

home telling his brother he was going to Ottawa to procure the ballots here. It will be noticed that the answer of the right hon. the Prime Minister is that a request was made for ballots two or three days before the 31st of October, which would be along about the 28th of October. If you will take the trouble to turn to the register of the Russell House, Ottawa, you will find upon that register the name of 'B. O. Lott, Stirling,' registered on the very 28th day of October. There may be nothing in it, but it is a very singular coincidence that this man Lott who could not procure the ballots in his own county stated that he was coming to Ottawa for the purpose of procuring these ballots, and that on the very day he arrived here the request is made, and that 1,000 extra ballots are furnished to the returning officer here and Byron Lott goes on his way. That is practically the history of the bogus ballot box and of its attempted use in the county of Hastings and its actual use in poll No. 1, Clarendon—Miller in the county of Frontenac. I am happy to be able to state that the efforts made to steal these elections were entirely unsuccessful. It has been said—reiterating to a large extent what the 'Globe' said—that the persons who were engaged in this nefarious transaction were not of the better element of the Liberal party, that they were a few of the lower scum so to speak. Now, just for fear that that opinion should be still entertained by any one let me make a short reference to some of the individuals who according to their own sworn testimony were implicated in this affair, and then I will ask the country to judge whether they were of the better element of the Liberal party or not. Take the first one, Byron O. Lott himself; three times Liberal candidate in the local legislature and finally the Liberal candidate for the Dominion government. W. J. Shibley, Liberal candidate in the interests of this government in the county of Frontenac. Joseph Hawkey, deputy returning officer poll No. 1, Clarendon—Miller, who was a part of the machinery supplied by this government to carry on the elections. Philip Lott another deputy returning officer at Springbrook poll in the county of Hastings, John Bremner, editor and proprietor of the Banercoft 'Times,' a liberal newspaper in North Hastings. Samuel Harryette, the police magistrate of North Hastings appointed by the Ontario government and also Liberal organizer for that portion of the province. R. E. Harpell, school teacher, general agent of one of the leading insurance companies of the province. Frank Reiley, professor Regiopolis College, Kingston. Edward Ruttan, the financial agent and confidential friend of W. J. Shibley, the Liberal candidate. Thomas Whalen, the collector of inland revenue at Prescott for this government. I might go through the long list; there are some seventy different witnesses called in this case, and nearly every one who was able to testify as

to any part in this conspiracy was an adherent of the Liberal party. But just here there is one other person that I do think I ought to mention. I mention that gentleman's name more particularly on account of the rumour that has been current for some time that there was a possibility, yea there was a probability that that gentleman might, with the late premier of Ontario, be taken into this government. I refer to the Hon. George P. Graham, of Brockville. At the time of this election and at the time of this conspiracy he was a minister of the Ontario legislature. I am bound to say in all fairness to this gentleman that when he was put in the witness box and sworn, he denied any knowledge or any connection with this matter. I am bound to give him the benefit of his denial. But there are one or two circumstances in connection with it that I think he should have taken occasion to explain and which he has never yet explained. They are these. He was a minister in the Liberal Ontario government; he was as he swore the organizer for that portion of the province of Ontario in the federal elections on the 3rd of November last, where this conspiracy and this fraud was perpetrated.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Mr. Graham was not a minister at that time.

Mr. PORTER. I stand corrected; it was later that he became a minister. He was a member of the Ontario legislature and he was the organizer for that portion of the province where that fraud was perpetrated. It is a strange thing that he should be occupying the position with the government that he did. It is strange that he should be filling that position, unless the explanation be that there was such a bargain or arrangement between the premier of the province of Ontario and the Prime Minister of Canada, and he was called in to help to perform the bargain. I cannot account for it in any other way. But there is one thing which I think he should explain, and that is this. The evidence discloses that on the last visit made to Watertown, when these boxes were paid for, and when the arrangements with regard to shipping and smuggling them across the river were completed, when Shibley and Riley were on their way home, instead of going directly across to Kingston in the usual way, they went down to Ogdensburg, crossed the river to Prescott, took the train going west, and dropped off at Brockville. Mr. Graham swore that they were strangers to him. They called on him, first the one and then the other, on Sunday night, got him out of bed, and held a conversation with him occupying between three-quarters of an hour and an hour, and he swore that the only material part of the conversation which he could repeat was that he advised them to carry on the election honestly and fairly. Now, it is a little singular that he did not swear that either of