

Mr. GRAHAM. I hope all that will be cured by the Civil Service Act.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Is it true that during the campaign in North York, practically all the literature which the Liberal party sent out there was brought from the hon. gentleman's newspaper press into his department and the officers in his department—and possibly these very same messengers—were employed day and night stamping and addressing and sending out that literature?

Mr. GRAHAM. I am not aware of the details. I know there has been nothing sent, to my knowledge, except what took place in the House. My hon. friend will see the distinction between a campaign paper and the publication of a speech which was delivered in the House. The latter would be proper matter for franking.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. A large number of employees in the hon. gentleman's department were engaged for a considerable length of time sending out thousands of copies of nothing but campaign literature into different ridings. If that is the case, this item requires some investigation.

Mr. GRAHAM. Certainly if that were done by messengers or some one of that kind in their spare time it would not come under this item, it certainly was not done by these people.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. The minister admits that right in his department his own officials were employed sending out literature, I will not say what it is, into different counties and that the people are paying for the folding and addressing of the envelopes and the general work connected with the forwarding of this literature. He does not deny that.

Mr. GRAHAM. I would not attempt to deny it until I made inquiries. I admit that any work of that kind would be in connection with speeches delivered in this House. That would not be the same as ordinary campaign literature.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Does the minister think it is right that he should have the employees of his department spending days in addressing these envelopes? No other member in the House has any such privilege and it would seem to be an abuse of the franking privilege.

Mr. GRAHAM. It would certainly not be an abuse of the franking privilege. If literature bearing on a provincial campaign were sent out that might be an abuse.

Mr. SPROULE. We have here three items in succession aggregating \$42,000 in each case 'notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act.' These are connected with a department where you have permanent officers. It was provided by law a few years ago that all such employees would come under the Civil Service Act and that we

Mr. SPROULE.

would not employ in the future that class of civil servants. The Civil Service Commission drew attention to the fact that you had 50 items of this kind in the estimates for one year, yet in the face of that we have these three items in succession. These officials may be paid salaries by different departments and with the estimates in this form we cannot tell what they are paid. One of the ministers, I think the Minister of Finance, some years ago assured the House that the extra amount for that year was to provide so that all these temporary clerks who have been employed for years should be put on the permanent list, so that we could do away with this custom in the future. This government since they came to power have systematically and persistently violated the Civil Service Act in this respect and I think it is time that a stop was put to this practice. It is treating the House with scant courtesy and affording little information as to what is being done with the people's money.

Mr. GRAHAM. There are some employees included in this who have been in the department for 20 years, some for 30—very old employees.

Mr. SPROULE. We were assured that they were all provided for some years ago.

Mr. GRAHAM. There must be some mistake.

Mr. FIELDING. My hon. friend surely is mistaken in attributing the statement he has quoted to me. I am sure he will find that I never made any statement that would imply that there would be no such exceptions made. The question has been repeatedly raised and I have always stated that, no matter what provisions you have in the Civil Service Act, there will be some occasions when there must be exceptions.

Mr. SPROULE. I can understand a rare exception.

Mr. FIELDING. The exceptions are rare in proportion to the magnitude of the service. When you have many hundreds of people in the service, I think the exceptions are not numerous. No doubt we should have the rule as general as possible, and the exceptions as few as possible. But surely you will not find it possible to avoid occasional exceptions.

Mr. SPROULE. Tell me how many there are in these three items: Railway statistics, clerical assistance, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act, salaries of extra clerks, copyists and messengers other than those who have passed the civil service examination, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act; salaries to engineers, draughtsmen, extra clerks and messengers, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act—three items following one another. Is that the rare excep-