

COMMISSION TO PROBE THE SCANDAL

SEQUEL OF GAMEY'S STARTLING EXPOSURE OF CORRUPT POLITICAL METHODS

IS REMEDY THE GOVERNMENT APPLIES

RESOLUTION WHICH DETERMINES SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION.

Resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor praying that he will be graciously pleased to issue a commission to inquire into and investigate the charges of bribery set forth in the statement made to this honorable House by Mr. Robert R. Gamey, member for the electoral district of Manitoulin, on Wednesday, the 11th day of March instant, and all matters and things which, in the judgment of the commissioners, relate thereto or affect the same; such commission to be directed to two commissioners, who shall be two of Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Judicature or the President of the High Court of Justice and one of the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Judicature and the said commission shall confer upon the said commissioners all the powers contained or given in or by, Chapter 19 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, being an act entitled "An Act respecting inquiries concerning public matters," or in or by any act amending the same.

Move to Delegate Authority Provokes Violent Protest

Efforts of Administration to Handle the Gamey Charges Thru a High Court Commission Develop Pronounced Hostility—Vast Throng Attend Session.

Events of dramatic importance followed rapidly in the House, as a sequel of the Gamey exposure. Before Premier Ross introduced a resolution, upon which the government hangs its hope, relegating the investigation to a commission of High Court judges, it was known in the excited throng that Frank Sullivan had resigned. He is the government employe who handled some of the funds, and is a prominent figure in the scandalous disclosures. The resignation had been filed during the evening. The halls and corridors were jammed early, and there was every symptom of a highly interested audience being present when the sharp debate known to be on the order "ar" should develop.

The approach of the different figures in the history-making episode was the signal for a flutter and a craning of heads. The liveliest comment continued throughout the galleries. Would the second chapter in the extraordinary affair come in the form of the cabinet resignation? The crowd was much divided upon this vital point. It was understood that the resolution of feuding among the members over the disclosures was liable to form a strong motive for the night had not resulted in any forecast of this character. When the resolution to refer the case to a commission of the High Court judges came in it was a distinct disappointment to many. It was not anticipated that the cabinet would resort to this desperate measure to prevent the House passing upon the guilt or innocence of any of its members and those responsible to it. It was regarded among the opposition in the nature of the last straw. Mr. J. P. Whitney makes no secret of the hostility of the side he represents to the remedy Premier Ross would apply. It is inevitable that the resolution will be debated for several days. If the government's nominal majority of five can be kept in line, the resolution can be adopted, but the opposition may prolong the debate indefinitely. The objection to taking the case out of the hands of the House is the delay that may result, and the obscuring of the real issues thru the manoeuvring of skillful men, whose tactics avail nothing before a parliamentary body. The publication in the Globe in the afternoon, that the commission to hear the case would be composed of the High Court judges—Sir John Boyd and Chief Justice Falconbridge left the impression that the forecast was inspired, and that these two gentlemen will form the court, provided the resolution of the government prevails. Altogether, a bird's eye view of the proceedings in the House yesterday does not contribute the hope of a speedy joining of the issues before that body, such as many of those who regard the matter as of the most serious importance had anticipated.

PREMIER ROSS OPENS DEBATE.
After the orders of the day had passed, Premier Ross arose in his place, amid the somewhat meagre applause of his supporters. Before proceeding any further he desired, he said, to speak on the matter which was brought before the House Wednesday afternoon by the honorable member for Manitoulin. The charges made by the honorable gentleman affecting the character of a member of the government were of a very serious nature, as the spectators could well understand, and gave the government some concern. He had said in the House on Wednesday that his esteemed colleague, the Provincial Secretary, denied those charges in toto, particularly the portion of the statement which was of a corrupt character. He had reason to believe that the statement of his colleague was true. He had unbounded confidence in his (Stratton's) honesty, in his integrity, in his ability, in his fidelity to his oath of office, and the serious responsibility he assumed as a member of the government. He had always been found trustworthy, and he (Ross) did not believe him capable of betraying the trust reposed in him. "We propose," said the Premier, "to have an investigation. I advised His Honor last night that such a charge had been made. The government proposes to proceed immediately with an investigation as fast as the interests of justice and facilities for examination will warrant."

