

the principal one was released by order of the Dominion Government when he had served a third of his term.

A similar attempt was made to steal the St. Antoine division election from Mr. Ames, but the Conservative candidate found out what was going on and had the conspirators arrested as they were completing their arrangements. The whole of the apparatus and equipment for carrying out the frauds was discovered.

Then there was the trick ballot boxes prepared for the Hastings and Frontenac elections in 1904. This plot also was discovered by the Conservatives on the eve of its execution, but the principal culprits escaped. Mr. Shepley, who was employed by the Government to prosecute, was late in appearing. Mr. Shepley is still employed by the Government at times, and has been much more aggressive on other occasions.

IN NOVA SCOTIA, TOO.

There were grave suspicions in Queen's and Shelburne in the last election of Mr. Fielding of election frauds similar to those reported in the London Election Conspiracy. A solemn declaration was made that the Conservative Committee at Port Mouton suspected that about 20 voters on the list were under the influence of a fishery officer who was actively engaged in the campaign. Against some of these voters cases were outstanding for infractions of fishery regulations; others had applied for licenses or privileges connected with fishing. The officer in question acted as agent for Mr. Fielding at this poll, and the returning officer was also an employee of the Dominion Government. The agent for the Conservative candidate makes affidavit that the ballots given to all these voters but one were so folded that the returning officer could see how they were marked in tearing off the counterfoil.

DELAY IN HEARING PETITIONS.

Besides these election frauds which Mr. Borden desired to prevent, his motion covers the long delays in trials of election petitions. He mentioned particularly the Halifax case, in which a protest filed immediately after the election of 1904 had not been tried for nearly three years, while the Members alleged to be corruptly elected had occupied their seats in the House through three Sessions. This case was the more remarkable because in one of the hearings during 1906 evidence of corruption was produced which led one of the Judges to suggest the voiding of the election by consent.

In the course of this discussion, Mr. Alcorn, M.P. for Prince Edward, read the evidence given in the Toronto Police Court by J. G. Pritchett, instructor in ballot switching, who described his various operations in a large number of constituencies as an employee of the Liberal organization.