

handed out for the purpose of this pamphlet, certain statements which were of the same character as statements which he had prepared for the Minister of Customs. I followed the Minister of Customs very carefully, and he certainly said that before six o'clock, when in his excitement he was somewhat endangering the venerable head of the Minister of Trade and Commerce who sat in front of him. That statement is not consistent with the statement which the Minister of Customs is making to the House now.

Mr. PATERSON. So far as I am aware, I said nothing inconsistent with what I am saying now. I said that Mr. Bain said, that he had been requested by parties for information on these points; he had given them statements which had been prepared for me and which I had used. We were not in many campaigns together, but I think I used some of these figures in the campaign in North Ontario.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Did you use them in South Lambton.

Mr. FIELDING. He must have forgotten them there.

Mr. PATERSON. Well, I don't know what happened there.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The people of East Lambton had a correct view of the situation.

Mr. FIELDING. They struck oil.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Will the Minister of Customs say, that Mr. Bain's only connection with this pamphlet, was the handing out of statements which had been already prepared by him for his minister?

Mr. PATERSON. I am not in a position to state more than I have stated. The hon. gentleman who has prepared this literature has stated all about it.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. gentleman who prepared this literature knows something about it, but I am inclined to think that the Minister of Customs knows more. I do not think that the Minister of Customs will deny that after all, a portion of that pamphlet is the work of his private secretary.

Mr. WADE. Will some one charge Mr. Bain?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. My hon. friend from Leeds (Mr. Taylor) has distinctly said, that he was prepared to prove that Mr. Bain did write these statements. I do not know that you want very much more of a charge than that, even to suit the fastidious taste of my hon. friend from Annapolis (Mr. Wade). That was distinctly stated in the House two or three times this evening.

Mr. HEYD. He will take that back now.

Mr. TAYLOR. No, I won't.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. As my hon. friend the Minister of Customs has made some statements in the House regarding this matter, he really should go a little further. He has had an interview with Mr. Bain, and he knows about it; I suppose he knew a good deal about it before he had that interview; and he is not prepared to state that Mr. Bain did not prepare statements which were inserted in that pamphlet, and which were prepared for the purpose of being inserted in it. My hon. friend cannot say that, and therefore I presume that is a polite and easy way of informing this side of the House that he knows that Mr. Bain did prepare these statements. After all, when we come to that, have we not reached the stage when my hon. friend the Minister of Customs admitted that Mr. Bain did prepare at least a portion of that campaign literature? I do not wish to press this point unduly, but will the hon. gentleman deny that that is the condition of affairs?

Mr. PATERSON. He admitted that he had prepared for my use at different times some of the statements which were incorporated by whomsoever published these documents; but he refused to be held responsible for all that was in these pamphlets. He assumed the responsibility for what he had prepared himself.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I understand it perfectly, I think. A portion of this pamphlet relates to matters with which the Department of Customs is concerned, and this gentleman prepared that portion.

Mr. HEYD. Oh, no.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I am trying to state, as fairly as I can, what I gather. Another gentleman has come to the aid of the Minister of Customs. Might I suggest to both of these hon. gentlemen that the Minister of Customs is an old parliamentary hand, and, with all deference to them, he knows how to manage this case a great deal better than either of them does. Let me say to the Minister of Customs that if that is the case, it does not alter the condition of affairs. This gentleman has prepared that portion of the pamphlet which relates to the Department of Customs; there cannot be any doubt of that, in view of what my hon. friend has said. But there is one thing more that we ought to know about, in justice to Mr. Bain himself. We ought to know whether he did that by the direction of the Minister of Customs and with his knowledge. In order to clear Mr. Bain, my hon. friend should make himself perfectly clear upon that question. I do not think this is a matter which concerns Mr. Bain so much as it does the administration of the government, especially my hon. friend's department. I am not inclined to criticise Mr. Bain very much about it, because he is under the direction of his minister; but I am inclined to criticise the principle of procuring this