FAVORS ROYAL COMMISSION.
Mr. Ross then explained that it was the intention of the government to proceed by a Royal Commission, consisting of two of the chiefs of the Superior Courts. Each party in the House was to be represented by a junior and senior counsel, and full opportunity would be given for a thorough investigation of the charges. He asked the House to approve of the appointment of a commission, because of the high character of the judges, and because he believed when their conclusions were arrived at they would command the confidence of the public.

MENTIONS SOME PRECEDENTS.
Proceeding, Mr. Ross quoted some authorities for the present action of the government. For instance, when the Pacific scandal charges were made in 1873 a commission of judges was appointed, and the same course was adopted when the "bribery plot" was exploded in the legislature in 1884. He was following precedents in the House of Commons at Ottawa, and also in the House of Commons in England, where, he thought, the Parrel case was referred to a commission. An examination by a commission of judges of the High Court would be most satisfactory, if the matter were referred to the Privileges and Election Committee, the majority of whom would be members of the government, and if their finding was to exculpate the Provincial Secretary, it would be said to be a partisan finding, and instead of settling what was at best a most unsatisfactory condition of affairs, it would leave it open for further contention. But, happily for all concerned, judicial decisions are received with a great deal of confidence. It was seldom said that even an election court displays any partisan bias in its findings.

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HOW NEWS WAS CIRCULATED HURRIEDLY THRU PROVINCE

The astonishing story revealed by the exposure in the House was the subject of the liveliest comment all over Canada. In Ontario, however, was the excitement the most intense. By six o'clock in the evening bulletins had been posted in all newspaper offices within a radius of a hundred miles of Toronto, and in the smaller towns the telegraph offices posted bulletins covering the situation. Crowds gathered before these various sources of information and discussed the startling situation. Everywhere the developments were recognized as of such a serious character as to threaten the existence of the Ross government. This was freely admitted, even by admirers of the administration. They expressed a hope, however, that the story had been exaggerated.

ANXIOUS FOR DETAILS.
Telegrams were rushed into the Toronto papers for increased consignments of papers, and the newspaper trains leaving the city Thursday morning carried a heavy load. At the depot crowds gathered for the early morning sheets, and during the night different towns were constantly calling the Toronto newspaper offices for

HON. W. G. FALCONBRIDGE.

TWO OF THESE JURISTS WILL CONSTITUTE TRIAL COURT IF RESOLUTION PREVAILS.



SIR JOHN ALEXANDER BOYD, Chancellor of Ontario, SIR WILLIAM MEREDITH, Chief Justice of the King's Bench Division, High Court of Justice, HON. CHARLES MOSS, Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal, Chief Justice High Court of Justice, HON. W. G. FALCONBRIDGE, Chief Justice High Court of Justice.

SIR WILLIAM MEREDITH.
The World, while not approving wholly of the idea of a reference to judges, would like to have the commission, if it is to be appointed, as effective as possible. We think that, of all the four Chief Justices, Sir William Meredith is the man who is indispensable, because of his long political experience, his active public spirit, and the confidence which he would inspire among Conservatives. It is over Ontario, Sir William Meredith should certainly be one, whoever the other may be.

FRANK SULLIVAN RESIGNS.
First Government Employe to Quit the Game as Result of the Pierce Charge.

Mr. Frank Sullivan has handed in his resignation of the position which he held in the Public Works Department. He was not asked to do so, but the action was entirely voluntary, he stating that he did not think it would be right for him to continue in the employ of the government until the grave charges which had been made against him were entirely cleared up.

