

GAMEY'S IMPEACHMENT of The ONTARIO CABINET.

Attempt to Purchase a Member's Support--Hon. J. R. Stratton the Chief Offender--Was Helped By Notorious "Cap" Sullivan.

Tremendous Sensation Caused By the Charges--Accuser's Manner Carried Conviction in the House--Backed Up His State- ments By Bundle of Correspondence.

(Mail and Express, Thursday.)

Had a second Mont Pelée burst beneath the government benches in the Ontario legislature yesterday the physical devastation it would have caused would be a fitting comparison for the mental consternation wrought in the government's ranks by the astounding revelations made by R. R. Gamey, M. P. for Manitoulin Island.

The shattering crash of a death-dealing thunderbolt from a smiling and cloudless summer sky could not be more startlingly unexpected than the amazing disclosures which awed members and spectators alike with a realization of the depth of corruption which had been reached by a political party resolved upon maintaining its grip upon office, no matter by what desperate means.

Alex. G. McKay, of North Grey, and Valentine Stock, of South Perth, had moved and seconded the address in reply to the speech from the throne, their addresses teeming with eulogies of the government and references to the wisdom of the people in again declaring in favor of an honest and capable administration. They little dreamed how very soon the people were to be given a startling sample of the "honesty" and "capability" which had marked the actions of the government during the past eight months.

In the ordinary course of events J. P. Whitney would have risen to continue the debate upon the speech. As Mr. Stock resumed his seat amid applause from the liberals, however, Mr. Gamey suddenly arose from the desk which he occupied at the extreme end of the opposition's front row. The members of the house and the spectators in the gallery alike looked in surprise at this new and untried member of the legislature, who had occupied a rather considerable place in the press during the few weeks preceding the meeting of the house. The faces of the cabinet ministers were a look of mingled satisfaction and enquiry. This was Gamey--Gamey, who had publicly abjured his allegiance to the conservative party, and had cast in his lot with the government; Gamey, whose vote would add one more to the all too unhesitating majority; Gamey, the convert to "honest and capable" methods of administration. These were the reflections which seemed to run through their minds and light up their faces.

But what had he to say? They wondered. Not a public profession of his conversion, merely; for that had been made a month ago in an interview in the Toronto Globe. So they waited in tolerant silence to hear what their newest recruit would say. They did not have to wait long.

THE PRELUDE.

Mr. Gamey began by asking the indulgence of the house for a short time. He had, he said, heard with interest the speeches of the two honorable members who preceded him. There were some things in the speech from the throne, and in the remarks of the two gentlemen, with which he did not wholly agree, but he would not take up the time of the house in discussing them at the present time. He wished, however, to lay before the house certain facts which would throw some light upon his own recent actions, and which he hoped would result in removing him from a painful and distasteful position.

With this preamble Mr. Gamey lifted from his desk a bundle of manuscript in his own handwriting, beside which lay a sheaf of documents, which proved to be letters, telegrams, and other communications. Without delay he launched into the reading of the most remarkable narrative of duplicity and venality which has ever been heard on the floor of a Canadian house of parliament. For nearly an hour he continued his recital, turning from his manuscript to read in their proper order the damning documents which linked ministers of the crown with the foulest crime in Canadian political history.

At Mr. Gamey's first mention of Cap. Sullivan's name the look of complacency faded suddenly from the faces of the government supporters, giving place to expressions of surprise and alarm. It was as if they realized that the whole hideous truth must out, they settled back doggedly in their seats, endeavoring to maintain a composure which few could have really felt.

SCENE DRAMATIC INDEED.

The scene was a dramatic in its intensity. There was a silence as of death in the chamber as page after page was turned over by Mr. Gamey, a silence broken only on the opposition side of the house when each fresh point scored drew forth a round of vigorous applause. The liberal members sat silent as mutes.

The premier, after the first startled glance at the man who was ringing the government's death-knell, manifested an indifference which was too obviously feigned. At his side, Hon. J. M. Gibson sat with a half scornful smile upon his face. Farther down the line Hon. Mr. Davis gazed fixedly in front of him, turning once or twice to glance quickly toward his leader and the attorney general, but never looking at his desk mate, Hon. Mr. Stratton. Hon. Mr. Dryden eyed his desk for the major portion of the time. Hon. Mr. Stratton, whose name occurred more frequently, showed less composure than his colleagues, turning from side to side and looking first at Mr. Gamey and then at his fellows on the cabinet benches. The first mention of Mr. Gibson's name, followed immediately by that of Mr. Stratton, was

greeted with expressive bursts of laughter from the opposition, and answered by the two ministers with sarcastic smiles.

