

was the brother of Byron O. Lott himself—Byron O. Lott had, on three occasions before this, been the Liberal candidate for the local legislature for the province of Ontario, for North Hastings, each time meeting with defeat. It was a well known fact in that part of the country that during the interval between these elections he was almost constantly at the seat of government in the city of Toronto; he could be seen almost any day of the week in consultation with ministers there, and hobnobbing with them around the house of assembly. His attentions were not confined to ministers, but he was bound to keep in good company, and on many occasions he might be seen with those two notorious Liberals, Vance and Sullivan, and no doubt received from them a part of the education which enabled him to perfect this scheme. At any rate, it is sworn to by his brother that he received such information as led him to perfect this box, he received that information in the office of Vance, in Toronto. The ballot box that was devised there differed a little from this one. It was worked with a catch on top of the box, by simply pressing it down the spring was released, and the false compartment of the box worked either one way or the other. That did not work well, it made too much noise, and it was too suspicious an article altogether. So they concluded that they would improve upon that, and the result of their improvements was the box which I produce here to-day.

That box was produced in the following manner: Mr. Lott and Mr. Shibley visited Watertown, in the State of New York, and there entered into a bargain with a tinsmith to manufacture a certain ballot box according to a design which they would furnish. They furnished a design, but the mechanic was unable to perfect the machine owing to his not having seen a genuine Canadian ballot box, and he desired to see that before he could perfect the machine. Accordingly these two worthies visited the deputy sheriff in the city of Kingston, who was the returning officer in the late election, and procured from him one of the genuine ballot boxes which they took to Watertown and put into the hands of this mechanic. This ballot box was exhibited in court, and it had drawn upon one side of it the form which the inner compartment of the bogus box was to take, in other words, a model of the bogus ballot box. When that was placed in the hands of this mechanic, after some labour, he produced this bogus box. While the box was being made—and I may mention this as it came out in the evidence—while this box was being perfected several visits were made by these candidates to Watertown for the purpose of seeing how the tinsmith was progressing with his work. On one occasion when the manufacturer thought that he had it just about right, and they made an inspection of it on one Sunday afternoon, Mr. Lott worked the box and put a few ballots through it, and

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turned to the manufacturer—that is sworn to—and said. 'I don't think that will quite do yet; the false compartment you have in this box for hiding the genuine ballots is not quite large enough to overcome the majority I will have voting against me in West Hastings, so you will have to make it a little bit larger.' And the sworn evidence is that the compartment was enlarged accordingly.

At that stage of the proceedings another gentleman appeared upon the scene, and he, together with Byron Lott's brother, was sent to Watertown to complete the negotiations. Some twenty boxes had been made for the county of Hastings and Frontenac, and these men were sent over for the purpose of paying the money and to provide means for the transport of these boxes to Canada. When they had paid for them, the boxes were shipped from Watertown to Ogdensburg, and there the Inland Revenue inspector of this government took the boxes in hand, smuggled them across the river, and sent them by express to their various addresses in the province of Ontario. These boxes landed at their destination in the county of Hastings and Frontenac, and were delivered as Liberal campaign literature. Just at this point when the ballot boxes had been received and placed in the hands of this deputy returning officer, the matter leaked out. He divulged the whole scheme and who were in it, and concluded that the best thing he could do in order to free himself from any further connection with it was to deliver up the remaining ballot boxes. Six of them had been delivered to him, and four others had been sent further north in the riding to another very estimable Liberal who occupies the position of police magistrate in North Hastings, Mr. Samuel Harryet, an officer of the local government. Mr. Lott, the deputy returning officer, concluded that the best thing for him to do would be to divest himself of the care of these boxes, and he accordingly delivered them up to messengers who were sent up there. They were conveyed by these messengers to Belleville and placed in the hands of the police.

Now when that discovery was made, I took every available means of advising the public generally, and particularly the Conservative candidates of the province of Ontario, of this conspiracy, and of this attempt to steal their ridings. A telegram was sent, signed by myself and two others, to every riding in the province of Ontario giving as good a description as we could by telegram, warning our friends against their use, and describing how the bogus box could be distinguished from the genuine box. I do not know how effective the efforts taken by myself and others were in preventing the use of these boxes in the province of Ontario. I know that our efforts were not wholly successful, because it has been proven in court and convictions have followed that