

for other members of the House. I do not think it is a crime for any of the officials of the government, if I ask them to do so for my own information, to prepare a table which I want to use in the interest of this country; and when I quote figures here, probably sometimes too many for some people, I rely upon their correctness, because I get them from official sources. All this talk, in an attempt to fasten on Mr. Bain the charge of having compiled this book, has been so much time wasted, because it is a false charge. Mr. Bain is not guilty of compiling this book or issuing campaign circulars 1, 2 and 3. If our hon. friends would quietly go to work and show where there is in this book one single misstatement, that would be of more importance to the country. So far as I can judge, and I have read it with great care, and have compared it with figures which I have myself used, its statements are absolutely true. But when hon. gentlemen accuse Mr. Bain of having compiled this book, I can say that on his own testimony that he is not guilty, and this is an attempt to fasten a false charge upon an innocent man. The whole thing is politics. They do not care whether Mr. Bain compiles political literature or not. It only depends on which side he compiles it for. We would not have heard one whimper if it had been got up in the interest of the Conservative party. But this document being true, and giving the legislative history of the Conservative party for eighteen years, and a correct statement of the progress of the country during the last seven years, is what hurts hon. gentlemen opposite; and they think that if they can discredit Mr. Bain they discredit this document, which has been issued by an entirely different person, and therefore weaken the political effect it might produce. I hope that every citizen of Canada will read Campaign Literature, Nos. 1, 2 and 3, and then they will find that the statements that have been made by our friends on the opposite side during the past six or seven years are absolute bosh.

Mr. SPROULE. The evidence which this House is asked to accept to satisfy them that Mr. Bain did not write this book reminds one very much of what is said to have taken place in a court where the Crown prosecutor said that he was prepared to put two witnesses in the box to swear that they saw a man commit a crime. The reply from the other side was that they could put in a dozen witnesses who could swear that they did not see him commit the crime, and the evidence of the twelve should be accepted against that of the two.

Mr. HEYD. Do you say Mr. Bain wrote the book?

Mr. SPROULE. I am not making statements.

Mr. HEYD. Do you say so?

Mr. SPROULE. I am not, like the hon. gentleman opposite, making positive state-

Mr. HEYD.

ments about something I do not know. When the hon. gentleman (Mr. Heyd) said that Mr. Bain did not write that book, how did he know?

Mr. HEYD. He told me so.

Mr. SPROULE. Where did the hon. gentleman get the information. Was not the gentleman sitting there on Friday night when the Minister of Customs was challenged?

Mr. HEYD. No.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yes.

An hon. MEMBER. I saw him.

Mr. SPROULE. The best evidence in the world could have been provided then and there, and the very fact that it was not denied by the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) who, practically, by his silence gave consent, went a long way to prove what was said from this side of the House. Now the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Sutherland) says that Mr. Bain did not write the book. Mr. Bain was working in the office of the Minister of Customs, not in that of the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) who would know best, was challenged across the floor of the House to say that Mr. Bain did not write it, he did not deny it and practically assented to it. What was his first defence? He practically admitted the charge, by refusing to deny it, and I am told, whether correctly or not that the gentleman impunged was sitting at his hand within hearing and could have given the minister an answer in fifteen seconds. However the first time the charge was made he did not deny it, and he could have denied it because no one would know the facts better than the Minister of Customs in whose office Mr. Bain was employed. The second time he defended it, and said: I had a perfect right to employ my private secretary to collect these figures for my use in the House. Then he quoted the figures and said: Does any one say they are not correct? He defended Mr. Bain's conduct, thereby admitting it. And now the Minister of Public Works gets up and denies it. I would rather have the denial of the man who above all others, was in a position to know whether it was or was not done by Mr. Bain, yet up to the present he has not pretended to deny it.

Mr. HEYD. How could he deny it without making inquiries?

Mr. SPROULE. He could ask the man at his elbow.

Mr. PATERSON. You say that Mr. Bain was there?

Mr. SPROULE. I do not know the gentleman.

Mr. PATERSON. You said he was.