A WHISPERED CONFERENCE.

When Mr. Gamey's narration was evidently nearing its close Mr. Stratton rose from his place and stepped quickly to the side of his chief. Premier Ross, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Stratton, with heads almost touching, held a whispered colloquy for a couple of minutes. What was said only the three parties to it could tell, for so low were their tones that their words could not have been distinguished a foot away. The premier later indicated, however, what at least a portion of it had been.

Several times did Mr. Gamey break off in the reading of his story. Once he paused to interject a word as to what his personal feelings were in the distasteful task which he had felt himself obliged to undertake. "Gentlemen," he said, impressively, "this was the hardest thing I have ever had to do in my life. I do not think I could ever have gone into it had I known I would have to keep it up so long. We expected an early session and never dreamed that it would drag along until March 10th before assembling. I cannot tell you the jeers and insults I have had to bear in consequence of what I undertook."

Another dramatic pause was made when he reached that portion of his statement dealing with the receipt of the second instalment of cash, amounting to \$1,000, half of which was given to Frank Sullivan. Throwing down his manuscript, Mr. Gamey took from his desk an envelope, and raising the flap, took from it a bunch of bank bills. After holding them up for a moment so that they were visible to everyone in the house, he flung them on his desk and resumed his reading.

When he had reached his final page Mr. Gamey laid down his manuscript and in "straight-flung words and few" cast himself upon the consideration of the house.

"WHAT WAS I TO DO?"

"I have told all I knew," he said simply. "It is a most lamentable affair, but what was I to do? These men came to me and I knew that if I could secure no evidence the whole thing would be denied, and the people would not believe it. I knew what had been done in other places, I am told that the honorable member for South Oxford, Donald Sutherland, had stated that he had been similarly approached, but when he made the fact public it was denied. I say I was justified in going on as I did. I do not believe a more corrupt institution exists in the world than the one which sought to buy me. I can hardly conceive of a ministry so corrupt. I lay these documents on the desk of my leader, Mr. J. P. Whitney, and I ask the house to do what it will with me for the part I have taken. God knows my task has been a hard one!"

Amid the wild applause of the conservative members, Mr. Gamey walked with deliberation up the floor of the house, and, pausing in front of Mr. Whitney, laid the mass of manuscript and the bundle of bills on his desk.

"I ask the honorable member what he wishes me to do with these documents?" said Mr. Whitney, rising.

Mr. Gamey answered, "You can do just what you like with them, but I think you should not part with them without some circumstances." And with these words the man from Manitoulin turned and walked back to his place.

Mr. Whitney took the documents, put them in his desk, and, after locking it, resumed his seat.

WHAT THE PREMIER SAID.

The premier then stood up, and despite the most impressive silence, his voice was barely audible as he spoke the first few words.

"I am assured by my colleague," he said, evidently referring to Mr. Stratton, "that the charges against Cap. Sullivan are untrue. So much has been said by the hon. member for Manitoulin, however, that it becomes us to take steps toward an early and thorough investigation. That investigation shall be made consistent with the rules of the house, either by a committee specially appointed, or by the committee on privileges and elections. An investigation shall be made, and be made with as little delay as possible. That is all I have to say about the matter."

MR. WHITNEY'S BRIEF COMMENT

The leader of the opposition rose again to his feet. There was an added dignity in his bearing, and a deep and impressive note in his voice.

"No matter could possibly be more serious than the one which has engaged the attention of this house for the past half-hour," he said. "It is a matter to be considered and spoken of with the greatest possible seriousness, and it is not to be even thought of lightly. If things have come to such a pass as has been alleged in the province of Ontario, then the people of the province will demand an investigation in such terms that even the Ontario government dare not stand in the way of purifying the political atmosphere. God forbid that I should say anything to prejudice the hon. gentlemen, but the time has come when the scoundrels who steal the ballots of free men can no longer be protected by the laws of the land. This is all I have to say. I ask the hon. gentleman if it would not be proper to adjourn this debate for today, and I will move the adjournment."

