

the records of the court, that this man had been found guilty of corrupt practices in elections, and that he was still holding office. What became of him? Records of this parliament show that the Postmaster General stood up in his place and said that he saw no reason for interfering with the postmaster at Copper Cliff—Mr. W. C. Kilpatrick. That is another instance, and I could go on ad infinitum. There is the case of Philip Wagner in the Northwest. There a man was found guilty by the court of preying upon and stealing from the immigrants. While it was his duty to safeguard them he stole from them. He was indicted for it and he went to jail. During the time that he was in jail his salary was paid by this government, and when he was released this jail-bird was taken back into the arms of this paternal government and given a more important office with an increased salary. Surely the hon. Finance Minister must be perpetrating a little joke on this House when he taunts my hon. friend from Went Kent (Mr. Clements) with not having brought this matter at an earlier date to the attention of the government. These matters are brought to the attention of the government in this House and very little attention is paid to them, but later on they will be brought to the attention of the government through the medium of the popular vote.

Mr. FIELDING. We are quite accustomed to hearing hon. gentlemen say what they are going to do with the popular vote. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Boyce) will have to give us something newer and fresher if he wants to make any impression on the House. He began by saying that it was the silliest thing in the world to make any representations to this government or even to parliament and that, of course, is the explanation of the speech which he has just delivered. I have not sufficient familiarity with the various departments to give him a reply in regard to the various matters to which he has referred. Some of his questions have been discussed from time to time by the responsible ministers, and I remember that the explanations which they gave seemed to be fair and satisfactory.

Mr. BOYCE. Does the hon. gentleman think the explanation was sufficient in regard to the Thessalon postmaster?

Mr. FIELDING. I remember that the impression I received was that it was sufficient.

Mr. BENNETT. The postmaster blamed the theft on his little girl.

Mr. FIELDING. May be so.

Mr. BENNETT. That satisfied the minister?

Mr. FIELDING. If I had to undertake the defence of the details of all the de-

Mr. BOYCE.

partments of the government on a vote respecting binder twine I am afraid that I would be undertaking a good deal. But I am ready to go back to the original complaint which is that a certain person was obliged to pay \$200 or \$300 improperly. If that gentleman had a grievance it was his duty to place it before the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and if he has failed to do so then he has no ground of complaint. Now that the hon. gentleman has mentioned the matter I will feel it my duty to ask the department officials to look into it, but I think this man has no ground of complaint, because he failed to make representations to the proper officer.

Mr. BENNETT. I think the Finance Minister does not do himself justice. Talking of the Thessalon post office, he said that, having a recollection of all that happened in that case, the Postmaster General satisfied him that his course was right. What was the course of the Postmaster General? A friendly post office inspector was sent there to examine the books.

Mr. PUGSLEY. What is the hon. gentleman referring to? Where does this evidence appear?

Mr. BENNETT. In the report of the post office inspector at the time and in 'Hansard.'

Mr. PUGSLEY. In what year?

Mr. BENNETT. Several years.

Mr. FIELDING. It is annual.

Mr. BENNETT. Yes, that is so, but the hon. gentleman is getting so calloused to these things that he lets them all pass by. There was a time when the hon. gentleman would wince in this House. I remember the temperance plebiscite vote in the province of Quebec when it was proved in this House and when the evidence was read to show that ballot boxes were systematically opened, that men who were members of this House, that men who are to-day judges, were implicated in it. When these ballot boxes were opened in the province of Quebec it was found that there were more votes recorded than there were votes on the list. I see my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), the temperance apostle, pricking up his ears. When the returns were brought in there were only 30,000 votes polled against prohibition in the province of Quebec, while after there were 90,000 against. How were these returns made up?—by men opening the ballot boxes days after they were closed, filling them with ballots, and although the names of these offenders were sent wide and broad over the country, this government did not dare to make an inquiry. The record shows that there were more votes polled in these divisions against prohibition than there were names on the voters' list. The Min-