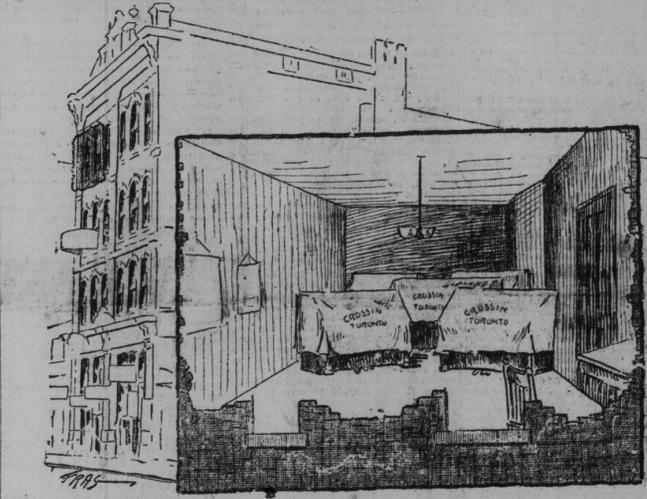
Frank Sullivan was appointed a seasonal clerk some 15 months ago, previous to the last session of the House. He was first employed in the Provincial Health Office, and, as a seasonal clerk usually do, he worked around in various offices, wherever he happened to be most required. After the session he was taken on the staff of temporary clerks in the Public Works Department, the work there being heavier than usual, and a larger staff being required. He was employed in the accounts and the secretary's offices. Sullivan's salary was that of the seasonal clerk and the junior temporary clerk, \$22 a day, and he worked for a few minutes.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S DENIAL.
Little Social Affair Not Attended by Conservatives in the Usual Number.

The Provincial Secretary gave a dinner in the Parliament Buildings last night. As usual a number of Conservative members were invited to attend, but since the money accusations they sent their regrets, and the affair was conspicuous by the entire absence of opposition members. This feature was not unobtrusively pointed out by the Provincial Secretary, but he made the most of the situation, and the dinner passed off without any other provoking incidents. It was nearly 2:30 when the Speaker took the chair. The cabinet Minister were all in the places, and the room was full of them during the last hour of the preceding day had not entirely disappeared, they got thru the trying hours fairly well.

LAW ON WHICH RESOLUTION IS BASED.

Chapter 15, R.S.O., 1897, an Act Respecting Inquiries Concerning Public Matters.
1. Whenever the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council deems it expedient to cause inquiry to be made into and concerning any matter connected with the good government of this province, or the conduct of any part of the public business thereof, or the administration of justice therein, and such inquiry is not regulated by any special law, the Lieutenant-Governor may, by the commission in the case, confer the power of summoning before him or her any party or witness, and of compelling the answer to any question, by his answer to which he might render himself liable to a criminal prosecution.
2. The commissioner, or commissioners, shall have the same power to enforce the attendance of witnesses, and to compel them to give evidence and produce documents and things, as is vested in any court in civil cases, but no party or witness shall be compelled to answer any question, by his answer to which he might render himself liable to a criminal prosecution.
3. (1) This act shall be deemed to include for inquiry as aforesaid matters connected with elections to the legislative assembly, and the proceedings in any such election; but no commission shall issue, except where no petition has been presented complaining of the return within the time prescribed, or except where, if a petition has been presented, the proceedings thereon have terminated.
(2) This act shall be deemed to apply also to any attempts, or alleged attempts, to corrupt the successful candidate at such elections, or members of the legislative assembly, with such attempts, and notwithstanding that the persons charged with such attempts may be liable to criminal prosecution in respect thereof, and notwithstanding that criminal proceedings against them may have been commenced or concluded. The commission may, however, be empowered to inquire into such attempts as aforesaid, and the commission need not minutely specify the particular matters of inquiry.



View of building where Gamey's stenographers secretly listened to Frank Sullivan's story of the plot. WHERE SULLIVAN FELL INTO GAMEY'S WELL PLANNED TRAP AND SUPPLIED INCRIMINATING FACTS TO STENOGRAPHERS

Racy story of how three young men lay behind pianos and heard one of the conspirators supply the various details of the manner in which the purchase of the member of the House was arranged.

The scene of one of the dramatic chapters of the plot was the Crossin Piano Factory, where and hum of wood-working machinery falls upon the ear, as one enters the little door at the top of the stairs. The company is a joint stock concern, with a capital of \$50,000. It is owned by three young men, Frank Sullivan, Mr. Gamey, president, Edward Crossin, secretary and treasurer, and R. G. Levison, director.