The house then adjourned to meet at 3 p. m. today.

Mr. Gamey held an informal reception in a corner of the chamber after the house rose. The conservative members and friends crowded round him, and for a few minutes he was kept busy shaking hands with those who an hour before had thought him faithless to his party.

CAP. SULLIVAN WAS THERE.

Cap. Sullivan and his son, Frank Sullivan, were deeply interested listeners to Mr. Gamey's extraordinary delivery. Midway in the narrative, however, the elder Sullivan rose and left the gallery. As he stepped into the corridor he met a friend who was just entering, and who was unaware of the turn affairs had taken. "Is the debate interesting?" was the friend's query. "Interesting? Yes, it's getting d--d hot!" was the captain's forcible and expressive reply.

Tom Lewis, the well-known London hotelkeeper, whose fine Italian hand played an important part in many close elections, was in the house at noon. After adjournment he strolled up and down the corridor, well dressed, unconcerned, and debonair as usual. "What do you think of that, Tom?" asked an acquaintance; "is that worse than Pritchett's confession?" "It's certainly pretty bad," said the liberal worker's reply, "but I'm not in it this time, anyway," and with a laugh he resumed his walk.

MCGREGOR CONFIRMS STORY.

A much relieved and thoroughly satisfied man is J. H. McGregor, secretary of the Manitoulin Conservative Association, who set the trap which was sprung yesterday afternoon by R. R. Gamey, M. P. P.

Mr. McGregor who was at the Walker House last evening, told a most interesting and absorbing story of how the government was misled on and on until the chain of incontrovertible evidence was complete, and the case ready for presentation to the people of Ontario.

When Mr. Gamey was first approached by Sullivan, he immediately saw an opportunity to destroy the "machine," and gave Sullivan to understand that he might be induced to change his political allegiance.

"He then came straight to me," said Mr. McGregor, "and I assumed full charge of the operations, but I assure you neither he nor I had the slightest idea of the magnitude of the operation. I remembered the case of Mr. Sutherland, of South Oxford, who had stated publicly that he had been approached by liberal agents, but who could present no proofs to substantiate his assertions. He was branded by Premier Ross and all the government speakers as a liar."

"I did not propose to have this case disposed of in this way, so Mr. Gamey and I made sure that we had definite incriminating evidence to support every charge made. Every step taken was planned weeks ahead, and I assisted in amending the statement prepared by Mr. Stratton, which Mr. Gamey was to read, and which was afterwards published in the Globe."

"The great difficulty was in preserving the secret. It turned in upon us, and at last caused a strain which was really almost overwhelming. We did not dare to lay bare the game, even to our associates on the executive committee of the association--the full details were not known even to Mr. Gamey's wife. Positively the secret was shared only by Mr. Gamey's brother and myself."

"When the official statement was made public, in which Mr. Gamey said he would give the government indisputable support, the conservatives of the riding were furious, and a strong retort had to be made in the general outcry."

I answered Mr. Gamey in The Mail and Empire, and called a meeting of the executive to denounce the treachery of our member. The meeting was called and the vote of censure was passed. Mr. Gamey's friends did not like to be so hard on him, but I managed to kindle their resentment sufficiently for my purpose."

"Mr. Gamey" who had been insulted and slandered from end to end of the riding, besought me to allow him to explain his position to the executive, but I prevailed upon him to stand the mud-slinging a little longer, and make his exposure on the floor of the house, which he did so effectively yesterday afternoon."

"Not even the leader of the conservative party had an inkling of the secret, and when Mr. Whitney was asked just before the house met to allow Mr. Gamey to say a few words just after the second of the address had completed his speech, and before Mr. Whitney's reply, the conservative leader readily granted the permission, but said, 'Well, I don't know what he has to say.'"

Mr. McGregor was asked why he did not take more into his confidence. In reply, he said that it was dangerous. "Every man has a friend. The strain has been a long and weary one, and I am glad it is over."

DONALD SUTHERLAND SMILES.

Donald Sutherland, M. P. P. for South Oxford, who has been publicly scored again and again by liberal speakers as a liar because of his charges that the government heeled at tempted to buy him, was at the Walker House last night, and in view of Mr. Gamey's exposure and his own consequent vindication in the minds of all reasonable men, was wearing the smile

that won't come off. He declined to make any statement.

