

OFFICIAL CAMPAIGNERS.

Resolution Unanimously Passed in 1905—Endorsed by Sir Wilfrid and His Party—Forbidding Officials to Engage in Election Campaigns.

Systematically Violated in 1905, 1906 and 1907—In Behalf of Ministers and with their Approval.

April 15th Mr. Borden brought to the attention of the House a resolution which had been adopted by the Commons on the 17th of July, 1905, on a motion of Mr. Lake.

THE RULE OF 1905.

"That while it is desirable that every official in the employ of the Government of Canada should enjoy perfect freedom of political opinion and the untrammelled exercise of his franchise in accord therewith, no official should be engaged or be permitted to engage in partisan work of any description in the election of a representative to a Provincial or Dominion Legislature."

This motion, proposed on the Opposition side, had been endorsed by the Government, supported by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in a speech, unanimously adopted, and thus practically became the law controlling the Government, and endorsed by the personal pledges of the whole Ministry.

NOVA SCOTIA VIOLATIONS.

Mr. Borden explained that this rule had since been systematically violated by officers of the Government, evidently with the consent and approval of the Ministers who were pledged to enforce it. Cases had been given in previous debates. Mr. Borden gave others. He cited the case of Zacheus Hall, postmaster at Hampton, Annapolis county, who had been convicted in the Criminal Court of having bribed persons in the elections of Nova Scotia. Notwithstanding this criminal interference, Mr. Hall retained his official position and his salary at the time Mr. Borden was speaking nearly six months after his conviction.

Another case mentioned was that of J. L. Bain, of Liverpool, a fishery officer, who not only took part in the elections in Queen's County, Nova Scotia, in which Mr. Fielding was a candidate, but acted as Mr. Fielding's representative at the polls at the Port Mouton booth. Mr. Borden read an affidavit made by the agent of Dr. Weldon, setting forth these facts, and also that Mr. Bain carried on a house to house canvas in his district.