

Mr. McNab got his office. *The advance was a personal one.*"

This statement was so singular, in the face of the fact that the money had been paid out of the Treasury, that Mr. Woodworth moved for the appointment of a committee to investigate the whole matter. (*Debates* 1874. p. 83.) The committee proceeded to examine Mr. Annand, Mr. Brine (the chief clerk in the Treasurer's office), Mr. Vail and others. The evidence taken (*vide Assembly Journals app'x No. 40*) establishes the following facts:—

1st. That McNab had "approached" Mr. Annand, and that the scandals which were put in circulation in his name, were the result of an arrangement and conference between those worthies on Sunday, the 2nd April, 1871.

2nd. That the \$200 was paid by Mr. Brine, by Mr. Annand's orders, to Mr. McNab out of the money of the Province when no amount was due to McNab for any service whatever.

3rd. That the money was never repaid by either Mr. Annand, or McNab.

4th. That no entry of the payment was ever made on the books of the Treasurer's office.

Notwithstanding the fact that the majority of the committee (composed of Mr. Samuel Freeman and Mr. W. H. Wyld—whose peculiar relations with the Government have since been brought to light, and which was no doubt the cause of their being selected) reported exonerating Mr. Annand, the facts were undeniable that Mr. McNab had received \$200, for which he had given no honest consideration, and that the Province had lost \$200 which Mr. Annand refused to refund.

The public were also shown by this exposure how Grit "scandals" were manufactured, and the infamous means to which Mr. Annand and his party would stoop to injure the character of gentlemen whom they knew to be above reproach. The remarkable book-keeping of the Treasurer's office was also made apparent, which could lose \$200 and still could make accounts balance! The spectacle of the leader of a Government, spending Sunday concocting slander in company with a person like McNab is disgraceful in the extreme. A Treasurer taking \$200 of the money of the Province, to reward a person who had served his base purposes, is certainly

not reassuring. A system of bookkeeping which can pay money without showing it, is certainly not the system best adapted for the government of this, or any other country. And yet it is to condone such offences, and to perpetuate such a system of government, that Mr. Hill invites the electors of this country to support him and his party! Verily he shall receive his answer.

THE PUBLIC PRINTING.

From 1867 to 1875, Mr. W. B. Vail was Provincial Secretary, and William Annand Premier and Treasurer of this Province. They were placed in their positions by the party now in power; they are still controlling spirits in the policy of the Government; and Mr. Hill and his colleagues are fully responsible for their conduct while holding these offices. During the aforementioned period, Mr. Annand was, with his son, Charles Annand, a proprietor of the "Chronicle" newspaper, and Mr. Vail was, from 1871 until 1878, with Mr. Jones, M. P., a proprietor of the "Citizen." Mr. Hugh W. Blackadar, the present political Postmaster of Halifax, was also, up to 1875, Queen's Printer, and a proprietor of the "Recorder" establishment. The dealings, therefore, of the "Chronicle," "Citizen," and "Recorder" with the Government will be seen to be the transactions of Messrs. Annand, Vail, and Blackadar respectively. The business dealings of the Premier, the Provincial Secretary, and Queen's Printer, of a Government with the Government of which they were such important officers, and of which two of them at least were the sworn custodians of its Treasury, would naturally be expected to be particularly straightforward and above reproach. While, previously in our history, leading members of Governments had frequently been accused of allowing others to have highly remunerative dealings with their Governments, up to 1867—to the credit of this country—no man had ever dared to impeach the personal honesty of any member of any