

like to ask what right this Government has to give instructions to the revising officers. The Statute clearly enough points out the duties of these gentlemen, and if the Government thought proper to take upon themselves the responsibility of advising the men whom they appoint, surely they ought to give them such instructions as would make the practice uniform in placing voters upon the lists. There is another thing that I will say. It is charged that these judges act in a partial or partisan manner, and it is a matter to be sincerely regretted that any gentleman occupying a position on the bench in this country should act in such a way. And, Sir, if it is found that they are acting as partisans—acting in the interest of the gentlemen who appointed them for the purpose of defeating the popular will, then I say that if it should happen—and I believe it will happen in the very near future—that a change of Government will take place, I believe, Sir, that it will be the duty of the new Government to dismiss them, not only from their positions of revising officers, but from the judicial position which they have disgraced—if these statements are true.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I desire to say a few words on this motion. I hope the Government will consent to bring down all the papers asked for by my hon. friend from Elgin (Mr. Casey). I would like to ascertain what advice has been given by the Government to their revising officer who has been appointed by the Government to preside over the riding that I have the honor to represent. I have not one word to say against that officer, I know of nothing of which to complain personally; but I understand that the printing, which was given to the local newspapers in the riding I represent—that is, the printing of the lists, has been taken away from them by the revising officer. I do not know whether the revising officer, Judge Lane, has been the means of doing this or not, or whether he has acted under instructions from the Dominion Government; but the fact remains, so I am informed, that this patronage, which should belong to the local newspapers, has been taken from them and given to an outside office. Every hon. member knows the importance of the local newspaper. They have special functions to perform and receive but very few perquisites from the Government, and I consider it is a great hardship on those papers to have that patronage taken from them and given to outside papers. In South Grey, last year, the list for the township of Artemesia was printed by the *Flesherton Advance*, the list for the township of Bentinck by the *Hanover Post*; that for Durham by the *Grey Review*, that for the township of Egremont by the *Confederate*, that for Glenelg by the *Markdale Standard*, and for Normandy by the *Durham Chronicle*. Thus the local papers had the advantage of printing the lists, which were well done. Now, I understand this Government has taken away the printing from those papers and given it to an outside office. If this has been done by the revising officer, I do not support his action. I hold that the patronage relating to the necessary printing belongs to the papers in that county. Outside papers receive in many cases very large sums from the public treasury, and I consider that everything in the way of local printing should be given to the local papers. When the Bill was before the House last year I opposed it, and I estimated at that time that the cost of printing would exceed \$600 in each riding. I remember that hon. gentlemen opposite laughed at the statement and thought the estimate much too high. I was told by a revising officer, the other day, that a contract had been let for printing the preliminary list, and in each riding the cost would amount to nearly \$900. What it will amount to in my riding I do not know. The outlay of public money in connection with the introduction of this measure will be enormous. Hon. members at the time it was introduced had not the slightest

idea of the enormous tax they were thus placing upon the people of the country. If the Government had been aware that, at a time of great depression, they would by adopting this measure, have placed such enormous burdens upon the people, I think—provided they had been alive to the country's interest—they would not have forced the adoption of that measure at that particular time. I am amazed at the statements made by the hon. member for Huron (Mr. Cameron) in regard to the conduct and decisions of some of the revising officers on applications made to be placed on the voters' list. The country will likewise be amazed, and the people will learn that the object of the Government was, as I stated last Session, to perpetuate power for the party now in power. I believe, as the Act comes to be fully understood, not only by the Reform party but by the Conservative party, it will not be approved. Honest men, to whatever party they belong, will not approve a measure which places such enormous burdens upon the people, and at the same time leaves open the door to offences against the liberties of the people. I notice that in one of the ridings—I think it is in the riding of North Wellington—they have several local newspapers, which in the past have printed the voters' list, and have done the printing as well as printing is done by the Government themselves. Yet the printing of the preliminary list was awarded to the *Mail* newspaper, a newspaper that last year received, in the Immigration Department alone, from the Dominion Government for printing, \$7,200. The *Mail* could well have afforded to have been magnanimous with the country newspapers and allowed them to receive the printing to which they are justly entitled, and which I demand they shall have. We find that the papers in the large centres frequently obtain large sums from the Government for printing. I am not going to complain particularly of that; but I do complain that when the Government has an opportunity of benefiting the country press they cripple it to build up their subsidised organs for the purpose of perpetuating their reign of power in the country. The *London Free Press* last year received \$10,793 from the Government for printing immigration pamphlets. The *Hamilton Spectator* received \$1,500; the *Montreal Gazette*, a paper which I think the Minister of the Interior has heard of before, \$7,299.66, obtained when that gentleman was a member of the Government for a great part of the year. In order to show the country newspapers how ill-used they have been by the Government, I will read over a list of some amounts which have been paid to some of the leading organs. In three years the *Mail* received for printing, for one department, \$22,777.21; *Montreal Gazette*, \$20,342.80; *Hamilton Spectator*, \$8,369.28; *London Free Press*, \$22,589.50; *Prescott Messenger*, \$10,454.16. There is not a paper in the riding I represent but is equal in intelligence and circulation to the *Prescott Messenger*, and I cannot understand why such a large sum should have been given to that organ. I notice that the paper having the largest circulation in the Dominion, one which stands head and shoulders above all those in point of ability, a paper having double the circulation of those papers I have mentioned—I refer to the *Toronto Globe*—all it received last year for printing was \$7. If the Government had desired to let these advertisements be known to the country they would have been printed in the *Globe*, which is read not only in every quarter of this Dominion, but in the Old Country, the United States, and in every other civilised country. Yet we find that the *Toronto Globe* is only down for \$7, and the *Toronto Week*, edited by that distinguished political economist and scholar, Goldwin Smith, only receives from this Government \$3. I say plainly and fearlessly that if the Government acted in this way to the local press it was unworthy of them; and if it was due to the revising barrister, then he has my condemnation. But I would say, at the same time, that if