Mr. Gamey said: I was elected in May, 1902, as a straight conservative, defeating J. M. Fraser, the liberal candidate, by about 240 majority, and beating the combined vote of Fraser, the liberal, and McMillan, socialist candidate, by about 100 votes. The returns by the returning officer were held back and not declared until June 17th. This, I believe, was done to give the government a chance to protect my election if necessary after they saw how the rest of the protests stood. In due time a protest was entered in the usual way. Several parties were sent up to the riding to look up evidence.

About August 7th I was going to Toronto, and met Capt. J. Sullivan at the lunch-room at Allandale, and he said to me: "I hear Gamey, they have strong evidence against you up there." I replied that I had heard nothing of that. He continued the conversation, and confidentially remarked to me as a friend, as he said, that I would be asked to see him if he was in my place he would resign. I laughed at him and paid no attention to it. I went on to Toronto and he remained.

In Toronto, at the Walker house, where I stay, I met his son, Frank J. Sullivan, who also broached the subject of my protest, and said he understood they would disqualify me, and I told him that that was utterly impossible, as I had done nothing by which they could disqualify me, and he remarked that evidence sometimes could be colored, altered, and bought, and that he believed they were determined to disqualify me. He would, he said, if he were me, resist rather than give a trial. I told him that his father had spoken that way, and I wondered why they were speaking thus. He said only as a friend, as he had known me a long time, and he felt sorry that I was being disqualified.

Why, he said, that could be arranged; a good thing could be made out of it and the trial avoided. I asked him how, and he said, after some further conversation, that \$5,000 in cash could be got and lots of chances of more later on, as the government must have money to run.

I replied that I thought that that was impossible, as no man could leave either side now, and the government would ruin themselves by dealing with anyone while it was so close, and I told him I did not believe that they could do it. He replied that he could soon convince me, and if I would stay over a couple of days he would prove it. I decided to see what they would do, and on my return to Gore Bay, I would lay the whole matter before some conservative friends.

About Tuesday, Aug. 12, Frank came to me and said a prominent liberal lawyer of the city would be up in his father's room at the Walker House, and that I should go to the room, giving me the number. He told me no mention would be made of money, but that the lawyer would talk of a stock proposition by which my profits would realize \$3,000 in six weeks or less, and \$2,000 after the first session of the house.

I went to the room, and Frank and the lawyer were there. I will not mention the lawyer's name today, but he is prominent in liberal ranks. The lawyer said he understood Frank and I had spoken of a stock company, in which I could make \$3,000 in cash in six weeks and \$2,000 towards spring, and I said we had. He said it could be arranged, he thought, but no mention was made in his presence of supporting the government, and no question of trial was spoken of. We only had a short talk, and he went out, and I have never heard of him in any way since the deal.

Frank and I agreed then that if anything was done each should take half. During that trip I also saw D. A. Jones of Beeton, who seemed to be authorized to deal with me. He also suggested that the government was very anxious to get information for the trials against Smyth and Miscampbell, which I told him would be impossible for me to do. I left Toronto for home about the 12th.

On my return home I consulted J. R. McGregor, of Gore Bay, secretary of the Manitoulin District Conservative Association, and asked his advice. I consulted him because he was the only executive officer in Gore Bay, whether to tell what had been then done or not, but we came to the conclusion that I should go on and get some evidence that we could prove and see how far they would go, and whatever we did would be told on the floor of the house, and absolutely no one would know before. We decided that I would have to give the government utterance that I really meant to go with them, and only by fully convincing them could we hope to get any evidence or attach any of the cabinet. So far we had no evidence against anyone in authority.

Nothing more was done or said until about August 19th I received a letter from D. A. Jones of Beeton, as follows:

In accordance with our conversation, I saw the present acting manager, and talked over our arrangement, and I explained the whole matter, as arranged between us, and it was entirely satisfactory, and steps will be taken to carry out the deal fully, and I am now prepared to say that you will receive better treatment than you expected. They will place you in a position that you could not otherwise occupy, and I will assist you, so no other will dare to oppose you with any chance of success. In the meantime be shaping things

and paving the way. You know how to manoeuvre, and I will be fixing things here for you. I wish you would send me further pointers as we talked, and I will pull things in line to suit, and we can pull together now, as we can pull so as to make some money."

