

THE STEAMER "RUTH"

It seems that a steamer called the "Ruth" had sailed on Saturday afternoon with Conservative personators to the same points as the "Minnie M." had gone, and that through the action of the Liberals she was forced to return. It is claimed that if the Liberals could have stopped the "Ruth" from sailing they could also have stopped the "Minnie M." The two cases are entirely different. The "Ruth" had no right to carry passengers, and her owners were told if she proceeded on her voyage with the passengers whom they knew to be on board, proceedings would be taken to impose the fine which the law prescribes in the case of steamers or tugs carrying passengers without license. The owners of the "Ruth" took alarm and succeeded in recalling her after she had proceeded some distance on her voyage. They had no power, however, of recalling the "Minnie M."

THE PROSECUTIONS

The next charge is that the Attorney-General failed in his duty by neglecting to take proceedings against the men reported for corrupt charges at the trial. The facts in regard to this matter are briefly, that Mr. Du Vernet, who acted on the trial against Mr. Smith, applied to the Court at Ottawa for a summons to bring the persons found guilty of corrupt practices before Judge Osler, who was holding the Assizes at the Soo, before the Trial Judges had sent their report to the Speaker of the House; so anxious was he that the law should be put in motion, and within almost a few hours, if not minutes, of the signing of the report by the Judges, he applied for the necessary summonses, which he received and caused to be served on the offenders. As soon as the report had reached the Clerk of the House, the Attorney-General's Department got the names of the persons mentioned by the Judges as guilty of corrupt practices, and reported them to the Attorney at the Soo for action under the Statutes. The Attorney-General did not lose a moment of time in taking action, but between the time the report left the hand of the Judges until the time it reached the Clerk of the House, Mr. Du Vernet had obtained the necessary summonses on behalf of a private prosecutor, having needlessly taken the matter out of the Attorney-General's hands. Mr. Du Vernet then applied for funds with which to carry on the prosecution, his application being made before the report of the Judges had been received and before the Attorney-General was in a position to act. The Attorney-General's answer to this was that a private prosecutor was entitled to half the fines in such cases, and as Mr. Du Vernet by practi-