

the boxes were in actual use. As an investigation has only been held in the two ridings, it is impossible for me to say how far our efforts were successful, or to say in how many ridings in Ontario these fraudulent boxes were used in order to return members of parliament to support this government.

The matter having been divulged in that way, it was at once taken up by the press and nearly every newspaper, I think, in Canada had something to say about the bogus ballot boxes, some going so far as to say that it was merely a Tory trick, and attributing the whole thing to myself. But others took a more serious view, and claimed that the perpetrators of this crime should not go unpunished. The Liberal papers all over the province of Ontario, when the matter first came out, insisted that these men must be punished, that justice must be done though the heavens fell, and they could not use too strong language to encourage the prosecution of the parties who had used these boxes. But at that time, although that publicity was given to it, although the names of the witnesses, the sources of information and the evidence were wholly given in the public press, not a single move was made on the part of this government to capture the criminal or to prosecute them. But, fortunately one of the newspapers—I say fortunately, because the criminals would not have been punished otherwise,—was bold enough to attribute the invention of the whole scheme of this bogus ballot box to myself and I very promptly took proceedings in the criminal courts for libel against the publisher. I may here say that I think the 'Globe' newspaper is entitled to a little more than passing attention from me in regard to its remarks at that stage of the case. The 'Globe' newspaper, after denouncing me, after crying out for the punishment of whomever might be guilty and after the investigation had been started by me for criminal libel and the evidence was coming out day after day, showing conclusively beyond any question that the whole scheme originated with the Liberal party, that it had been worked out by the Liberal party and that the Conservative party had nothing to do with it except to discover the crime, began to crawl back and take back its statements which it had been making previous to that time.

An hon. MEMBER. That is characteristic of the 'Globe.'

Mr. PORTER. Yes, it is characteristic of the 'Globe.' It very frequently says things one day and takes them back the next. But, after the evidence had gone so far as to show beyond question who the guilty parties were the 'Globe' changed its tone and began to offer apologies. It was just a few misguided Liberals who had gone into this, not the better element of the rank and file of the Liberal party, and all such excuses

as this, no doubt with the hope of toning down the strong feeling of resentment that existed in the minds of the members of the Liberal Conservative party because of the insinuations that had been made against them. But, just at that time the 'Globe,' in a fit of virtue such as attacks the 'Globe' occasionally, thought that it ought to devote a little more attention to me, and surprising to say it devoted nearly half a column of its valuable space to advising me as to the way in which I should prosecute my personal action for criminal libel against the newspaper, and it went so far as to say that it would be an abuse of the process for me to select the quorum before which I should try my case. They said that I should not have taken a case like this before such a magistrate as Mr. A. F. Wood, a gentleman who had occupied a seat in the legislature of the province of Ontario for many years, the oldest magistrate in the county of Hastings and a gentleman whose character and reputation were beyond reproach. Justice would not be done, so declared the 'Globe,' and it said that I should have taken my case before the police magistrate. Let me say to the 'Globe,' which is probably aware of the fact, that the very tribunal, the police magistrate to whom it advised me to take my case in order to have this crime investigated, is to-day under a \$20,000 bond to answer an indictment found by the grand jury of the county of Hastings against him for complicity in this very crime. If that had been done neither I nor the people would have been able to have had this crime investigated, and yet this is the advice that the 'Globe' gave and if it has not become aware of this, before now I hope it will take occasion now to apologize for its threats on that occasion.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Did the 'Globe' not suggest how Shibley could escape too?

Mr. PORTER. I believe it did. The scheme, as further divulged to me and as was shown in the further investigation of this matter, was that by the simple manipulation of the handle of this ballot box just as many Liberal votes could be given to the Liberal candidate as the deputy returning officer operating the box saw fit to give, and just as many Conservative votes could be switched or consigned to oblivion and would not be seen unless the ballot box itself were cut open for that purpose. It may be said and it has been said by people that this box could not be worked without the aid of a dishonest deputy returning officer, and that it could not be used without having the ballots such as those which are supplied by the government for the purpose of holding these elections. As to the first objection, let me answer it in this way: It cannot be used without the aid of a dishonest deputy returning officer and the sworn evidence shows that there were dishonest deputy returning officers in the Lib-