

carry on the large correspondence in French which is necessitated by the work of the board. I claim there should be a joint secretary in such a case as I have referred to, who would bear the title of secretary and who would have the functions and remuneration of a joint secretary. Of course when Mr. Cartwright finds correspondence from Quebec he can hand it over to the accountant for translation or Mr. Bernier could do the translation. But I think it is fair, the board being a Dominion board and having much business coming from the province of Quebec, that there should be a joint secretary knowing the French language who would receive the correspondence in French and attend to it immediately. Presumably Mr. Primeau is paid for his work as accountant and registrar. As a matter of fact, I think all his time is taken up in acting as accountant. I think he should be, and in fact it was understood when the board was organized he was to be a joint secretary. Mr. Primeau was a lawyer of several years' standing and I believe was appointed on the understanding that he would be French secretary. I think some competent accountant trained to that work should act as accountant and there should be a French secretary.

Mr. SPROULE. For the benefit of those who ask what the Solicitor General does for his salary, since he does not attend to any legal business, I might give a little information. A large share of his time, I understand, has been taken up in distributing circulars such as I have here. They are sent out from his department and are franked 'Jacques Bureau.' This circular is headed :

Great growth is manifest in all the departments.

R. R. Hall, M.P., for West Peterboro, in moving the address gives to the House gratifying and conclusive facts and figures as to Canada's trade.

Sir Wilfrid's merciless criticism of Tory platform.

Masterly analysis by Prime Minister.

Platform full of reservations, ifs and buts.

Charges Borden with attempt to bribe British Columbia. Fielding's fighting speech; why Foster was unseated. Foster, the disciple of purity, after being unseated for bribery and corruption gave his criminal accomplice a fat job in New Brunswick.

Mr. BENNETT. Anything about MacKay's last awful day?

Mr. SPROULE. No, there is nothing about it. This has been going on, I am told, both summer and winter. I could understand it going on during the session, but I am referring to it in connection with the abuse of the franking privilege. As I understand the law, it is an abuse of the franking privilege for any minister of the Crown to frank those letters when the

House is not in session, because what goes out from the department should be on the business of the country or connected with the official business of the country. Thus the Solicitor General is doing work which, no doubt, is regarded as very valuable; it is of an educative character. Perhaps he is giving the country ample return for the large salary we vote him. As to his not appearing before the Board of Railway Commissioners, there are, of course, lawyers and lawiers. There are some who are corporation lawyers and some who are not. I thought we might say of him, as our late friend Gourley said when the government appointed Mr. Fraser out of this House to the High Court bench; he said they had always been blamed for filling these positions with lawyers, but, thank God, they could not say that this time. So with the Solicitor General. If he cannot go before the Board of Railway Commissioners to attend a legal case, is he fit to be Solicitor General? What are the duties of his office? Is he a lawyer or not, and if not, why does he draw such a large salary for services to the country which are never rendered, so far as we know, except in doing some work like this, distributing letters to enlighten the people or, more properly speaking, to mislead the people of this country.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I said more than that. My answer was that I was under the impression that the French correspondence was performed by Mr. Primeau, and I was surprised to hear my hon. friend say that it was not. Certainly, if Mr. Primeau is not allowed to perform the work which was entrusted to him, we should have a corresponding French secretary.

Mr. MONK. I did not say that Mr. Primeau did not perform that work, perhaps he does; I said he had been appointed as accountant and registrar. We have here a tribunal seized with cases from all over the province of Quebec, and from localities where they have to correspond directly with the secretary. We have a secretary, in other respects quite competent, but who does not understand that language. It seems to me a fair proposal that we should have a joint secretary, somebody who thoroughly understands the French language and can carry on French correspondence, without it being necessary to have recourse to other persons employed by the board. If the government do not feel inclined to adopt that view I would like to know it.

Mr. GRAHAM. The real point is to see that the work of the board of Railway Commissioners is done efficiently for all classes of the people. My own opinion is