

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

Thursday, March 13, 1913.

NORTHERN B. C.
DISFRANCHISED.

One effect of the Bowser dis-
franchising act will be to de-
prive half or more than half
of the electors of the northern
interior of the islands of their
votes. The applications for
registration must be in the
hands of the registrars by
April 3, and it will be a phys-
ical impossibility to take the
forms into the remote districts,
get them filled and bring them
back to the registrar's office
within the specified time. The
electors on the Queen Charlotte
Islands, for example, have to
file their applications at Prince
Rupert. Some of them may be
able to do so, but it is safe to
say that by far the greater
number, no matter how expeditiously
the forms may be
taken in, will fail to get on the
lists. In Cariboo and Atlin
people will not be in a much
better position, and those who
know the difficulty of travel in
those districts assert that at
least half of the voting popu-
lation will be deprived of the
franchise should an election
take place this year.

It has been pointed out that
even with the forty days' no-
tice of an election, the contests
in those districts have been de-
ferred until after the general
elections, because of their in-
accessibility. What chance,
then, is there for anything like
a fair registration in the brief
period between now and April
3? Even if special messengers
were sent in with the forms, it
would be impossible to collect
more than a tithe of the ap-
plications at this time of the
year, when travelling among
the mountains is more difficult
and more dangerous than at
almost any other season. But,
in addition to this, it is not

even certain that the forms
will be ready to send in. Lib-
eral commissioners were told
a few days ago, when they
asked for them at Victoria,
that none were available. It
was promised that they would
be issued as fast as possible,
but what reliance can be placed
on the promise of a government
which only too apparently has
deliberately planned to trick
as many as possible of its op-
ponents out of their votes?

Everything in the new elec-
tions act is of a piece. Every
clause is designed with the
purpose of preventing Liberals,
as far as is in the power of
the government, from exercising
the franchise this year. The
plot has been carefully
laid, and no one can doubt
that it will be highly success-
ful. Every facility in the
meantime will be given for the
registration of friends of the
government. The aid of offi-
cials in every part of the pro-
vince will be at their disposal.
The government will see to it
that every supporter it has in
the province will be registered
and ready to cast his vote
should either a Dominion or
Provincial election be sprung
on the people this year.

Such tactics as these would
never be employed by a strong
and safe government. They
are the last desperate throw of
the discredited political gam-
bler, and they show that the
McBride administration recog-
nizes well that the feeling of
the great majority of the people
of the province has turned
against it.—Vancouver Sun.

"Given a government with a
big surplus and a big majority
and a weak opposition, and you
would debauch a committee of
archangels."—Sir John A. Mac-
donald.

HIGH-HANDED METHODS OF
BOWSER-M'BRIDE AUTOCRACY

"CITIZEN" CONDEMNS GOVERNMENT FOR UNDUE HASTE IN
REGARD TO NEW VOTERS' LISTS—OTHER FEATURES
SEVERELY CRITICIZED.

Prince Rupert,
March 12th, 1913.

Dear Mr. Editor:

The vital question of the mo-
ment is: "Have you registered?"
I say vital question because it
seems to me that if democratic
government of the people by the
people is to be again established
in British Columbia it is very
high time that every freedom
loving citizen made it his per-
sonal business to see that he is
registered as a Provincial voter
in order that at the earliest op-
portunity he may register a vote
against the Bowser-McBride au-
tocracy.

I wager that no other self
governing or supposedly self
governing portion of the Empire
has such a limited form of demo-
cratic government as has this
fair province. No better illus-
tration of the autocracy of our
government can be instanced
than the new Provincial Elections
Act. Granted that the old voters'
lists were in a deplorable mess,
why should a bill purporting to
remedy the situation be brought
down without notice almost at
the close of the sitting of the
House. Surely it could have
been introduced a month earlier
and passed and our people af-
forded a decent opportunity of
being registered. It reminds one
of the election farce of a year
ago when a Legislature was pro-
rogued and an election held
within three weeks—before the
winter's snows had vanished in
this northland and under condi-
tions which put it beyond the
bounds of human possibility that
hundreds of the electors should
know what the issues were. But
it is not the unseemly haste of
the business alone that deserves
condemnation. Can any one de-
vise a reasonable explanation as
to why the pending applications
were cancelled—surely they were
bona fide and not being already
on the list it was not necessary
to annihilate them in the same

fell swoop? But it is in a later
section of the act that the char-
acteristically high-handed Bow-
serian method appears. The
Provincial Secretary may print
the lists when and how he pleases.
If one wants a copy instead of
obtaining one for 25c as hereto-
fore it is now necessary to pay
for it at the rate of 25c per hun-
dred words. Rest assured it is
only Liberals or opposition par-
ties that will have to pay that
fancy figure. Formerly the
King's printer was compelled to
print the lists, but not now. It
is not even that favorite Bowser-
ian machine—the lieutenant gov-
ernor in council—but the Provin-
cial Secretary who has the dis-
cretion and power under the new
act. Again when names are ob-
jected to, they can be struck off
without publication in a local
paper as heretofore—centraliz-
ing power again in the hands of
the government or its servants.

Mr. Editor, if you ever believe-
d that partyism was taking on a
higher moral tone—that business
and sanity was gaining sway
over party pettiness you certain-
ly can find no basis for such be-
lief in the methods of the ruling
party in this province. The rot-
tenest of the closing days of
thirty-three years of Liberal
Government in Ontario were ne-
ver a patch on this. The British
born must feel woefully far from
home as far as political insti-
tutions are concerned when they
find themselves in British Colum-
bia. The Lieut.-Governor in
Council may do this and may do
that. The Legislature is a joke
—its only duty seems to be to
give more of its functions each
day it sits to the Lieutenant-
Governor in Council. Yes, it's
high time we registered and it is
high time we made an end of this
autocracy and go back to the de-
mocracy of our fathers. It's time
for a change.

Yours truly,
CITIZEN.

HUERTA SOLDIERS
BEATEN IN BATTLE

Driven Out of Nacozari After a
Fight Lasting Two
Days.

Douglas, Ariz., March 10.—Af-
ter a battle lasting from Satur-
day morning until yesterday af-
ternoon, 800 state troops today
hold Nacozari. The 250 Huerta
soldiers defending the town are
retreating to Agua Prieta. This
news was received here today
when communication was re-
stored below this point. The
capture of Nacozari opens the
road, it is believed, to Agua Pri-
eta, and if the latter town is taken
the insurgent state troops can
march westward along the bor-
der, encountering only small
garrisons at Nogales, Naco and
other small towns.

At none of the ports on the
Sonora-Arizona border are there
more than three hundred federal
troops. The Huerta forces in
Northern Sonora do not exceed
1,000 men, it was said today on
sound authority, while the state
government within a few days has
raised an army of nearly 10,000
men, according to the reports of
the various state troop leaders.

At Nacozari are 800 men under
Prefect Bracamonte of Monte-
zuma. There were only 250 fed-
eral troops defending Nacozari
when the attack was made Satur-
day.

Similarly small garrisons de-
fend Agua Prieta, Nogales and
Naco, while another strong rebel
group from Magdalena, below
Nogales, is reported as moving
to the border to assist in attack-
ing the ports of entry.

The paper that prints the facts
—the Daily News.

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Corner-Stone

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that first deposit?

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