

eral party who were willing to use it and who did operate it.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Porter) be good enough to name the returning officer or deputy returning officer who did use that ballot box?

Mr. PORTER. Yes, his name is Hawkey.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Any one else?

Mr. PORTER. The evidence does not show any one else who is sworn to have used it. There are the other deputy returning officers whose names I have given. Lott says that the box was given to him, that he was instructed how to use it and that he entered into the conspiracy to use it. In regard to the supply of the ballots, the evidence shows that at polling subdivision No. 1, in the township of Clarendon, Frontenac county, when the deputy returning officers came to count the ballots he had 25 more ballots than he had been charged with, and it is a strange coincidence that the 25 extra ballots should be furnished at the very poll where this bogus ballot box was used. There is another little piece of evidence in connection with the supply of ballots, and I would like to call attention to it. If reference is had to the revised 'Hansard,' page 911, some very pertinent questions will be found to have been put by my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) and which were answered by the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier.) The questions asked by the hon. member for East Grey are these:

1. What is the custom of the Department of Public Printing and Stationery in issuing the blank ballots used in the Dominion elections? How many ballots are contained on each sheet of paper?

2. Is the paper on which the ballots are printed issued direct from the Printing Bureau to the several returning officers throughout Canada, or does it go through the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery?

3. Are the sheets of ballot paper carefully counted before being sent out, and is a record kept of the number of sheets sent to each returning officer? If so, under whose supervision was this done?

4. After the issue of the sheets of ballot paper to the several returning officers for the last Dominion elections, was any complaint made to the Department of Public Printing and Stationery, or to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, by any returning officer, or by his subordinates, or by any printing establishment, that the requisite number of sheets of paper for such constituency or constituencies had not been furnished, or that the actual number of sheets was less than that which the returning officer was credited with having received?

5. If so, in what constituency or constituencies did this occur, and what action was taken on such complaint?

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister):

1. The main principles are: (a) To deal with no one but the returning officers. (b) To have no broken packages. The ballots are issued in

Mr. PORTER.

sheets of four and two according to the sample which I lay on the table.

2. The ballots are issued direct from the Printing Bureau to the returning officers throughout Canada without the intervention of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

3. The sheets are carefully counted before being packed. They are sent out in closed packages of three sizes only, viz.: Packages of 2,000 in fours and of 1,000 and 500 in twos. The packages are not opened after being counted. The smaller packages are used for uneven or broken thousands. The counting is done in the bindery, after cutting, by skilled hands and under the supervision of the foreman of the bindery. The packages are then finally closed and posted up.

4. After the issue of the ballots, applications were received by the King's Printer from returning officers where the supply was insufficient. In all such cases the additional ballots required by the returning officers were sent to him, but always in whole packages. No ballots whatever were sent to any printing office, but they were sent out in sealed bags by registered post to the returning officers. No communications from others than returning officers were entertained.

5. Two complaints were made that the count of the ballot paper was wrong. One was from South Lanark, the other was from Ottawa. In the case of South Lanark no additional supply was asked for. It was a question of count. In the case of Ottawa an additional quantity of 1,000 ballots was delivered to the returning officer.

Then I find by a further reference at page 1342 of revised 'Hansard,' this question by the hon. member for East Grey:

Mr. SPROULE asked:

1. Adverting to the answer given by the First Minister on Monday, February 13th, regarding the method of issuing blank ballot papers to returning officers, what was the date of the complaint received from the returning officer in South Lanark?

2. What was the date of the complaint received from the returning officer in the city of Ottawa?

3. When were the additional thousand ballots sent to him?

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister):

1. The letter making the complaint in relation to South Lanark was dated October 29, 1904.

2. The complaint of shortage made at Ottawa was by telephone one or two days before October 31.

3. The request for additional ballots was made on October 31, and the additional 1,000 was sent on that date.

In that connection I want to refer to the evidence; I shall not read it, but I will be pleased to hand it to any one who desires to do so. Philip Lott swore in the investigation before the courts, that his brother Byron Lott had endeavoured to procure ballots for use in the election and to have them printed at the printing office of the Bancroft 'Times' at Bancroft, in his own county; that he had tried to have them printed elsewhere but that they could not print the ballots in such a way that detection would not be easy, and that on the 27th day of October he left his