

him out of the Government and ruining his character. He went on to explain that this conspiracy had been carried out by the writing of an anonymous letter to the Prime Minister which charged him with having received the bribe in connection with the Montreal Belt Line Railway of \$15,000 or \$20,000. In answer to my inquiries he stated that he suspected Haggart and Montague, to use his own words, of "being at the bottom of it." I asked him why Haggart or Montague should seek in this way to ruin him? To which he replied that some time previous to the receipt of the anonymous letter, he and the then Minister of Railways and Canals had had sharp differences as to the composition of the Cabinet. And Sir Adolphe Caron added that he was looking round to try and ascertain who it was that harboured such feelings against him as would make them resort to such means to ruin him, and he could think of no others than Haggart and Montague. He said that he had obtained affidavits and papers and had cleared himself from the imputations contained in the letter to the satisfaction of both His Excellency the Governor General and the Prime Minister, and he proposed to bring the anonymous letter to me and the letters and papers which had satisfied the Governor General and Sir Mackenzie Bowell that he was innocent of the charge made in it. I had not heard anything of this matter prior to this interview, nor had I, in fact, seen Sir Adolphe Caron, except casually, in connection with my departmental business.

A day or two afterwards he brought me to his room in the House and showed me the anonymous letter and also the other documents, which he read to me, and he asked me as to whether I had any opinion as to the writer of the anonymous letter. I saw the letter then for the first time, and I was impressed with the idea that the letter was in the handwriting of Dr. Montague. This opinion I mentioned to Sir Adolphe Caron, saying that I thought his suspicions were correct.

The next that took place in connection with the matter was Sir Adolphe Caron coming to my office with the letter and asking me to compare it with the letters which I had in my department from Dr. Montague. This I did and I became more firmly convinced than ever that the anonymous communication was in Dr. Montague's handwriting. He suggested that it would be better to have the letter submitted to an expert in handwriting and I, with his knowledge and at his request, showed the letter to gentlemen whose names I do not feel at liberty to mention without their consent, but who are perfectly well known to Sir Adolphe Caron, and they were of the opinion, without doubt, that the anonymous letter was written by Dr. Montague, and they came to this conclusion on the com-

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parison of Dr. Montague's letters which were then submitted to them.

Sir Adolphe Caron was not yet satisfied, and he suggested that it would be better to have the opinion of the best expert that could be procured. He ascertained that Mr. Ames, of New York, was an expert in the matter of handwriting, well known and much thought of, and a man of the highest reputation in his profession. Sir Adolphe Caron caused a photographic copy of the anonymous letter, and six letters which undoubtedly were written by Dr. Montague, to be sent to Mr. Ames for the purpose of ascertaining from him, whether in his opinion, the writer of the six letters was the writer of the anonymous letter. These six letters I have now in my hand and they are subject to the inspection of Dr. Montague or of any hon. member of the House who desires to see them, and if deemed proper they will be laid upon the Table of the House, but, as some of them are private in their nature, I do not feel at liberty to do that without the consent of the writer. The opinion of Mr. Ames is contained in the following communication, part of which I now read, omitting the comparisons made by him which are unnecessary to read, but which I am quite willing to do if any hon. member desires it; they deal with the comparison of the various letters and the style of writing and are somewhat technical in their nature. I will read a portion only of the report of Mr. Ames, who, I am since informed, stands at the very highest mark of his profession, and I have the words of one of the most eminent barristers in Canada that on Mr. Ames' opinion he would willingly take a brief and be quite positive. This is Mr. Ames' report:

New York, 11th July, 1895.

This is to certify that I have made careful examination of the writing upon a photograph of an anonymous writing, dated Montreal, 18th December, 1894, addressed "Dear Mr. Bowell," and marked by me for identification Aa. That I have made careful comparison of this writing with that upon six other sheets marked by me for identification, A1 to A6 inclusive, and that I reached a very clear conviction that all the said writings were written by one and the same person, writing Aa being disguised. I reached this conclusion from the very numerous coincident and highly personal and peculiar characteristics I find throughout the two sets of writings. Writing Aa is in what tends to be a back-hand, but of so vacillating a character as to make it apparent that the author was accustomed to write upon a direct slope. As an example I find the date line mostly in a back-hand.

And so it goes on. I will not read the whole of the report, but just a portion here and there. In another place, it says:

Letters identical in form and in their relation to other letters are in exhibits A2 line 12, A3 lines 4, 5, A4 line 3, A5 lines 2, 6 and 12. The final "r" of "dear," and "Mr." are exceptional in the writing of Aa, but are duplicated in A1 line 2 twice, in A3 line 6.