

missioner wrote 'Political Pointers No. 1,' but he said it was before Mr. Bain was assistant commissioner; and I say that 'Political Pointers No. 3' was prepared by the same gentleman since he was appointed assistant commissioner.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Minister of Customs will not get up and deny it himself, because he has the reputation of telling the truth, although he may equivocate a little and get around the corners, but when it comes down to the straight point, he will not deny it. If he gives me a commission of three honest men, I will prove that Mr. Bain prepared that document.

Mr. PATERSON. My statement was, that when I asked Mr. Bain: is there any of your work in that; he said: there are figures in that which I prepared for your use, and which you have used; it was my duty, as your private secretary, to prepare them for you and what I did prepare for you has found a place in these political pointers. I never said that Mr. Bain said that he was the publisher or the author of these political pointers.

Mr. TAYLOR. You did not say that; but after quoting the tables, you read a lot of statements and said they were correct information to go to the people of this country; and that document was prepared by this gentleman before he was appointed assistant commissioner.

Mr. PATERSON. Not for this purpose.

Mr. CLANCY. I want a word with the hon. Minister of Public Works, who contradicts the Minister of Customs.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. CLANCY. Let us see where the Minister of Customs left off on Friday evening. He was asked if he had any knowledge, directly or indirectly, as to whether Mr. Bain had prepared any literature to be used or circulated by the Liberal party. The hon. gentleman refused to answer, but said: 'I will ask Mr. Bain.' Could not the hon. gentleman have said, I have no knowledge; it never came to my notice, and therefore I do not know? Why should he ask Mr. Bain, if he did not know whether it was written by Mr. Bain or not? Could not the hon. gentleman have said he did not know? But the hon. gentleman, with quite as many scruples as the Minister of Public Works—and I repeat, it was somewhat to his credit—refused to state that he had no knowledge directly or indirectly that the Assistant Commissioner of Customs had been engaged in preparing literature for the Liberal party, and preferred to sit in his seat and refuse to make an answer. Now, the Minister of Public Works says: I know all about it. Does he know any more about it than the Minister of Customs himself? Did he not on Friday evening last sit in this House

where he does now without making any statement when the Minister of Customs refused to answer the question? Now he says Mr. Bain is in no way responsible. We do not hold Mr. Bain responsible; we hold the Minister of Customs responsible. Mr. Bain is not his private secretary, and if he uses him as such, he uses him for a purpose for which this House has not voted money. The hon. gentleman has no right to use Mr. Bain as his private secretary. Mr. Bain is not his private secretary; he is Assistant Commissioner of Customs, and his salary was voted for him as such. The fact that the Minister of Customs used Mr. Bain as his private secretary does not condone the crime in any sense. I congratulate the two ministers—one who will not make the denial, and the other who says he knows better than the hon. gentleman who refuses to make the denial—on the spectacle they present to the House and the country.

Mr. HEYD. I have listened to this debate with a great deal of interest, and it is only just now that I am beginning to understand what it is all about. The Assistant Commissioner of Customs is charged with having compiled 1, 2 and 3 of what are known as Political Pointers; and I have been trying to find out whether Mr. Bain compiled this book or not. If he compiled it, I should think he did wrong. If he did not compile it, I do not see wherein he is guilty. If the compiler of this book used figures which were prepared by Mr. Bain for Mr. Paterson's use, he is not guilty of a crime. Mr. Coulson, of the bank, the Postmaster General's Reports, and dozens of outsiders are quoted in this book, and are equally guilty with Mr. Bain, because they supplied the information as well as he. They did not compile the book, neither did Mr. Bain. I had the pleasure of seeing this book, or a great deal of it, before it ever appeared in its present shape, when it was in manuscript form; and it was not in Mr. Bain's writing, but in the writing of another man. I have no doubt that in the compilation of this book information was got which Mr. Bain supplied. Anybody could get that information. Our hon. friends opposite take credit that they did not go and get information from that source. That is why they are always wrong. If, instead of relying upon their own judgment and resources, they would do exactly what the gentleman did who wrote this book—go to the fountain head for information—they would not so often go astray; because, when they rely upon their own judgment, they are invariably wrong. I have had occasion frequently in this House to notice that when our friends are left to their own resources, like sheep, they go astray. They accuse Mr. Bain of issuing a book. Mr. Bain had nothing to do with the book. If he were here to defend himself, he could tell our friends that this book is made up of extracts from speeches made by Mr. Paterson and other extracts prepared