

ROYAL COMMISSION ON GAMEY CASE DECLARES CHARGES OF CORRUPTION STAND  
DISPROVED BY GREAT MASS OF EVIDENCE—ACCUSER IS WHOLLY DISCREDITED

Provincial Secretary Stratton Vindicated—Government Cleared of Charges—Commission Questions the Credibility of Many of Gamey's Statements, Declaring That He Played a Double Part and That His Actions Were Erratic and Inconsistent—Mutilated Pages in the Account Books of the Crossin Company and Gamey's Peculiar Actions in Regard to the Deposit Slips Considered To Be Damaging to His Veracity—Commission Finds That Apart From Provincial Secretary Gamey, Had No Intercourse With Ministry—His Plan Was to Wreck the Government.

Toronto, June 4.  
[Special to The Advertiser.]  
After bearing in silence the obloquy and odium of charges as infamous as were ever made against any politician in Canada, Provincial Secretary Stratton and his colleagues have received a splendid vindication at the hands of the impartial and able judicial tribunal appointed to make a full investigation of the charges. The Ontario Government emerges from the inquiry without a stain, but the man who sought to defame the ministers of the crown stands branded as one unworthy of credence and guilty of acts so questionable that it can only be a matter of a few days until he is driven from public life by his peers and sent back to the obscurity from which he should never have emerged.

The judges' report is a voluminous document, containing 109 typewritten pages. The actual finding, together with a summary of the judges' summing up, is given herewith:

**THE COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**  
As to the demeanor and credibility of the witnesses generally, the commissioners would report that most of them seemed to be desirous to tell the truth. Of the more important witnesses the commissioners were impressed by the evidence of Dr. Arthur, Dr. Struthers and Mr. J. F. Boyd.

Frank Sullivan and Mr. Gamey were two of the chief actors in the variety of transactions under investigation, and the evidence is contradictory and inconclusive at most if not all important points. Both, by their own confession, practiced systematic duplicity and pursued tortuous courses of dealing with self-serving interests much in view of implicit reliance should not be placed upon their uncorroborated statements of material points, and where these statements conflict with those of independent or disinterested witnesses the latter should be preferred.

Whatever comment may be made upon the expressions attributed to the Provincial Secretary by Mr. Hammond, when recalled, it seems to the commissioners unwarrantable to assign to such exaggerated import as to overshadow the whole body of substantial evidence in favor of the government and against the member. The testimony of Hammond was on a comparatively minor branch of the case, and, apart from the payment of money as to its price, does not largely concern the investigation, and the statements of Hammond are not in conflict with those of the Provincial Secretary, and the latter's variation in details which happen very commonly in evidence of different speakers.

It was a proper thing to take steps to advertise publicly the change in the attitude of Mr. Gamey. At no momentous point in his life, and, in view of the fact that the public would likely have been more advantageously if made earlier.

Looked at in the large, Mr. Gamey's version is, that his purchase originated with Frank Sullivan and the Provincial Secretary, that he was taken to the minister's office, whom he did not know, that the letter he was to sign was already ready, and put before him for signature, and the information volunteered by the minister that the patronage given to him, and unstated valuable consideration paid when he signed, was the money was not ready, the bargain and sale were not then consummated.

Mr. Aylesworth's evidence alone sufficed to show that this version was misleading and untrue.

**MR. GAMEY'S MEMORY.**  
The conduct and memory of Mr. Gamey, as to these bribe moneys, detract from his credibility. At no momentous point in his life, and, in view of the fact that the public would likely have been more advantageously if made earlier.

Then follows the procuring of the deposit slip from the bank by Mr. Gamey and its disappearance.

Then the explanation is given to the reporters at Buffalo, with a view to publication, that this \$500 was collected during the summer in Manitoulin Island, and the final statement is made under oath that it was part of a loan of \$1,200 from Frank Sullivan.

**NOT FROM STRATTON.**  
The evidence on the other side pre-

cludes the conclusion that this \$3,000 was received by Mr. Gamey from the Provincial Secretary on or about the 11th of September, and if that be so, the true source is not yet disclosed.

Again, as to the \$500 said to be received by Mr. Gamey from the Provincial Secretary at this stage of the enterprise, and does assist in correcting the interview, and though he and Mr. McGregor meet that same night and discuss the matter, yet the money is not exhibited or mentioned. It is not shown to anyone, but carried about continuously in Mr. Gamey's pocket until produced in the House. And then, when Mr. Gamey was finally preparing for making his statement, and planning to procure a possible corroboration from Sullivan, in the hearing of three hidden witnesses, and though the \$500 was in that regard in his pocket (as he says), he does not make the slightest reference or allusion to it at the Crossin factory on the night the House met.

From these omissions the inference is concluded that no bribe money was received from the Provincial Secretary on the 29th January, but that the money was afterwards acquired, and, as that be so, then the real source of this money is not yet disclosed.

This much more may be said about the money. Gamey came from the fact that Mr. Gamey declined to make any statement under oath to the commissioners about the deposit slips and those things, "ostensibly on the ground that criminal action was being contemplated in that regard." But he said further that he "cannot understand how it is relevant to his case."

**THE MISSING PAGES.**  
Without pressing against him the maxim "omnia presumuntur contra spoliatorem" and though the despoiling was done pendente lite et sedente curia, it is very reasonable to believe that if the missing pages of the Crossin book could be seen they would disclose or give a clue whereby would be discovered the source of the \$500 and of the \$1,500, both coming, as Mr. Gamey now swears, from one and the same source. His explanation of the particular source is not so worthy of credence as if the books had been left unutilized.

