

Mr. BERGERON. How will this affect Manitoba?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I apprehend that it will not prevent a subpoena being issued to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to produce the original list.

Section agreed to, Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

#### SUPPLY—BALLOT BOX FRAUDS.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance) moved that the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. E. GUSS PORTER (West Hastings). Mr. Speaker, I desire to call the attention of the House to a matter which to my mind requires some explanation from the government. I had hoped to bring this matter to the attention of the House at an earlier stage of its sittings, but have not found an opportunity of doing so without interfering to some extent with the regular proceedings of the House, but the matter is of such importance that I feel warranted, even at this late stage, in calling attention to it. I have heard since I have been in this House many charges of very serious irregularities, of fraudulent or I might say criminal conduct on the part of those supporting the government in an endeavour to maintain themselves in power in this parliament. Corrupt as these charges have been in the past I believe I am safe in saying that during the last federal election held on November 3rd last an attempt was made which was partially successful to commit a greater fraud, a greater crime politically, than had heretofore been attempted by those on the other side of the House, or in fact by anybody, I refer to what is commonly known as the bogus ballot box fraud.

Prior to November 3rd, when the last federal elections were held, and just after the premier had passed by the force of those behind him his famous Transcontinental Railway Bill, and the not less iniquitous gerrymander Bill neither of which I am safe in saying found very much favour in the province of Ontario, very great activity was displayed on the part of the premier of the province of Ontario in his visits to the capital at Ottawa. It was not an infrequent thing in the latter days of last session and prior to the elections to see the then premier of Ontario visiting Ottawa, but prior to that time it had been a rather rare occurrence. As the result of those frequent visits and his association with different members of the government a rumour became quite rife in the country that some bargain had been entered into or some understanding arrived at between the premier of the Dominion and the late premier of Ontario by which

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

it was stated that in the coming federal elections on the 3rd of November, the goods of the province of Ontario were to be delivered by the Hon. G. W. Ross to the premier of the Dominion. That report was published in newspapers throughout the Dominion, it was repeated and while of course I am unable to say and would not undertake to say whether such an agreement was actually entered into or not, I am safe in saying that although I followed the reports in the public press in that matter very carefully, I have never yet seen a public denial from any authentic source that such a bargain did exist. After the declaration of policy and of principles so frequently made in this country by the leaders of the Liberal party, and if I am not mistaken by the right hon. the Prime Minister himself, that provincial politics should be kept entirely distinct from federal politics, that there should be no intermingling of one with the other, it is hard to believe that such an arrangement or attempt as that to which I have referred and which was given expression to in the public press would be contemplated, much less entered into between the right hon. gentleman and the late premier of Ontario. But, Sir, the evidence which has come to hand since that rumour became current is such to my mind as to remove any doubt that might exist as to an arrangement of that kind having been made. I do not know whether it was knowledge of the disfavour with which the Transcontinental Railway Bill was received in Ontario, or the feeling of resentment against the unfairness and injustice dealt out to them by his famous gerrymander Bill that caused the right hon. gentleman to make an appeal to the premier of Ontario for help in the last federal election. It is impossible for me to say that, in fact it occurs to me now it may have been the force of habit on the part of the right hon. gentleman, because, if I am not incorrectly informed, this is not the first occasion on which the right hon. gentleman has turned his attention to the provincial premiers for help. It may be as in the case to which I refer the price that has been paid altogether too high for the shop worn goods that he has received, but nevertheless the facts remain that on this occasion there appeared to be a very strong alliance between these two premiers. I hesitate in believing that such an agreement existed because of this further fact. It is acknowledged, I believe, that the right hon. gentleman who leads the government is one of the keenest observers of political events perhaps in this country to-day, and I do not think he would feel overflattered if I observed, the keenest observer in the Liberal party.

That being the case surely the right hon. gentleman could not have failed to know