

"Kindly send us a scale of rates by return to be allowed by Government and oblige,

"Yours very truly,  
(Signed) "SPECTATOR COMPANY,  
"W. OARBY."

This is the same company which in 1883 and 1881 were paid \$17,897 for doing work which they should have done for \$4,610 for the Agricultural Department. But they were not satisfied with trying to get the printing for Hamilton for the *Spectator* office, but they also control the *Mail* job office at Toronto, and here is a letter to the Secretary of State with regard to the printing for that city :

"MAIL' JOB DEPARTMENT,  
"TORONTO, January 9, 1886.

"Secretary, Department Secretary of State, Ottawa.

"DEAR SIR,—I understand that instructions are being issued to the revising barristers respecting the printing required by them. I hope you can use your influence towards securing for the *Mail* job department a share of the printing for the city of Toronto and the ridings of York. We have every facility, and think we have a claim on the Government for this printing. Please advise us what course we shall adopt in order to secure a portion of this printing, and oblige

"Yours truly,  
(Signed) "MAIL' JOB DEPARTMENT,  
"Per W. A. SHEPARD, *Manager.*"

Just to show that this system has been adopted by the Government, I will read another telegram from the Department of the Secretary of State :

(Telegram.)

"DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
"OTTAWA, 2nd January, 1886.

"To His Honor JUDGE DAVIS, London, Ont.

"Arrangements have been made for printing under Franchise Act, for your district, being done at office of London *Free Press*.  
(Signed) "G. POWELL, U.S.S."

That is a paper which gets from \$10,000 to \$12,000 worth of pap every year. Here also are the instructions to the proprietor of that paper :

"OTTAWA, January 2nd, 1886.

"The Proprietor of the London *Free Press*.

"SIR,—I am directed to inform you that the Revising Officer appointed under the 'Electoral Franchise Act' for the Electoral District of Middlesex, has been instructed to have such printing as may require to be done under the said Act, for his district, performed at the office of your paper.

"A tariff regulating the charges to be allowed for printing is now being framed, and upon its adoption a copy of the same will be forwarded to you, for your information. I am also to state that the form of the voters' lists to be printed is under consideration.

"I have, &c.,  
(Signed) "G. POWELL, U.S.S."

But here is the most interesting correspondence of all, namely, that between the Department of the Secretary of State and the proprietor of the Chatham *Planet* newspaper :

"DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
"OTTAWA, 2nd January, 1886.

"To the Proprietor of the *Planet* newspaper,  
"Chatham, Ont.

"SIR,—I am directed to inform you that the revising officer appointed under the Electoral Franchise Act for the Electoral District of Bothwell has been instructed to have such printing as may require to be done under the said Act, for his district, performed at the office of your paper.

"A tariff regulating the charges to be allowed for printing is now being framed, and upon its adoption a copy of the same will be forwarded to you, for your information.

"I am also to state that the form of the voters' list to be printed is under consideration.

"I have, &c.,  
(Signed) "G. POWELL, U.S.S."

(Telegram.)

"DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
"OTTAWA, 2nd January, 1886.

"To His Honour JUDGE BELL, Chatham, Ont.

"Arrangements have been made for printing under Franchise Act, for your district, being done at office of Chatham *Planet*  
(Signed) "G. POWELL, U. S. S."

"CHATHAM, ONT., 9th January, 1886.

"G. POWELL, Esq., Under Secretary of State, Ottawa.

"DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge yours dated 2nd instant and posted Ottawa 7th re the printing required to be done under 'The Electoral Franchise Act' for the Bothwell District. I shall be pleased to learn if the appointment for this division (West Kent) has been made. Compliments of the season.

"Yours very truly,  
(Signed) "S. STEPHENSON."

"CHATHAM, ONT., 27th January, 1886.

"G. POWELL, Under Secretary of State, Ottawa.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have just had a consultation with Judge Bell, Revising Officer for East Kent, about the time I might expect the copy for the lists, and was met with the salutation, 'I do not propose giving you the printing, nor do I propose to be dictated to by the Government where it shall be performed.'

"I am in a position to get out both lists and perform it within the time required by the Government, and will furnish bonds for its due performance. My staff consists of nearly forty hands and I have plenty of material on hand. Will you please instruct me at once if the spirit of your letter of the 2nd and the telegram sent to the revising officer about the same time, is to be carried out, that I may lose no time in completing arrangements. I am very sorry to trouble you with a matter I thought was, and yet consider, an absolute certainty, that I am to do the work for this county.

"I have the honor to be,  
"Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) "SYDNEY STEPHENSON."

(Telegram.)

"CHATHAM, January 28th, 1886.

"To J. A. CHAPLEAU, Secretary of State, Ottawa.

"Judge Bell, Revising Barrister, East Kent, says: 'I do not propose giving you the printing, nor do I propose being dictated to by the Government where it shall be performed, in your letter of second instant. He is a stockholder and I think director in the *Banner* Printing Company, to whom he says he is going to give the work. See my letter to Under Secretary; please send further instructions.

(Signed) "SYDNEY STEPHENSON."

"DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
"OTTAWA, 29th January, 1886.

"SYDNEY STEPHENSON, Esq.,  
"Proprietor *Planet* newspaper, Chatham, Ont.

"SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th and of your telegram of the 28th instant with reference to the printing of the voters lists, under the Electoral Franchise Act, for the Electoral District of Bothwell and to state that whatever course his Honor Judge Bell may choose to pursue cannot be helped.

"The telegram addressed to Judge Bell was suggestive only, as it would not be proper on the part of the Government to dictate to the revising officer as to the discharge of his duties.

"I have, &c.,  
(Signed) "G. POWELL, U.S.S."

Then comes a very interesting letter from Mr. Stephenson :

"CHATHAM, ONT., 1st February, 1886.

"G. POWELL, Esq.,  
"Under Secretary of State, Ottawa, Ont.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have yours of yesterday's date, and regret you cannot see your way clear to insist upon the printing being done at this office. Judge Bell is a most violent partisan, and will not hesitate to thwart the Government if it will be of any advantage to his own party. His connection with the *Banner*, one of the most rabid papers in the country, a copy of which I send you, should, I think, be a good reason why he should not say where the work should be done; besides, not a word would be heard from him or the *Banner*, as he would not care to have his connection ventilated through the papers. The Ontario Government, some years ago, threatened the present sheriff with dismissal unless he took the printing, which was being done by Mr. Rufus Stephenson, at this office, to the *Banner*, where ever since every dollar's worth has been done. I have fifteen hundred dollars worth of material on hand, that has been perfectly useless since the Postal Guide was given the Government printers, but which will come in now, thereby placing me in a splendid position to do the work rapidly. Mr. Carling and Mr. Pope promised to give me printing to recoup me for my loss, as Mr. Carling said it was a mistake to have taken the work just at the time the Department did. The present Minister—"

I think this must be a mistake in copying, and should be member.—