot—the ballot that can be traced—is not used. If Laurier had proposed that outrage, Parliament would be sitting yet, or else the Senate would have stopped it. The Federal ballot is a ballot with two stubs. There are numbers on the stubs to provide against fraud. When the elector asks for a ballot the returning officer pulls off one numbered stub and retains it. On the return of the ballot after it is marked the officer sees that the number on the remaining stub corresponds with that on the stub that has been removed. Then he pulls off the other stub, and deposits the ballot in the box. There are no marks on the ballot by which it can be identified. Every elector can thus vote with absolute security that the Government or its agents cannot discover how he has marked his ballot."

FROM BLAIR TO LAURIER.

DESPAIRING of satisfaction from Mr. Blair, the City Council of St. John now turns to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. At the last meeting the Council passed the following resolution by a vote of 7 to 5:—

To the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, P. C., Premier of Canada:

Resolved, that this Council earnestly requests your government to make such arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company as may enable that railroad to continue its winter export business through the port of St. John during the coming winter, in the same manner as it has been conducted for some years past. We urge this most strongly, as during the past year steamships engaged in handling this business have made sixty-three trips, involving a disbursement of at least \$3,000 for each vessel, loaded. Since the winter port business began other portions of this province have become deeply interested in the supplying of hay and other agricultural products to these steamers, which results in the distribution through several counties of a large amount of money. Besides this, a considerable portion of our population has come to rely, more and more, upon this employment as a means of livelihood during the winter, and the sudden withdrawal of such employment would entail great hardship. For this we see no compensation, as the honorable the minister of railways and canals has stated that he is unable to accept the offer of President Shaughnessy to transfer to the Intercolonial railway, at Montreal, the winter business of the Canadian Pacific railway during the coming season."

The next best thing that St. John can do is to do what it can to return a patriotic and capable government to power.

—It is to be remembered that a ballot marked for any Government candidate will be a ballot marked for Tarte.

Mail and Empire: "How many will join in the Globe's hurrah for five years more of the full milk-pail? Has not the country long enough stood cow to the gang of which the Globe is the most enterprising operator? Five years more and she would be milked dry."

Montreal Gazette: "The dissolution of the British Parliament has had the effect of turning all the leading Liberals into South African annexationists. Mr. Chamberlain is getting his vindication from those who were least anxious to give it."

**An Extraordinary
All Wool Underwear**

Opportunity

**\$400.00 Worth of Oddments in
Underwear for Boys and Men**



**Fall Overcoats
in
Whip Cord**

\$10.00 quality for \$8.00

Our \$12 Coat is selling for \$10

**485 Boy's Fall Reefers, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50
and \$1.75. Larger sizes \$2.00, and \$2.50.**

Our Special Ulster at \$3.75



Is the wonder of the age
cloth worth the money, making
and trimming for nothing.
300 Mens Overcoats \$3.75,
\$5.00. See this coat, three
colors only \$5.00.



Stanfield's

At \$1.80, \$2.50
and \$3.25.

A great drive in Gents Scarfs. Cleaning up stocks means loss of money to us but it's your gain. Big baskets of Men's Scarfs for Saturday.

150 Pairs Fall Gloves, all colors \$1.00 \$1.25 and \$1.50.
85 Black Moreen Skirts at \$1.75 worth \$2.50.
30 Pieces All Wool Tweeds, worth \$1.00 and \$1.35 for 75c. Good stuff for Tailor-Made Suits.
85 Rainproof Coats half price. 150 Fall and Winter Coats at half price. All they need is a little alteration for 1900.

185 Boy's Sailor Caps 25c, 35c and 45c.
A big table full of Caps 15c, many worth 40c.
30 Fur Coats and 35 Fur Lined Capes at prices that cannot be duplicated.

JAMES PATON & CO.

OPERA HOUSE

4 NIGHTS COMMENCING MONDAY, SEPT. 24th.

A - GRAND - EXHIBITION - ATTRACTION

The Biggest that has ever visited Charlottetown

CHAS. H. YALE

DEVIL'S AUCTIONN

FOREVER AND EVER
ALL NEW THIS YEAR.

The Caverns of the Evil One
Beautiful Valley of Andocho
Castle Insomnia
Palace of Manikins
Bower of Flora
The Gorges of Despair
Gorgeous Transportation
Hundreds new Costumes
Three Grand Ballets,
All new faces headed by
SIGNORINAS
MAVEROFFER and MACCARI
Complete Change Cost Company.
Alfred and Madam Phassey's
Sidonia Troupe
of English Singers and Dancers
Irene and Zaza
The Girl With the Dog With the Auburn Tail.
The Brothers Leando
Great Trio of Comedy Acrobats
Richard T. Brown
Comedian and Mimic
Anna Lloyd
The Vital Spark
The Sisters Clements
Comedienne, Singers, Dancers
THIS YEAR THE BEST EVER
Prices same as Halifax and St. John \$1.00, 75c, 50c, 35c.
Seats on sale Saturday at usual places.

TRY

Our BICYCLE LIVERY All new wheels.
Look at our assortment of

NEW BICYCLES.

We have all world Leaders.

BRING

Your Bicycle to our repair shop for satisfactory repairs.

MARK WRIGHT & CO., LTD

Home Makers.

**OUR
MILLINERY**

OPENING

NEXT

Wednesday, Sept 26th

**F. PERKINS
& CO**

The Millinery Leaders.