I can tell you how we can make a good haul at once. Now, you being an outsider, and a conservative, having agents and friends in Algoma and Sault Ste. Marie, you can find out certain important information that will be sufficient to answer the purpose desired. You can communicate it privately to me, and I can pop it, and to the proper place. No one can ever learn the origin of the information. That will make a clean sweep of the three, and you can be more liberal with the funds when they are thus easily got. Get all information as soon as possible, and state figures value of same, and it will come to hand quick, sure. If I was situated like you I would pick up thousands of dollars' worth soon, and no one would ever dream of you or me in the matter. It is a snap worth trying for. Let me hear from you as soon as possible, so I can shape things in time. Address all my letters to Beeton, marked "personal," and I will get them. No other will see them. Yours in haste,

(Sgd.) D. A. JONES.

This I answered by saying I would be down shortly and see him. On August 21st I was out at my home, 10 miles from Gore Bay. That night between 11 and 12 o'clock a rap came to my door, after I had gone to bed. My brother Wilfred was there. He went to the door and said a gentleman wanted to see me. I got up and went to the door, and Capt. J. Sullivan was there, and wanted to see me privately. I went to the barn with him, put in his horse, and we sat down, and he said they were anxious to go on with some arrangement, and he wanted me to give him some document asserting that I would support the government so that he could show the ministers that he was succeeding. I told him I wouldn't do so that night, but that I would go to Toronto in a few days and meet him there, where he agreed to wait for me. I got up and went to the door, and Capt. J. Sullivan was there, and wanted to see me privately. He was alone; it was a clear moonlight night. I asked my brother in the morning if he would know the man if he saw him again, and he said he would, and he said he thought it was Cap. Sullivan.

In the morning my brother and I drove to Gore Bay, and I took my brother across on the mail steamer that day to Cutler and down to Sudbury, as the Cap. was with us, so that he would be sure of the man, and I explained what the Cap. wanted. He said, "Go ahead and see what they will do." I left the Cap. at Sudbury, and the next day I went to Arnprior, and about August 25 I arrived in Toronto, and saw both the Cap. and his son Frank at the Walker House, and had different interviews in the Cap's room.

Frank drew up an agreement by which I agreed to support the government, which I signed, and Frank signed an agreement to pay me \$3,000 in cash and \$2,000 after the session, that were afterwards both destroyed. I went back to Arnprior about August 29, and returned to Toronto about September 1st.

I had many talks with Frank Sullivan and his father about matters up to the 9th. The captain was trying to secure a timber limit for his share, McGregor Island mentioned. He told me he had discussed the deal with the Hon. J. M. Gibson first, but that Gibson had asked him to see Hon. J. R. Stratton, and Stratton seemed to be the one they did business with from that time on. I also discussed the question of whether Smyth of Algoma could be bought, or not, and I said I would try to see him after I went back there.

"I urged them to withdraw the petition against Smyth, and also discussed the question of sawing-off Davis' petition, which Sullivan said the government were most anxious to do. And, when Davis left for Winnipeg, Frank said he would never face a trial, and would give big value to have a sawing-off. I told our lawyer about this. About Sept. 9, I was taken into Stratton's office by Frank Sullivan, and discussed the arrangement with him."

STRATTON INDICATES LINE.

"No money was mentioned, but the word 'consideration' was mentioned. Stratton told me personally I would have the patronage of the riding entirely in my own hands, and that I could suggest anything that might be of use to conciliate my friends in the riding. The license board was discussed, and I said we must have a new inspector and at least two new commissioners, and several other changes were spoken of in the riding, which he agreed to. He showed me the letter I would have to sign, addressed to the premier, agreeing to support the government, and agreeing that I was not receiving any value for the same. It was typewritten. The consideration was to have been paid that day, but he was not ready."

"I then went down town, and, at about 1.30 o'clock p. m., Frank Sullivan and I were to go to a prominent lawyer's office, which we did. This lawyer, when I arrived there, had the letter that I was to sign, and I signed it in his presence. He then said he would keep it, but Frank said there was some stock question to be settled before he would part with the letter."