Edward Crossin explained minutely the connection of Mr. Gamey with the company. "Mr. Gamey joined me two years ago, when the business was turned into a joint stock company," he said. "He came to me very highly recommended. He was made president of the company. We have a staff of twenty workmen." "Do you know Frank Sullivan?" "Yes, I first saw Mr. Sullivan the first week in August last year. He came here to find Mr. Gamey, and waited an hour for him." "After that he came frequently, and on one occasion Mr. Gamey mentioned to me that Sullivan came in reference to some government contracts."

The office mentioned by Mr. Gamey in his statement is at the end of the building. To get to it, one has to pass thru two of the workshops. It is a small room, dimly lighted. The four pianos were still in the room, although not in the same position as on that memorable night of Tuesday last, when, lying full length on the floor, cramped and hardly daring to breathe, the three stenographers took down the statement of Frank Sullivan. "It was a weird affair. A man, whom I do not know, came in and Mr. Crossin told me that he had arranged for Mr. Crossin to open the office, giving as a reason that he wished to have a private talk with some friends." Mr. Crossin told The World this was the first time any meeting had taken place at the factory at night-time, between Mr. Gamey and anyone.

Getting the Trap Ready.
Punctually at 7 o'clock Mr. Gamey appeared, with three young men, his spies. Crossin went upstairs ahead of him, and the three young men went up to light the gas. The four men followed, and all went into the small office where the pianos were. Mr. Gamey lit the gas in the room, and Crossin went downstairs and home. When he returned, at 10 o'clock, he found the place empty, so he locked up. The first thing he knew of the coming of Sullivan on that night was in Mr. Gamey's statement in yesterday morning's World.
After Crossin had gone, Mr. Gamey and his three associates got busy. They placed in the room the four stenographers, in the manner shown in the sketch. In this way, it was impossible for anyone to get behind them from the front, or to see over them.

Government Honor at Stake Say Both Sides at Ottawa

Animated Discussion of the Ontario Scandal Indulged in by Canadian Statesmen at the Capital—Situation Considered Most Serious From Every Point of View.

Ottawa, March 12.—(World staff correspondent.)—The Gamey episode is the one topic of conversation among members of parliament here. As a prominent Liberal put it, "It is a bombshell in our ranks." No Liberal is willing to have his name used, but the only response that is made is "there is another side to the story." The general feeling is that the matter is a provincial one, and the Federal parties would be going outside their province to interfere. A parliamentarian of twenty years' standing, noting in every form, said to "The World" to-night: "I was always fearful of Mr. Stratton. There is only one thing for Mr. Ross to do and do it quickly; let him take the bull by the horns and fire Mr. Stratton."

Conversation with Mr. Stratton developed the following understanding of the situation. As the matter stands upon Mr. Gamey's statement not only Mr. Stratton, but the government as a whole is discredited. The question at issue is one which concerns not only the honor of the government, but of the legislature as a whole. If Mr. Gamey's statement is true there has been a carefully considered scheme to defeat the true will of the electorate by bribing members of the legislature. The wholesale bribery of electors, the stealing and burning of ballots, the subordination and perjury, the endeavor to prosecute criminals engaged in work of this character, the pardoning of those who have been convicted of such offences—all these are had enough, but the revelation of the whole story, however, affords a very painful commentary on the moral standing of some of our politicians, and, to the Ross government, lacks coherence and consistency. "First he would and then he wouldn't," then he said, "I will see," and the speaker continued: "That runs all the way thru the dirty narrative. The whole story, however, affords a very painful commentary on the moral standing of some of our politicians, and, to the Ross government, lacks coherence and consistency. The members of the legislature must be even more shocking to the moral sense of the country. The legislature has not only the right but the absolute duty to investigate this question, which concerns its own honor. The investigation must be thorough and searching, but especially it must be prompt."

HOW BOTH PARTIES STAND IN APPROACHING CONTEST

Significance of the Condition in Government Ranks Caused by Change of Front on Part of Member Gamey—Who the Members Are and Where They Stand.

