

ADMITS FORGING HUNDREDS BOGUS NATURALIZATIONS

**Employee of License Department
Confesses at Court of
Revision**

WORK WAS DONE BACK IN APRIL

**Italian Witnesses Swear They
Never Signed Names to
Papers**

Now that the charges of wholesale naturalization frauds, brought by the Liberal party in Winnipeg against the Roblin interests, are proven to have a foundation in fact by the revelations made before Judge Dawson, at the court of revision last evening, the leaders of the Liberal party today declare that they intend to go after the men higher up and prosecute them to the full extent of the law.

The truth of Thomas H. Johnson's statement of some days ago that hundreds of bogus naturalization papers had been made out by the connivance of the Manitoba license department, and that these names had been registered as qualified voters, was made clear when John J. Pickersgill, an employe of the liquor license department, confessed, under pressure, to signing numerous naturalization papers, the applicants for which he had never seen.

Tries to Block Quiz

J. B. Coyne, counsel for the Liberal party, was examining the witness when the first admission was made. George A. Elliott, representing the Conservative interests, made a strenuous endeavor to have the inquiry blocked. He advanced legal and technical arguments times without number, but Judge Dawson decided that Pickersgill should be allowed to say what he wished in connection with the matter.

"I imagine," said the judge, at one time, "that a great many of these certificates of naturalization were got too easily. It is high time the Dominion government did something to stop this."

While Pickersgill was still on the stand J. B. Coyne produced and filed as an exhibit a typewritten list of 321 names of persons to be naturalized, that had been procured from the office of the license inspector. Each name was numbered, and the list ran from 325 to 646. At the top of the sheets appeared the numbers 2399, which Mr. Coyne declared appeared to be the number so naturalized.

Work Done in April

Opposite each name on the list, initials "C," "N" or "S" appeared. Pickersgill explained that this meant Center, North or South Winnipeg. He declared that the work had been done away back in April.

The sensation came as the upshot of a protest made by the Liberals regarding the registration of 42 Italians, who were registered by the naturalization method at a booth on Ellice avenue.

The Italians were produced in court and each examined separately. Many of these stoutly asserted long residence in Winnipeg and Manitoba, but the proof by handwriting tests was easily obtained that many of the papers had been forged, for the purported signers could not make anything like the signature appearing on the naturalization paper. In every case the Italians admitted they had not sought naturalization, but the documents had been procured for them.

The examination of John J. Pickersgill, although he was standing at the witness rail for more than one hour, did not take more than twenty minutes. The balance of the time was consumed in fierce legal argument between counsel.

None Appeared in Person

The cases of the protested Italians were taken one by one. Nichola Capri was the name which appeared on one document signed by the witness. He admitted that he had never seen the man in his life before coming into court. He then decided to waste no more time, but freely admitted that none of the large number of men whose naturalization papers he had filled out had come before him.

Most of the certificates, he said, had been given to him at his home in Norwood, while he obtained others at the office of the liquor license department. He had filled in some of the papers at home and some in the office.

At the commencement of the work, said the witness, he was given a small list upon which were a few names, but a month ago he was handed the large typewritten list and he made out those papers, opposite the names of which his initials appeared. Asked point blank who handed him the list, the witness stammered and stumbled and finally declared that he found them on the table in the office and knew it was his duty to fill out the papers. After much pressure Pickersgill admitted that Richard Power, assistant chief license inspector, had given them to him.

Knew It Was Illegal

On one occasion he had told Mr. Power that he and they were doing wrong to fill out naturalization papers in the absence of the signatories, but he had been told to go ahead and everything would be all right.

ersgill said he had been a commissioner for two years. He knew his duty and that it was wrong to make out papers like that. People were supposed to come before him and swear. In numerous cases they had not done so. He knew this was wrong but he had been assured that everything would be all right.
