

greater capacity than the hon. Minister of Agriculture and others of his colleagues. Emboldened by impurity, we find these paid servants of the Dominion, not content with anonymous contributions, not content with misinforming the editors of English newspapers, as they have been doing a long time, under cover of anonymity, are coming out brazenly, writing over their own signatures, and deliberately falsifying the record. It is about time that these people were brought to a sense of their duty and this sort of thing stopped.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE. I just wish to refer for a moment to the fact that this practice, to which my hon. friend who has just spoken has alluded, was indulged in to a considerable extent some years ago by the immigration officer we then had in Ireland. We had him not only dealing with matters which were not by any means relevant to the duties he had to perform, but actually improperly and insolently discussing the acts of members of parliament. One instance after another of this was brought to the attention of the government and we had the assurance of the Minister of the Interior that it would be stopped. The following year however we had a repetition of the offence.

Mr. SIFTON. Does the hon. gentleman say I did not stop it?

Mr. SPROULE. What I said was that when it was brought to the hon. minister's attention he said it would be stopped, but the next year we had a repetition of it.

Mr. SIFTON. It was stopped.

Mr. SPROULE. It was afterwards, but only after it had gone on two or three years. Forbearance ceases to be a virtue when the servants of the people are allowed to abuse it as they have been doing. Our immigration agent in Ireland left of his own accord the service of the government, but just as soon as he dropped out, another started in on the same lines. There is no doubt that this article on the Minister of Agriculture was inspired from Ottawa and written no doubt by some one who was expecting promotion or perhaps by some member of the government. I venture to say that there is not one of a thousand readers in Canada who will not reach the same conclusion. It is highly improper that an employee of this government should be allowed to indulge in that kind of work. Whether that employee be W. T. R. Preston or any other notorious character, makes no difference.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I understand that my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, inquired about certain papers having reference to the extension of time of Lieutenant Colonel Gregory's command and the refusal to further extend it. I have given an order to have these papers prepared.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES.

They are somewhat voluminous, but will be ready in a day or two.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Would the hon. minister also bring down his orders and regulations regarding the new examinations?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Certainly.

Mr. CLANCY. Would the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce have the papers which I asked him about yesterday brought down?

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. All the papers in the hands of my department were sent to the Secretary of State, but there was some information from the Department of Justice which is being put in shape and will be furnished this afternoon or to-morrow.

Mr. BELL. The Postmaster General promised me some information regarding the mail contract on the River John. I was to have got it in the course of a day or two.

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. During that debate on the estimates, I promised to bring down the following day information asked for by a number of gentlemen, and I told my deputy to bring me everything promised. If my hon. friend had put his question during that discussion, I would have been in a position then to give him the information, and therefore I am not in default. I shall have great pleasure however in bringing it down.

Mr. BELL. I understood the hon. minister was going to send me a memo.

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. I am sure that my deputy had the information and it would have been given had my hon. friend asked for it. I am not finding fault, and will see that my hon. friend's wishes are complied with.

Motion agreed to, and House went into Committee of Supply.

Railways and Canals—chargeable to collection of revenue—Intercolonial Railway—working expenses, \$6,500,000.

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals). This is the usual vote.

Mr. CLARKE. When the minister was making his statement the other day, he alluded to increased expenditures in the operation of the Intercolonial caused by increased wages paid to employees, and he promised to bring down a statement of the number of employees on the Intercolonial in 1896 and in 1903, the years for which his comparison was made. Has he that information now under his hand? I would ask also for a return showing the train mileage served by the employees of the different grades—engineer, fireman, brakeman, conductor and so on. If the hon. gentleman proposes to make comparisons, he must sup-