In view of the approaching contest growing out of the scandal in the House, the complete list of those who will participate in the settlement of the issue is of more than passing interest. As it stands, one roll contains fifty-Liberals, without the Speaker, forty-five Conservatives, and two vacancies. North Renfrew (Liberal) and Sault Ste. Marie (Conservative). This makes the Liberal majority five. Mr. Gamey's declaration of his fidelity to his party the Liberal majority five. Mr. Gamey's declaration of his fidelity to his party the Liberal majority five. Mr. Gamey's declaration of his fidelity to his party the Liberal majority five.

- LIBERAL.
W. A. Anderson, E. Peterboro.
W. A. Auld, S. Essex.
J. R. Barber, Halton.
C. M. Bowman, N. Bruce.
S. M. Bridgman, Muskoka.
H. Brown, N. Perth.
D. Burt, N. Brant.
W. C. Caldwell, N. Lanark.
D. C. Cameron, F. W. and L. of W.
M. G. Cameron, W. Huron.
M. Carr, Parry Sound.
S. Clarke, W. Northumberland.
James Conroy, P. A. and R. R.
M. Currie, Prince Edward.
E. J. Davis, North York.
D. Davidson, C. Simcoe.
John Dickenson, S. Wentworth.
John Dryden, S. Ontario.
A. F. Evansville, Prescott.
J. M. Gibson, E. Wellington.
G. P. Graham, Brockville.
J. F. Gross, Welland.
G. Guibord, Russell.
R. Harcourt, Monck.
A. Hislop, E. Huron.
J. W. Holmes, Halldimand.
M. James, E. Nipissing.
F. R. Latchford, S. Renfrew.
John Lee, E. Kent.
A. Little, N. Norfolk.
J. Michaud, W. Nipissing.
W. J. McCart, Stormont.
A. G. McKay, N. Kent.
A. P. Pardo, W. Oxford.
E. H. Pense, Hastings.
T. L. Pardo, W. Durham.
T. H. Preston, S. Brant.
J. Richardson, E. York.
William Rickard, W. Durham.
G. A. Routledge, E. Middlesex.
G. W. Ross, E. Hastings.
S. Russell, E. Hastings.
John Smith, Peel.
V. Stock, S. Perth.
J. R. Stratton, W. Peterboro.
W. H. Taylor, N. Middlesex.
R. A. Thompson, N. Wentworth.
R. E. Traux, S. Bruce.
J. B. Tudhope, E. Simcoe—51.
- CONSERVATIVE.
John Barr, Dufferin.
W. Beck, Leeds.
A. Beak, London.
C. A. Brower, E. Elgin.
H. Caracallan, E. Hamilton.
T. G. Caracallan, Lennox.
J. H. Carnegie, E. Victoria.
H. Clark, C. Bruce.
T. Crawford, W. Toronto.
J. P. Downey, S. Wellington.
J. S. Duff, W. Simcoe.
H. L. Eilber, S. Huron.
J. A. Fox, S. Toronto.
G. J. Fox, W. Victoria.
J. S. Gallagher, Frontenac.
R. R. Gamey, Manitoulin.
W. J. Hanna, W. Lambton.
J. H. Hendrie, W. Hamilton.
W. H. Hoyle, N. Ontario.
D. Jamieson, S. Grey.
E. Jessop, E. Ontario.
R. J. Joynt, Grenville.
G. N. Kidd, Carleton.
W. A. Kribb, S. Waterloo.
H. J. G. Lacker, N. Waterloo.
E. A. Little, Cardwell.
J. B. Lucas, C. Grey.
A. J. Matheson, S. Lanark.
H. B. Morrison, W. Hastings.
D. Murphy, Ottawa.
F. G. McDiarmid, W. Elgin.
C. W. Powell, Ottawa.
J. J. Prater, E. Durham.
R. A. Pynes, E. Toronto.
J. P. Reaume, N. Essex.
J. Reid, Addington.
J. R. Smythe, Algoma.
J. W. St. John, W. York.
D. Sutherland, S. Oxford.
J. T. Tucker, W. Wellington.
J. P. Whitney, Dundas.
W. A. Willoughby, E. North York 45.