

(Telegram.)

" DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
" OTTAWA, 2nd January, 1886.

" To His Honor Judge SINCLAIR,
" Hamilton, Ont.

" Arrangements have been made for printing under Franchise Act for your district being done at office of Hamilton *Spectator*.
(Signed) " G. POWELL, U.S.S."

Now, the Government were not altogether fortunate in their correspondence with Judge Sinclair, the revising officer for Wentworth, as will be seen by the correspondence which follows. Before proceeding with that, however, I will read a letter to the *Spectator* Printing Company from the Secretary of State:

" OTTAWA, 2nd January, 1886.

" The Proprietor of the Hamilton *Spectator*.

" SIR,—I am directed to inform you that the revising officer appointed under the Electoral Franchise Act for the electoral district of Wentworth, has been instructed to have such printing as may require to be done under the said Act, for his district, performed at the office of your paper.

" I have, &c.,
(Signed) " G. POWELL, U.S.S."

In reply to the telegram sent to Judge Sinclair, I find the following answer:—

" HAMILTON, 4th January, 1886.

" G. POWELL, Esq.,
" Under Secretary of State, Ottawa.

" SIR,—I have your telegram of the 2nd instant, in these words: ' Arrangements have been made for printing under Franchise Act for your district being done at office of Hamilton *Spectator*.' In so telegraphing me I think you must have overlooked the provisions of the Franchise Act. The 16th section says in regard to the preliminary list that ' the revising officer shall then forthwith cause to be printed, &c. ' and as to the final lists the 24th section says that the revising officer shall cause a sufficient number of copies of each of such lists * * to be printed, &c. You will therefore see that the revising officer is the person delegated by Parliament to have the lists printed. He cannot do so without employing some printer; and how I had determined upon in regard to that was this: I proposed to invite tenders for the work, and the lowest tenderer would get the job provided he could do the work properly and with despatch. The money to be paid for it is not yours, mine, or any other officer of Government, but public money, and I had determined to contract for its expenditure according to well-known business rules, so that all parties able to do it should have an equal opportunity to compete for the work. This I considered to be the best course in the public interests to pursue before receiving your telegram, and I am still of that opinion. Until the Statutes declare that I must get the printing done at a particular office, or in some other way prescribes that some other person shall perform the duty of seeing the printing done, I must assume that responsibility myself. It is part of my duty under my commission, and I decline to allow any interference with it. When I fail in such duty in that respect, the Statute affords a remedy. Until then I propose to follow the Act of Parliament in regard to the printing, the same as in other respects, trying so far as my ability and an earnest desire will allow to administer the provisions of this Statute fairly and with equal justice to all.

" Yours truly,
(Signed) " J. S SINCLAIR.

" Revising Officer for the Electoral Districts of North and South Wentworth."

I will just say that it is a pity that more of the revising officers throughout the length of the Dominion have not the backbone which Judge Sinclair displayed in this matter. In answer to that letter of Judge Sinclair, I find the following from the Under Secretary of State:—

" DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
" OTTAWA, 9th January, 1886.

" SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, relative to telegraphic instructions to you from this Department regarding printing required by you as a revising officer under the Electoral Franchise Act, and to state that the matter will receive consideration.

" I have, &c.,
(Signed) " G. POWELL, U.S.S.

" His Honor Judge SINCLAIR,
" Hamilton, Ont."

Then the *Spectator* Company write this letter:
Mr. SOMERVILLE (Brant).

" RE FRANCHISE ACT.

" THE SPECTATOR,"

" HAMILTON, CANADA, 25th January, 1886.

" The Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE, Ottawa.

" DEAR SIR,—The enclosed advertisement, inserted by the revising officer of Wentworth, we cut from the Hamilton *Times*.

" On referring to yours of the 2nd instant, we find you say that Judge Sinclair has been instructed to give us the printing.

" We will be glad to hear from you on this matter.

" In same letter you speak about tariff, &c. We will be glad to have copies of same at your earliest convenience.

" Yours respectfully,
(Signed) " ' SPECTATOR' COMPANY,
" W. CAREY."

Another letter to the *Spectator* people on the 26th of January by the Under Secretary of State:

" DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
" OTTAWA, 26th January, 1886.

" W. CAREY, Esq., Managing Director *The Spectator*,
" Hamilton, Ont.

" SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, enclosing for the information of the Secretary of State, a notice of the revising officer of Wentworth, under the Electoral Franchise Act, in reference to the printing of the voters' lists under that Act, and to state that my letter to Judge Sinclair was merely in the form of a suggestion, as it would not be proper on the part of the Government to dictate to the revising officer as to the discharge of his duties. Two copies of the tariff at which the lists are to be printed are herewith enclosed.

" I have, &c.,
(Signed) " G. POWELL, U.S.S."

I wish to put this on record, so that the revising officers will understand that the Government have no right to dictate to them as to the manner in which they shall discharge their duties under the Franchise Act. Here is a letter from the revising officer of Hamilton addressed to the Secretary of State:

" HAMILTON, CANADA, 6th January, 1886.

" SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt to-day of sheets referred to in your favor of 30th ultimo, received by me yesterday.

" Judge Sinclair, Revising Officer for divisions, county Wentworth, informs me that he has been instructed to have printing done at *Spectator* office. As I have received no instructions, I shall be glad to know whether I am to advertise for tenders or have printing done at *Spectator* Company office without advertising."

" I am, your obedient servant,
(Signed) " WM. BELL,
" Revising Officer for Hamilton."

" Hon. J. A. CHAPLEAU,
" Secretary of State, Ottawa."

Here is another from the *Spectator* Office:

" RE VOTERS' LISTS.
" THE SPECTATOR,"

" HAMILTON, CANADA, 21st January, 1886.

" Hon. J. A. CHAPLEAU,
" Secretary of State, Ottawa."

" DEAR SIR,—We have seen Mr. Bell, the Revising Officer for Hamilton, about printing the voters' lists. He tells us that he has not yet received instructions.

" Please issue your instructions to him to give the *Spectator* the printing of said lists, &c.

" We would suggest that the work ought to be commenced at an early date as the time is getting short in which it must be done.

" Yours very respectfully,
(Signed) " SPECTATOR COMPANY,
" W. CAREY."

Here is another from the *Spectator*:

" THE SPECTATOR,"
" HAMILTON, CANADA, 25th January, 1886.

" The Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE, Ottawa."

" DEAR SIR,—We have been informed by Mr. Bell, the Revising Officer for Hamilton, that we are to have the printing for the city.