

deration than they have. I do not think it would be right and proper for the House to pay employees to send out campaign literature, but when the government employ so many as they do in order to give them work, I think members on either side should have the advantage of having these people come to their rooms and assist them in sending off copies of speeches of members of the House. If that were done equally for both sides, I do not think there would be any objection to it. But at present I think members on the government side have an advantage in this respect over members on this side. There are a great many men in the paste room who could be employed in this way. Perhaps it would be better for their health if they were. One never goes down there without seeing many of them sitting around doing nothing.

Mr. M. Y. McLEAN. I cannot speak for North York, but I think I can speak for South Huron, and I have no hesitation in saying that I did have a number of copies of the speech of the Finance Minister sent to my constituents, not as campaign literature, but for their information and instruction; and for the work of sending out these I paid the person who sent them, out of my own pockets. I not only pay for the service of wrapping them up and sending them out, but I also paid for the envelopes in which they were sent.

Mr. LANCASTER. It is quite clear that the hon. gentleman who has just spoken has a better idea of the rights of the people than the Minister of Railways, because he took care to pay out of his own pocket for the work he was getting done. I want to protest against using public officials for sending out campaign literature for any body. That is not what they are paid for. If a man is employed in any department, let him be employed in the work which he is supposed to perform, and give all his time to that work. I think the minister had better take some advice from the hon. member for South Huron and arrange his department so that his officials will not any longer be engaged in anything but the duties for which they are paid by the people.

Mr. TAYLOR. I have in my hand a copy of a pamphlet which is being addressed by officers of the different departments and distributed throughout the country. It is entitled 'Eleven Years of Prudent Administration,' and is printed at the office of the Montreal 'Herald.' It is not the Finance Minister's speech and does not contain any speeches, but is simply a campaign document. I have placed in the hands of the hon. member for Beauharnois a copy of another pamphlet, in French, which is sent out in the same way by the staffs of the different departments. The country is being flooded with these pamphlets from the different departments.

Mr. BARR.

Mr. BERGERON. The pamphlet which I have in my hand appeared at the commencement of the session, and was distributed by the Department of Justice mostly among the electors of the province of Quebec. It is a translation of an article which was published in a paper in New York called the 'Messenger.' There are two periodicals of that name published in New York. One is called the 'Messenger,' and is published with the consent of the Jesuit Fathers of New York. It is not made by them, nor do they take the responsibility for any article which appears in it. The articles in it are written by anybody who has the reputation of being an honest or honourable person and they go for what they are worth. There is another periodical called the 'Messenger of the Sacred Heart,' which belongs to the Jesuit Fathers and everything in it is published by them and under their authority. The article in this pamphlet was taken from the first-named publication, and was written by a Canadian. It was translated here into French and was given out as having been published by the Jesuit Fathers in New York to give more force to it. It is entitled 'Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada,' and has a beautiful picture of the premier; and it has these words on the first page: 'Traduction d'une étude parue dans la revue 'The Messenger', de New-York, publié par les révérends pères Jésuites.' This statement is not true on the face of it, and the pamphlet is full of inaccuracies. This pamphlet comes from the Justice Department and is distributed all over the province of Quebec. It is not a speech delivered in the House, nor has it anything to do with parliament. It is intended entirely for political purposes. If what the hon. gentleman says would be allowed, if a speech made by a member should be franked and sent out by an employee, this pamphlet does not fall within that category.

Mr. FOSTER. Where was it printed?

Mr. BERGERON. There is nothing to show where it was printed. In any case, it is full of absolutely erroneous matter which is all the more reason why it should not be sent out with the frank of a department.

Mr. FIELDING. Is the exception taken to the franking of the document? I can understand the objection taken that the labour employed should not be official labour, but I understand my hon. friend takes exception to the franking.

Mr. BERGERON. My great objection is to the pamphlet itself, it is absolutely false, and my next objection is that the fact of its being false makes it all the worse to send it out franked.