poses. It is not material whether they were speeches, or what they were. They were sent out for campaign purposes to advance the interests of a certain party in an election. My hon. friend says that he is informed that this literature was prepared and sent out by a portion of the staff of the minister, to the knowledge of the minister, and that those who sent it out were paid by the funds of the people, that they were employed in that way during the time when their services were being paid for by the country. The minister knows whether that is the case or not. The first point does not involve any question of franking, or any point as to whether this literature consisted of speeches made by hon. gentlemen in this House. The first point is whether members of a staff paid by the country were engaged, to the minister's knowledge, in sending out literature for political purposes. If they were it is not proper; if they were not the minister knows they were not and can settle the point. What I want the minister to do is to instruct us now whether, to his knowledge, members of his staff, or his employees, were, during times at which their services are paid for by the country, engaged in sending out campaign literature to Centre York or elsewhere. If the minister informs us that he is not aware of it, does he say he will inquire? But the main charge of my hon. friend from East Lambton is that, as he was informed, this was done in the way that he describes to the knowledge of the minister.

Mr. GRAHAM. My hon. friend does not make the distinction that I would make and always have made. I submit, in reply to his first proposition. that a speech delivered by my hon. friend himself, although it might not be considered campaign literature, if it were made in the House, would be perfectly legitimate matter to send out to the country. In so far as franking is concerned, that is settled.

Mr. LENNOX. There is no question about that.

Mr. GRAHAM. No question about that. I am not sure that there would be anything wrong in allowing any employee of a department to mail a speech delivered by a member of this House so long as it was confined to something that took place in the House, such, for instance, as the Finance Minister's budget speech. I have had no hesitation in provincial affairs—I know that every provincial government in Ontario has done it—in securing as large a number of copies of the provincial treasurer's budget speech as I could obtain. The budget speech of the provincial treasurer has been printed and distributed every year as far as I can recollect. The last year that I was in the House a large number of copies were printed specially. These were franked and sent out by members of the provincial House. So long as you absolutely adhere to something that takes place in the House, if an officer of the department, in his spare time and not interfering with his duties, were employed to send that out to the country for the information of the people there would not be so much wrong as my hon. friend seemed to indicate. If I prepared a lot of campaign literature which did not form part of any discussion in the House at all it would be a different matter. As to what was really done, there is no doubt that some of my messengers did address a number of envelopes in the department. A large part of it, I feel confident, was done after hours. As to whether it was done in the working hours of the department I have not made inquiry. If it were done at that time perhaps it would be better that it should not have been done. If it has been done I shall not attempt to deny it for a moment.

Mr. LENNOX. I do not think the minister has quite met the point. I say that with very great hesitation but I feel justified in saying so. The question I was asking was this: Was literature addressed by his employees in his office to be sent out to North York during the time when they should be in the service of the country and during the time they were paid? I am not distinguishing between different classes of literature. I do not care what it was. We are not dealing with the question of franking. We have nothing to do with that. Nobody is raising any question as to the franking privileges. The question is whether, while these people were being paid by the country, they were engaged in sending out pamphlets or documents intended to advance the interests of a political party in a campaign. If they were I have no hesitation in saying it was entirely wrong. The minister knows whether that is the case or not. The minister has not answered that question. Is it a fact that to his knowledge a portion of his staff were engaged in sending documents out to Centre York. intended to be used to enlighten the people in a certain way? I do not want to argue with the minister whether it is right for an employee to devote his overtime to that service or not. I am not going to go into that minute question. Is the minister aware that a portion of the time of these officials was taken up in folding, addressing, and sending out this literature?

Mr. GRAHAM. My hon. friend is not so dense that he does not understand my answers. I said distinctly that without any doubt some members of my staff addressed envelopes and mailed copies of the budget speech which was delivered in this House.