

DETAILS OF SOME CASES.

"In some cases the Judges have thought trials unnecessary or likely to prove abortive, and dispensed with them. In other cases, owing to new elections having taken place and further petitions being pending, or owing to appeals of cases that have already been tried not being disposed of, it was considered undesirable to proceed with prosecutions, and nothing has been done. In one case in a distant constituency in the Province a Crown lands agent was reported as being guilty of a corrupt act, consisting of furnishing liquor on polling day. The utmost penalty that could be imposed under the act was \$10, but the disqualification which would also accompany that fine is a very serious matter. On being reported, the Government asked for the officer's resignation, which was immediately sent in, and no further salary paid. This, however, was followed by a petition signed by the whole community on both sides of politics, including the Conservative candidate, asking for the agent's reinstatement, and this case it was not considered necessary to go further. For the reasons stated some of the cases reported have not been proceeded with, and, as suggested by the leader of the Opposition, being ordinary cases of bribery do not involve the same important considerations that arise when the provisions of the law relating to the conduct of elections are set at defiance. These cases have now become stale. The election act has been amended in various ways; the penalties are made very severe, and prosecutions will hereafter take place automatically, as it were, at the election trial, or by direction of the Judges and without reference to any department of the Government, and that seems to have been the real intension of the former act, thought not clearly brought out.

PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDERS.

"Then, again, at a time when already conventions are being held for another approaching general election, and when perhaps a sufficient number of prosecutions have already taken place to serve as a salutary warning of what may be expected in future, it is a question whether any useful purpose will be served by going any further with these trials of bribery cases. Most of the Judges think that in view of the considerations just stated no good purpose will be served. The principal object of punishment of offenders is the prevention of future offences by examples which deter rather than that of vindictive or retributive justice. Many of those already punished have suffered keenly and severely for their folly. There has been offered the strongest possible warning to those who may take part in future elections, and as the result of the amendments of last year, introducing certain features of the English act, it will hereafter be extremely unsafe to pay money for a vote.

OPPOSITION CHARGES.

"The Opposition leader is not justified in making a statement to the country that the Government had decided not to do anything further in the West Elgin and North Waterloo cases. It was stated, in answer to his questions in the House, that the reports of the commissioners in the West Elgin case and of the trial Judges in the North Waterloo case had been submitted to the House since the opening of the present session, and that these were under consideration. Moreover, with regard to the North Waterloo case, in answer to the question of whether a commission was to be issued to enquire into the circumstances attending that election, the reply was given that whatever course the Government