

his employers that he had been forced to pay \$500 as a political contribution in order that he might obtain an order from the Department of Militia and Defence. I wrote two letters on the day on which that came to my attention, one to the Minister of Customs and the other to the Solicitor General (Mr. Meighen). I will read these letters:

One crook fled the country.

Ottawa, October 19, 1914.

Dear Dr. Reid,—In view of your statement to me as to representations made by Messrs. J. D. King and Company, of Toronto, the following course should be taken: As I understand it Messrs. J. D. King and Company allege that in their endeavour to secure orders from the Department of Militia for shoes their representative, Mr. Acton, was forced to pay five hundred dollars and that it was represented to him that this contribution was for political purposes. According to information placed before me there is clear evidence of an intent to defraud the Government.

My attention has also been called by you to like allegations made by two other companies who desired to supply shoes to that department. You should communicate immediately with the Hon. Arthur Meighen, Solicitor General, and with Colonel Sherwood, commissioner of Dominion police and the whole matter must be thoroughly investigated. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Meighen with the further instructions that any persons concerned in any such attempt are to be prosecuted to the utmost limit of the law.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. Borden.

On the same day I wrote to Mr. Meighen this letter:

Ottawa, October 19, 1914.

Dear Mr. Meighen,—The enclosed copy of a letter to the Hon. J. D. Reid explains itself. I desire that you make a thorough investigation of the apparent attempts to defraud the Government which have been disclosed to him. For this purpose you will obtain such assistance as may be necessary from Colonel Sherwood, commissioner of the Dominion police. The Minister of Justice should be consulted whenever you may think it necessary. You have my authority and direction to prosecute to the utmost limit of the law all persons who appear upon reasonable information to have been concerned in such attempt.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. Borden.

I was afterwards informed by Mr. Meighen that upon investigation—and if I am not stating these facts correctly, I hope the Solicitor General (Mr. Meighen) will correct me—the person who had represented this pay-