

OFFICIALS IN POLITICS OLD FRAUDS WILL GO ON

Pledges Broken and Resolutions Disobeyed—Mr. Fielding Profits by the Violation, and Then Goes to Parliament With a New Interpretation of What the Regulation Really Means—No Legislation Against Ballot Switching.

Ottawa, April 25.—Less than two years ago the House of Commons unanimously adopted the following resolution: "That whilst it is desirable that every official in the employ of the Government of Canada should enjoy perfect freedom of political opinion and the unrestrained exercise of his franchise in accord therewith, no official should be engaged or permitted to engage in partisan work of any description in the election of a representative to the Provincial or Dominion Legislatures."

Made to be Broken.

This motion was moved by Mr. Lake of Qu'Appelle, a Conservative, and was supported by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and carried without a dissenting vote. Sir Wilfrid's speech was a distinct pledge that the government would not allow its officers to engage in partisan work. Yet in the session following numerous instances were given of party activity by western officials during the provincial elections. The same thing happened later in Federal elections, and especially where Mr. Fielding, Sir Wilfrid's first lieutenant, was a candidate and personally conducted his own campaign. It is shown this session that Mr. Fielding was actively and sometimes offensively assisted by numerous public officials during the by-election of 1906 following his unseating for corrupt practices during the general election.

Mr. Fielding's Riding.

It is established by affidavit that an important fishery officer travelled with Mr. Fielding from place to place, canvassed on his behalf, represented him at one poll and interviewed doubtful electors, with the result that they refused to take the bribery oath when they came to the poll. Mr. Fielding accepted this man's services and made him his agent notwithstanding his own pledge of 1905. Besides Mr. Bain there was a lighthouse keeper equally active as a campaign manager, and also a representative of Mr. Fielding at the poll. There was a custom house officer who held a poll and is accused of acting in a very partisan manner, going so far as to strike the Conservative scrutineer. Mr. Fielding's agent at Port Clyde was the postmaster, who was also a delegate to the party convention. Another postmaster, a fishery inspector, another fishery officer, a second collector of customs, a harbor master, two other postmasters and still another fishery officer were actively engaged in this one riding during Mr. Fielding's election campaign. It was all done in the plain view and with the approval of the Minister himself.

Shown Up in the House.

These facts were shown in a discussion on Monday introduced by Mr. Borden. The leader of the Opposition set forth the facts and also the resolution of the House above quoted. He closed his speech with a motion expressing regret that the government had sanctioned and condoned the violation of the resolution by officials, "who, while maintaining such deliberate violation, have been continued in positions of public trust and responsibility and in the enjoyment of salary paid from the public exchequer."

Other Official Offenders.

Mr. Lake, supporting the motion, gave a long list of instances in the west where officials took part in campaigns. Mr. Boyce of Algoma furnished several examples, including that of the postmaster of Tabasco, a vigorous politician who became a defaulter to the department, was discharged and reappointed and still holds office receiving a salary of over \$1,000 and giving much of his time to private business contrary to the declared rule of the department. A postmaster at Copper Cliff, reported for corrupt practices at the election, is retained in office at a salary of over \$1,700, while 500 residents have petitioned for his removal. The Indian agent at St. Mary's, Marie held the notorious poll at Michipicoten, which he had no right to do, and allowed the whole human cargo of the "Minnie M" to go up and vote with no questions asked.

Petty Officers Do Not Count.

To these and other instances, some of which Mr. Foster produced, Mr. Fielding had only one reply. He pleaded that many of these officers, and especially those who interfered in his own election, were not drawing sufficient salary to maintain them, but were only partly dependent on their offices for a living though as a matter of fact some of them received as much as \$700. Thus Mr. Fielding declares that the resolution of 1905 applies to only about one-twentieth of public officials.

A New Rule.

Nothing was said about salary limit when the House declared that no officer should be allowed to take part

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PRESIDENT OPENS THE EXPOSITION

Jamestown En Fete for the Occasion—Brilliant Gathering from Near and Distant Points.

Jamestown, Va., April 26.—The ceremonies which present the Jamestown Tercentenary Exposition to the world were performed at noon to-day with all the dignity and splendor befitting the occasion. Thousands of men, women and children crowded about the speakers' stand on Lee's parade, where in the presence of a most distinguished assemblage, President Roosevelt spoke the words of dedication and at the same time pressed a gold button that started the machinery of the exposition in motion. Simultaneously the thousands of flags and banners on the beautiful buildings were thrown to the wind and a deafening salute boomed forth from the scores of warships of the United States and foreign powers that dotted the historic waters of Hampton Roads.

The salute was applauded by thousands of people, who had been waiting for that glad moment for many months, and they were happy. In truth, the three cities that are within a stone's throw of the exposition, and in fact all Virginia, was never so happy in all its eventful history as it is to-day.

To-day's celebration was participated in by the President of the United States, the foreign diplomats from Washington, members of Congress, of the army and navy, together with the governors and staffs of a score of states.

Official Exposition Hymn.

O God of Nations, by Thy guiding hand

Were our forefathers led to this blessed shore,

When they were seeking for some friendly land

Where they Thy praise from fervent hearts might pour

In deep libations. They had naught to fear

From persecution's rack, or bitter strife

Or gross exactions, often hard to bear,

Which compassed all their daily life around.

Their first famed act on bleak Cape Henry's shore

Was planting of the Cross, with grateful mien.

Then with loud voice, above the tumult of the day

Preclaimed their faith in what was yet unseen.

Yet well they knew had surely been decreed

And in His own good time would be declared.

By Him who helped them in their hour of need

Who neither fostering care nor guidance spared.

Cheered by blest Hope, sheet-anchor of the soul,

They struggled on, impelled by conscious right,

Strong in that faith which did their acts control,

And gave them power when it was lost in sight.

On Jamestown Isle they did new altars raise

Crude at the first, but with high purpose bent,

And there again with heartsome hymns of praise

They worshipped Thee, O God, with one consent.

So thus, 'tis seen, it needs not to be proved

That in this glorious land, where they were free

Their first thought was of Him whom well they loved.

Their glory was "religious liberty,"

So now, great God, on this our nation's day,

We give Thee homage, by our stires begun;

We still would learn of Thee to watch and wait

Least losing Thy loved care, we be undone.

We praise Thee for the gifts Thy love bestows

On this our country, with unsparing hand;

Though undeserved, it thus most truly shows

The watchful care o'er this God-favored land

On which blest liberty first saw the light.

Where it was cradled, as the world records;

Where our forefathers' faith is "lost in sight"

Where Thou art King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The Canadian press representative leaving the colonial office, met a Canadian, one of the best posted in London on emigration matters, who on being informed that emigration had been discussed by the conference, remarked: "Canada is doing splendidly now in the way of emigration and will continue to do so if they leave us alone. We don't want any of those assisted passage emigrants."

The question of naturalization was also discussed. Herbert Gladstone spoke regarding the diversity of laws prevailing in the different colonies on this question.

The question of naval defense is not likely again to come before the conference until the various matters under consideration have been made the subject of the conference between the premiers and the admiralty.

ROYAL WEDDING.

St. Petersburg, April 26.—It is announced that the wedding of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholasievitch, second cousin of Emperor Nicholas, and commander-in-chief of the St. Petersburg military district, and Princess Anastasia of Montenegro, divorced wife of Grand Duke George of Leuchtenburg, will take place in the Crimea, May 22nd.

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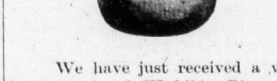
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