

THE
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DECEMBER 8TH, 1902.

ELECTION TRIAL.

RE SOUTH OXFORD PROVINCIAL ELECTION.

Parliamentary Elections—Corrupt Practices—Hiring Vehicles—Statutory Declarations of Proposed Witnesses — Saving Clause — “Trifling Extent”—Personal Charges against Respondent—Disagreement of Judges.

The particulars of the petition contained 114 distinct charges of corrupt practices. At the trial before STREET and BRITTON, JJ., at Woodstock, evidence was given as to 24 of the charges, the others being abandoned.

G. H. Watson, K.C., and A. G. Slaght, for the petitioners.

S. H. Blake, K.C., and Edmund Bristol, for the respondent.

STREET and BRITTON, JJ., were unable to agree as to two of the charges, one of which was a personal charge against the respondent of having corruptly paid to one Lloyd, the hostler at an hotel, the sum of \$1; and the other of which was the charge of bribery by an agent. The only charge they both held to have been proven was charge No. 6, to the effect that John W. Patterson, whose agency was established to their satisfaction, had hired horses and conveyances from two livery stable keepers in Ingersoll, for the purpose of conveying voters to and from the polls on election day.

STREET, J., referred to the practice of engaging vehicles to drive voters to the polls, and said:—

There is no doubt that at every election numbers of public cabs and livery vehicles are furnished to both sides for the purpose of carrying voters to the polls, and I think I am not