

while the Government party in the Committee, led by several lawyers, the most active of whom have since been appointed to office, obstructed and delayed the proceedings to the utmost limit, and finally brought them to the end of the Session, when they refused to allow a report to be made and caused the whole matter to be delayed till the following year.

SIR WILFRID INTERFERES.

When the next Session arrived Mr. Borden again brought forward the charges, and was able this time to add to the evidence the affidavit of J. C. Pritchett, giving an account in part of his share in the instruction of deputy returning officers in the art of ballot switching. At this stage Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself interposed and asked the House to vote down the motion to refer the election charges again to the Committee. The Premier declared that they could be dealt with better by a Royal Commission. Sir Wilfrid promised to have a thorough investigation by such a Commission, and with this pledge and his majority in the House he caused Mr. Borden's motion to be thrown out.

THE CRIMES ENCOURAGED.

That was the end of it. No investigation ever took place. The two Government supporters fraudulently returned for West Huron and Brockville occupied their stolen seats through the remainder of the term. Encouraged by such immunity, the machine went on perpetrating election frauds in Federal and Provincial contests, stealing numerous elections for the Ross Government and continuing it in power some years beyond its time, stealing the St. James, Montreal, election from Mr. Bergeron, preparing the famous trick ballot boxes for Frontenac and Hastings, carrying out the Minnie M. scandal, and culminating in the London Conspiracy.

FARR'S CONFESSION.

Mr. Borden explained that returning officer Farr, whom he failed to secure as a witness in 1899, had since returned to Canada, and last year made a statutory declaration in regard to his share of the West Huron election. The following is the sworn statement.

Dominion of Canada—Province of Ontario, to wit:

In the matter of the election of a member for the West Riding of Huron County to serve in the House of Commons.

I, James Farr, of the town of Goderich, in the county of Huron, and Province of Ontario, carpenter, make oath and say as follows:

1. That I was deputy returning officer at polling subdivision number three in the said town of Goderich at the election held between Robert Holmes and Robert McLean on February 21, 1899, for the West Riding of the county of Huron.

2. That I had been deputy returning officer in former elections at the said polling subdivision.

3. That on the day preceding the election, one James Yates, Division Court clerk for Goderich town, came to my house and asked for the ballot-box and papers and ballots which I had received from the returning officer. He wished me to resign my