

Mr. HEYD. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) say that Mr. Bain compiled this pamphlet?

Mr. SPROULE. I am not here to be cross-questioned by the hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Heyd). If that hon. gentleman has anything to say, let him get up and say it like a man. I cannot take the denial of a man who does not know, when the man who does know not only does not deny it, but practically admits it—that is, he defends it, and in defending it admits it by implication at least. The question, as I say, is not whether the private secretary ought to compile these figures; the question is whether a man employed as private secretary, or assistant commissioner, or first-class clerk, has the right to take the money of the country to pay his salary during the time which he employs in writing campaign literature for a political party. We say that no civil servant has the right to do this, and many of those employed before 1896 were put out of office for doing much less. If it was right for this government to put a man out of office for exercising his right to vote, surely a civil servant who receives the money of the country for writing political pointers ought to be more severely dealt with. The hon. minister, in speaking of it the other night defended it on other grounds which I thought of dealing with, but which I will leave out of consideration for the present. I have only this to say in regard to this matter;—let the same principles be applied to all; do not apply one rule to Conservatives and another to Reformers. Many Conservatives, for doing much less than this gentleman has done, were dealt with very harshly by the present government. I do not blame the present Minister of Customs at present on that ground, because I have not in mind any such cases in his department. But I say that his friends and colleagues dealt very harshly with Conservative office holders for doing much less. But there was one statement of the Minister of Customs which I thought was entirely *infra dig*, coming from him. He went on to say that he had no doubt that many civil servants were giving information to members on this side of the House.

Mr. PATERSON. I did not say that.

Mr. SPROULE. That statement was denied on this side, and I understood that it was denied because the Minister of Customs had made it. The hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Ingram) denied it so did other hon. gentlemen. And I understand that the hon. minister went on to say that if giving of information to this side was to continue the government had better commence with old offenders. In other words, the government had better commence with putting out Conservatives. Is not that rather an unworthy utterance? Is it intended to hold up this side of the House, to prevent us

Mr. SPROULE.

speaking for fear that some of our friends in the service will be turned out for some supposed information? I want to say as one member of this House that I never either applied for or received from a civil servant of this government a word or a figure. I would not apply to such a source. But if I were to do so, I should do no worse than hon. gentlemen opposite did when they were on this side. But I say this was an unworthy utterance if it was intended to close the mouths of the opposition in this House for fear that some condign punishment would be visited upon their friends in the service for imaginary wrong-doing on their part. If the hon. minister thinks he is going to stop us from the argument by that means, he is entirely mistaken. This doing of political work by men in the civil service, is wrong, and the country will condemn it. When a man goes into the public service, he undertakes to do work for all the people and not for one party alone. He has no right to take the money of the people for time devoted to preparing campaign literature to be distributed throughout the country. We were justified in moving to reduce this item to the extent of this salary, and I am mistaken if we do not move in this House to have it reduced, and if the minister does not hear more about it before he is through with it.

Mr. INGRAM. It would be very interesting, to know what view the Minister of Customs takes of the statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) as expressed in these words:

With members of the civil service eating the bread of both parties and deliberately interfering with the elections for the purposes of aiding one political party, if they so act they must be considered as taking their political lives in their hands and they must accept the consequence of their own acts, and the good sense of the people of the country and their natural sense of equal justice will not merely justify but demand at the hands of the government that they should make an example of them.

I should gather from that that, if any civil servant prepares a campaign document, he is guilty and must suffer the consequences. It is admitted by the Minister of Customs that a portion of this political document at least is prepared by Mr. Bain.

Mr. HEYD. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ingram) will allow me, I do not think the Minister of Customs went so far as that.

Mr. SPROULE. Order. The Minister of Customs can speak for himself.

Mr. HEYD. I will take my seat when the hon. member for East Elgin (Mr. Ingram) asks me to. In the meantime, the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) will keep quiet. I understood the minister to say that in this pamphlet were figures prepared by