

he did not think it would be right to change all the rules of the House when no complaint had been made.

MR. HOLTON: Of course that is final.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ELECTIONS.

REMARKS.

MR. LANGEVIN said he had to bring a matter of importance before the House, and in order that he might do so in the proper manner, he would move the adjournment of the House. It was well known to the House, and it was known in the country, that certain officials of the House, and certain servants of the Government, were now employing their time in electioneering in the Province of Quebec, instead of doing the business for which they were paid by the country. Among these officials were four of the official translators. One named Bienvenu, had applied to be replaced by his brother while he went canvassing; another named Pitan, who got leave of absence on the plea of illness in his family, had been able to appear on the hustings in the county of Drummond and Arthabaska, and speak in the interests of the present Government of Quebec. The Postmaster at Quebec East was engaged electioneering at Rimouski. Damase Labelle, a lighthouse keeper, was also engaged in the same way. Kierkoskowski, another translator, had been working in the county of Pontiac; and Auguste Leduc, a temporary clerk in the Department of Agriculture; Aumont, another translator, who went away on the plea of sickness, and Tobin, a messenger in the House, were also away canvassing. Lusignan, a clerk in the Inland Revenue Department; Loucks, postmaster at Hull; and Goudin, President of the Ottawa Ward Reform Association in this city, all Government officials, had been busy in the interests of the Quebec Government in the county of Ottawa. Several sessional clerks were also engaged electioneering. To allow officers to go away in that manner, and for that purpose, was at once unfair and unjust. They were paid officers of the county, and it was their duty to devote their time to the service of the country, and

not in the interest of a party. This was his justification for bringing the matter before the House.

MR. JONES (Halifax) said it must be a matter of congratulation to the House that the hon. member for Charlevoix had at last been converted to views so long advocated by the Reform party while they were in Opposition, and practiced by them since they had come into power. It seemed to make a very considerable difference in the opinion of the hon. gentleman that the actions which he alleged had taken place on the part of some of the officials of the Dominion Government were directed against the hon. member's own friends. He (Mr. Jones) was not aware of what had been the practice in the old Provinces of Canada since the Union, but speaking of his own Province, from the date of Union, while hon. gentlemen opposite were in power, they had never lost an opportunity of influencing every officer of the Government under their control, not merely to vote against the Opposition candidates, but to work, to canvass, and to use their official positions against the Local Government of Nova Scotia. In 1867, when the hon. member for Charlevoix was a member of the Government, one of the hon. gentleman's colleagues, the Minister of Customs of that day, had sent a despatch to his officials at Halifax directing them to vote against his (Mr. Jones') colleague and himself, and in favour of the gentlemen who were supporting the Government of that day.

MR. WHITE (East Hastings): Was that wrong?

MR. JONES: Certainly it was wrong.

MR. WHITE (East Hastings): Then why are you doing it now?

MR. JONES: We are not doing it now. When the despatch he had referred to was shown to these officials some of them had come to him expressing their regret that under the changed state of affairs since the Union, and in the face of express orders they had received from the head of their Department in Ottawa, they did not feel at liberty to vote for his colleague