

HALIFAX LAND DEAL.

Middlemen Make \$28,000—By Buying Up Land Required by the Government—And Turning it Over at 144 per cent. Advance.

B. F. PEARSON, M.P.P.

Member of the N.S. Government—And Proprietor of Two Government Organs—Gets \$14,196.21 Net Profit on the Deal.

ONE LOT INCREASED IN VALUE BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND APRIL

From \$7,289 to \$27,100—The Halifax "Herald" Denounces the Graft—Is Sued for Libel and Wins the Verdict.

One of the most remarkable and scandalous transactions brought to the notice of Parliament during the session of 1906-7 was the Halifax Land Deal. The sum of this transaction is that the Government bought a block of land at Halifax to provide for a round-house and other buildings for the Intercolonial. For this land the price paid was \$45,400.

\$28,000 RAKE-OFF.

It was found on investigation that two intermediaries or middlemen had bought up this land just before the Government purchase, and had turned it over to the Department of Railways at a profit for themselves of \$28,392.42. These facts are established on the evidence of one of these parties, who swore that he received the cheque from the Government and that he paid to his partner \$14,196.21 as his half share of the profit. The purchaser who received this half share was no other than B. F. Pearson, M.P.P., now a member of the Nova Scotia Administration, who is proprietor of the *Halifax Chronicle* and the *St. John Sun*, leading Government organs in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

AS STATED IN THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The Halifax Land Deal is represented by the following statement in the Auditor-General's report under the head of "I. C. Railway capital account; increased accommodation at Halifax."