

JUDIE BOSSE'S CONDUCT IN ASSELIN TRIAL CRITICIZED

Mr. Turgeon proceeded to refer to the Asselin trial. He stated definitely that he had accepted the ruling of the court as to the decision of the Montreal Bar in connection with his application, as acting Attorney-General, against Mr. Latham, and so far as he was concerned that incident was ended once and for all. "I have nothing whatever to say against the decision," he declared. He went in to deal with the evidence offered at the trial.

Two theories can be deduced from the evidence heard and the exhibits produced at the trial; one is the de l'Epine's version, made up of fiction, and the other is the true one which I will explain. According to the Baron's theory I was to receive from the Belgian syndicate on the purchase of of state, a gift of 30 cents an acre or \$60,000, which was to go into the election fund.

Now upon what grounds is this charge based? When the political passions of the hour have quieted down, it will be found difficult to believe that a judge of thirty years' experience, presiding over a British court of justice governed by the British Criminal law, so careful of the honor and freedom of the subject, allowed the baron to produce, to give a color to his testimony, letters that were absolutely foreign to the case, letters that he had exchanged with fellow-countrymen of his own in Belgium, without first imposing on him the indispensable obligation of proving that in writing such letters he had acted as my mandatory or agent. It is a well-known maxim of criminal and civil law that a person cannot be held responsible for what is written by another unless it be proved that the latter wrote by order or with the authorization of the former. It is truly a shocking thing that either the negligence, or the political bias, of a judge, oblige me to enunciate such elementary principles of law, terrible that a judge should have allowed himself to be influenced to such an extent as to endanger the administration of justice.

THE CHARNEUSE LETTER AND STRIKING EVIDENCE.

The famous Charneuse letter of January, 1906, of which the Baron has produced a draft, has manifestly been written as an after-thought. The date was written in pale ink,

and the Baron was much embarrassed to explain the circumstances. Everything in this letter was redolent of fraud. Moreover, he had not dared to maintain to the end that the incriminating passage was in the original. He had already been caught in flagrant perjury before a committee of the House during last session, and had taken his precautions in case the original should turn up.

In his evidence Baron de l'Epine has replied to certain questions as follows:

Q.—You cannot now assert that the original you sent Mr. Turgeon was absolutely like this one?

A.—I cannot swear it was a press copy. I may have altered a word without altering the meaning. The meaning has not been altered, and I cannot remember whether there was even the slightest change.

Q.—You might have made an alteration while transcribing the letter you sent to the Hon. Mr. Turgeon. Something may have occurred to you which you may have added?

A.—It is possible.

Q.—Just as you may have left out something in the letter you sent Mr. Turgeon, some words you have inserted here?

A.—Nothing essential.

Q.—It is possible that something may have been struck out?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You cannot remember?

A.—No.

On the other hand, my evidence contains the following:

Q.—Mr. Turgeon, please state whether there was at any time any question of making the syndicate pay a higher amount than that which was to be received by the Province?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you remember having received at the beginning of February, 1905, from Baron de l'Epine, who was then in Belgium, a letter by which he informed you that he had given explanations regarding the C. E. (Election Fund), to four members of the syndicate, the question of the election fund?

A.—Never.

Q.—Will you take communication of a letter dated the 28th January, 1906, addressed to yourself and signed by Baron de l'Epine, and tell us whether you remember having received the original of that letter?