

these gentlemen suggested that they were going to carry it on in a dishonest manner or resort to the perpetration of such a crime as has been shown to have been committed; but, without any suggestion of that kind at all, this hon. gentleman volunteers to advise these men to carry on the election in the part of the country they were running, in an honest and straightforward way. I think these two circumstances at least call for some explanation from Mr. Graham, and I hope he will take the first opportunity that is offered to make an explanation. Now, I will take the liberty of showing the House, as far as I can from the description that was given in the court, how one of these fraudulent ballot boxes is operated. The instruction given to the deputy returning officer, after opening his poll, is to display the box, as I am doing, to show that there is nothing in it. Then he proceeds to lock his box. Now, it is locked, and he is ready for business. Now, I will hand three ballots to an hon. member (Mr. Blain) and I will ask him to hold them up as if he were going to vote. He marks the three ballots for Borden. They are put into the box. I hand three ballots to another hon. member (Mr. Schaffner). He marks them for Laurier and they are put into the box. The result of the poll should be three for Borden and three for Laurier. Now, I open the box, and take out six ballots, which I find marked: five for Laurier and one for Borden. Let me show how that is done. I have a ballot which I will mark for Mr. Borden.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. PORTER. The whole thing is operated by simply moving a handle so that the ballot goes into a secret compartment in the ballot box. The ballots which the hon. members marked and which were put into this box did not go into the ballot box at all, but into this secret compartment. The box was loaded with the other ballots before the hon. gentlemen started to vote, although it was displayed, and on inspection there appeared to be nothing in it. That is all I have to say in regard to that matter, except that I would like to know from the government what they propose to do in regard to this crime which has been committed—whether they will make any effort to prevent a repetition of this sort of thing, or will allow the law to remain as it is, so that similar ballot boxes may be fraudulently used. I think it is a matter for regret that we have not been able to reach those who were engaged in this crime.

One, Byron O. Lott, perhaps the principal factor in this enterprise has left his country no doubt for his country's good, and is now sojourning in California where the Canadian law will not reach. W. J. Shib-

Mr. PORTER.

ley the other Liberal candidate is basking in the sunshine in Washington and is also out of reach. Hawkey, the returning officer, is in Chicago and cannot be reached, and I think the government is much to blame in this matter when the facts came out at so early a stage, in fact the day of the elections, for not taking prompt action to see that the perpetrators of this crime were punished. Through their dilatoriness these persons have been allowed to escape. Fortunately they have not all escaped and some are still under bail. I shall not mention their particular cases because that would not be fair as they have not yet been tried, but those to whom I have made reference have been tried with the exception of Mr. Harryett, and I think it is not improper for me to mention their cases here. I would like to know whether the government intends doing anything in this matter or not. Of course I recognize this fact that the government has laid down a principle which seems to control its actions in matters of this kind where dishonesty and fraud and crime are actually committed. That policy which has been followed by this government in some instances is one rather of reward for such things than condemnation. It has been a policy of approval rather than a policy of disapproval. I need scarcely mention the cases referred to here recently, the Thesalon postmaster, a clear case of theft, the case of Nixon in the Northwest, another clear case of theft, yet the man was appointed to another office with a greater salary. I need not refer to the case of Jackson, who was guilty probably of as great a crime as any one, and who was rewarded with the appointment of British agent of this government, nor need I mention others to which I could refer. I hope, in fact I believe, that after the disclosures that have been made the government will see that that sort of policy, that that principle is no longer recognized and that in contradistinction to that it will endeavour to encourage honesty in its officials, as well as in those holding positions of trust such as those I have referred to, as those appointed by the government as part of the machinery to carry on the elections in this country.

Mr. M. AVERY (Frontenac). I would like to say a word in regard to the question as I was mixed up in it by having the ballots stolen from me. I think that this government should take some action to punish these men. We have the record of Lott going to the people of this country repeatedly but the people refused to elect him. He comes back again to West Hastings and tries to get in there by means of the fraudulent boxes. The government should take some action and punish such men when they have the chance and the proof that they have