**PLAYED A DOUBLE PART.**  
It is difficult to frame any consistent account of Mr. Gamey's career as a member, for it was throughout inconsistent, as he played a double part. But this much appears in the evidence, with politics as Manitoulin, with Gamey as member, on the side of any Government in power, to the end that he might serve his constituency, and also secure shares in the various deals supposed possible, by not over-scrupulous men. First was formed the Jones-Gamey combination, with a view of securing the patronage of the Provincial Secretary, and the latter, by his brilliant style and pretended access to the Crossin-Gamey combination, was able to secure the support of the Provincial Secretary, and the latter, by his brilliant style and pretended access to the Crossin-Gamey combination, was able to secure the support of the Provincial Secretary.

Then rumors get abroad of his defection from party lines, and he modifies his manner of support by the amended letter of Oct. 27, so that the House would not be misled by the interests of the Conservatives, he engages to support the Government when the House meets if Mr. Ross has a reasonable majority. Accordingly, in January, 1908, he takes part in the North Perth campaign for the Conservatives, but is embittered because he was belittled by the action of the Conservatives, and he resigns.

He repairs to the Provincial Secretary and begins discussing appointments, but being confronted with his conduct in the past, he declines to accept any position. This was after the investigation, and the Provincial Secretary's resignation, and the latter, by his brilliant style and pretended access to the Crossin-Gamey combination, was able to secure the support of the Provincial Secretary.

ministry except the Provincial Secretary. With two or three of the others he had some official correspondence, but with the rest not even that.

With regard to the added charge of conspiracy, the commissioners are of the opinion, that as a matter of law, there is no evidence whatever to sustain it, as against the members of the Government and the other persons charged.

And, according to the methods of an ordinary trial, the evidence is discharged from the said accusation by the presiding judicial officer. This being so, the matter of the original charge alone remains, and as to the Provincial Secretary, there is no evidence to sustain it.

It is noteworthy that in the statement to the House the disposition of the protest is not even mentioned as a part of the "deal."

However undesirable may be this method of suppressing election politics, it is one in which both political parties concur, and it is not forbidden in terms by legislation, though it well might be, as election judges have at different times recommended.

There is nothing in the evidence to lead to the belief that Mr. Grant acted in these election politics, but the fact that he had made up his mind to support the Ross Government and that he did not think he could accomplish any good by pursuing an opposite course, he complained of his treatment by his own party, and that they did not help with his protest. He spoke of Beatty, of Parry Sound, as one who had taken a course similar to that which he himself had followed.

For instance, Aug. 16, 1902, Mr. Gamey spoke to J. F. Boyd at the former's house, and said he had made up his mind to support the Ross Government and that he did not think he could accomplish any good by pursuing an opposite course, he complained of his treatment by his own party, and that they did not help with his protest.

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**THE LETTER OF SEPT. 10.**  
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Thus after the protest was spoken of in July Mr. Gamey told Mr. Connel that he had fully made up his mind to support the Government, and asked Mr. Connel as to whether the protest would be pressed against him in view of that Mr. Connel said he thought not.

A like conversation took place with his uncle after the protest, and Jones told him that it would not amount to much if he was going to support the Government.

Having signed the letter of the 10th September, he retained it, and afterwards, so far as appears, it was forwarded by Mr. Gamey to the Premier by post early in that month. It may be that having failed to get any satisfaction in the first application to Mr. Grant, and in the second application to Mr. Aylesworth having been rebuffed, he uttered the words given by Frank Sullivan, "that he had made a fool of himself in Mr. Aylesworth's office," and then sent on the letter unconditionally to the Premier.

But, in the consideration of the patronage aspect of the accusation, the question is not so much what was actually said by Mr. Gamey in his constituency as to what he afterwards represented that he said during his candidature, and that what he represented was returned to power he would give them independent support, similar to Beatty, of Parry Sound.

A great number of respectable witnesses were called to prove that Mr. Gamey in his campaign speeches took a position of uncompromising hostility to the Government in power and its policy, and said nothing about independent support or any measures that might be brought forward by the Reform party.

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However undesirable may be this method of suppressing election politics, it is one in which both political parties concur, and it is not forbidden in terms by legislation, though it well might be, as election judges have at different times recommended.

There is nothing in the evidence to lead to the belief that Mr. Grant acted in these election politics, but the fact that he had made up his mind to support the Ross Government and that he did not think he could accomplish any good by pursuing an opposite course, he complained of his treatment by his own party, and that they did not help with his protest.

He felt free then to add to or modify what was expressed in the first letter and if he had chosen he could have done so. The last part of his letter, however, he leaves it in, and again asserts that there was no other motive than the best interests of his constituency, and therein effectively negates any money consideration.

Then (if not on Sept. 10, when the first was signed) he had by his own confession received \$3,000 as a bribe—but over his own signature that he denies. He gets his son to sign in his name the letter of Oct. 27, in order to draw out a letter from the Premier because of the strange writing in the signature; but he had deleted the last words (so making it more conformable to what he says is the truth) the omission would have been more likely to draw forth some of the evidence from the Premier, which Gamey and McGregor are said in the statement to be in search of.

**THE PLAN OUTLINED.**  
He surveys the situation. The glowing prospects pictured by Frank Sullivan have failed to become facts. The prestige of directing Governmental patronage appears to be meager and delusive. He learns that the Government, anticipating his resignation, are planning to put Mr. McMillan, the Socialist candidate, in the field.

And then, it may be, comes the patriotic plan of deliverance by letting it leak out that money was at the bottom of his apparent disloyalty. The people supposed he had got a timber concession, and Dr. Arthur and Dr. Struthers told him that people would say he had been bought. Let him accept and profit by the belief, or rather the assumption, of his mercenary defection, but by a desperate effort turn it into success by depicting his career as set forth in the statement for the House.

**GOVERNMENT EXONERATED**