LAWYER IS CAUTIOUS.

"The lawyer said he knew nothing of that, and had nothing to do with that, but he would give us his word that, if we would leave the letter with him, he would hold it in his possession until we were satisfied, but Frank refused to do so, and took the letter with him. I knew the lawyer's name."

"We then had an appointment with the Hon. J. R. Stratton for the next forenoon. We went up to his office about 10 o'clock on Wednesday, Sept. 10, and he was not ready, or not there, and we waited about the building. I waited part of the time in the smoking room. About 12 or 12.30 o'clock Stratton was ready, and Frank Sullivan and I went into his office together."

CABINET AGENT READY.

"Stratton said everything was ready, and we left the letter with him, and that Frank and I should go down to the smoking room and wait there, and a party would bring a parcel and lay it on the table in that room. I saw Stratton take out of his inside pocket a large, well-filled envelope. We went down to the smoking room and waited a short time, and Mr. Myers, acting secretary for Hon. J. R. Stratton, took the parcel from Stratton's office, and gave it to Mr. Chase, who carried it to the smoking room and laid the same large envelope parcel on the table. He walked out again without speaking. Frank went over and picked up the parcel, and Frank took the parcel out of his pocket, and counted it. There was three thousand dollars in Ontario Bank bills, of hundreds, fifties, twenties, tens and fives."

MORE MONEY IN SIGHT.

"Frank handed me \$1,500 of this. I will tell where that money is when necessary. Frank tore up the envelope. I then left the building alone and went to dinner. I showed the money to a conservative in the city, and will tell his name when necessary. I went to the Crossin Piano Factory in the afternoon. I left for home on Thursday night, Sept. 11. I explained all this to one conservative in the city, and to J. R. McGregor, on my return to Gore Bay, and we decided to stick to our original arrangement to not mention it until the house met, as we were afraid they might fix things up in some way before the house met, if we told. About Sept. 18, I received a letter from Frank Sullivan."

TO PUT THROUGH "OTHER" DEAL.

"TORONTO, Sept. 18th, 1902--Dear Bob--I had a talk with the Cap. this morning, and he wants me to try and put through another deal. He will pay all expenses in connection with same and will make it worth your while if it goes through. Can you take a run over and see that party, and if he is willing to do the right thing? I will arrange to meet you and him at the 600, and we can fix things up all right. I will be able to go up about the 5th or 6th of October. In the meantime work on the proposition and see what can be done. Answer at once, care of Walker House. (Signed) F. J. SULLIVAN."

"About going to see Smyth, I answered that I would shortly, but he wanted more evidence. About September 21 I received another letter from D. A. Jones about the same matter."

HAD "GILT EDGED" THINGS.

"BEETON, Sept. 19, 1902."

"My Dear Gamey--I was sorry I did not see you before you left, as there were some points in regard to our mining matters that I wished to talk over. By the way, if you have not already received your R. R. papers and do not at once, write me, as I ordered them to go forward, and if they do not I will see after them next week. Is there any mining news around up there? I have some gilt-edged things now, and I think you can make a nice pot out of it. You see that party that we were trying to see and arrange or get things in the shape of a verbal opinion and your efforts will place us in a shape to make a haul sure. I will surprise you when I see you. When are you going to Toronto, that I can meet you there? Yours in haste, (Signed) D. A. Jones."

TALKED OF STATE SECRETS.

"I left Gore Bay for Toronto about Oct. 2. I had wired Frank Sullivan I was coming. I saw both Sullivans, and they discussed the Davis petition, which I was to help to saw-off. There were other parties also arranging to saw them off, and Frank said they were getting big value to do so, and he wanted to head them off. We had frequently discussed this in September, and Sullivan told me that Davis positively would never face a trial; but nothing could be done about the sawing-off of Davis. We then discussed the Smyth deal, and I gave them to understand that he could not likely be bought."

PREMIER ADVISES CONSPIRACY.

"I went to Toronto again about Oct. 21, and met Cap. Sullivan at North Bay, and spoke to him about the rumors that were going around, and told him I was going to see Stratton in the city. I saw Stratton that week in the city, and spoke to him about the rumors, and showed him Sullivan's letters, and told him Sullivan had been talking. He asked me to wait until he would discuss it with the premier. Myers took me to a room, and