

now. This man Lott took an active part in the first election I ran, a by-election in Ad-dington. He was down there handlin' money and he admitted afterwards that he had bought many a vote; at one house he had bought five votes and two of these voters when they came to the poll could not mark their ballots, and Lott who was one of the scrutineers at Mountain Grove saw that they cast their votes for me. He was using money and was there as a part of the political organization for the Liberal party. This man wanted to run again and to represent the people of this Dominion and he would have been elected if he could have worked these boxes with success. Mr. Shibley is a friend to the government here. They gave him a position before he ran to buy cattle for the government to send west. This government paid him well and he went through my riding with government money paying big prices for cattle and then he became my opponent. This is the kind of men I have had to run up against and I think the government should take some action and keep these men who are so anxious to get jobs from becoming candidates. Mr. Shibley was going around before the elections saying, as all Liberal candidates say, that he was going to run a fair election, but he was travelling all over the country arranging the ballot box frauds, and working schemes two or three years ahead so as to get elected by buying cattle with government money. The returning officers appointed by this government are I consider part of the machine, because I went to the returning officer before my election and asked him not to send out Hawkey to No. 1 poll, Clarendon, but to send some honest man who lived in this country as deputy returning officers. I also stated that he had other men, Carl Taylor and Connolly, who were leaving their homes and going to the back country to act as deputies when they had quite competent men in the locality to carry on the elections. But no, Sir, my advice was of no avail. The returning officer, Mr. Franklin said that Mr. Shibley was the man who selected these officers and that he must abide by his decision and he would not recall Hawkey but sent him out to this poll. 125 ballot papers were given him by the returning officer but when he got back after the close of the poll he said he had only received 100 ballots, and the returning officer changed the number accordingly. I had a man sent down there to look over these ballots and he found there were 101 ballots in the box; evidently Hawkey had in his possession a book of 25 extra ballots. If we have to run up against such men as this during every election campaign and the government let these offences go by without punishment, I think

that the sooner the people turn out this government or any other government that permits men to commit such frauds the better. We have had case after case and instead of punishing these men the government apparently think they must reward them with good positions as in the case of Jackson and several similar offenders. I think to-day that if these men had not got off and left the country they would have had government positions, both Shibley and Lott. I think it is time for this government when talking about purity and putting down corruption to take some action themselves and show the people of this country that they mean what they say. I hope this matter will be looked into. This man Carl Taylor who was so active in my election is to-day carrying the mails for the government by stage and the returning officer probably will get some position too. I think the government is in duty bound to take up these cases as they have been so well exposed and state if they are going to punish these fellows and not give them positions under the government at the country's expense.

Hon. CHARLES FITZPATRICK (Minister of Justice). I regret very much that the member for Hastings (Mr. Porter) did not think it at all necessary to extend to me the courtesies which are usual in cases of this sort, that is to give some notice that he intended to bring this before the House. That is the sort of courtesy I have invariably received from gentlemen on the other side. It does not seem to me that this is a question as to what the government is going to do, it is to a larger extent a question of what the government has done. The hon. member for West Hastings (Mr. Porter) says that the government is to blame for not having taken prompt action to punish those connected with this fraud. Let me point out what occurred, I have no doubt that the facts are fresh in the hon. gentleman's memory; but, in his desire to give an exhibition of his skill in the manipulation of this ballot-box, he forgot to state the facts. Let me draw his attention to the fact that on the morning of election day, he was approached in connection with this matter by Mr. Williams, the returning officer, and he was then asked what the facts were in connection with the alleged fraudulent ballot-boxes. And I will read from a letter written by that officer dated November 7th, in which he gives the result of his efforts with the hon. member to induce him to assist us in taking action in this matter:

On the morning of election day Mr. Porter handed to the chief of police of this city a ballot box with a movable partition worked by a wire handle on the top of the ballot box, so that by turning it one way the ballot deposited through the hole in the cover would go