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The Toronto World

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TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR

TEN PAGES—THURSDAY MORNING MARCH 12 1903—TEN PAGES

ONE CENT

DARBY PLOTTED TO BRIBE MEMBERS

GAMEY NAMES STRATTON AS AUTHOR OF SENSATIONAL CONSPIRACY ON FLOOR OF LEGISLATURE

EXPLOSION AMID WILD EXCITEMENT

Bombshell Exploded Under the Government Officials During the Session—Premier Ross Overwhelmed by Magnitude of the Disaster and Cabinet Immediately Convenes, While Rumors of Retirement Are Rife.

Rumors of Cabinet Resignation Follows Startling Revelations.

Curious Story of Corruption Made Public by the Member for Manitoulin and Positive Proofs are Furnished— [Speculation as to Who Supplied the Funds.]

A GIGANTIC SCANDAL.
R. R. Gamey, member for Manitoulin Island, sprung a tremendous bombshell on the House yesterday afternoon. The program for the day was the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, and the galleries were filled with spectators. They came expecting a mildly interesting entertainment, and for an hour or so it seemed as if their expectation would be fulfilled. McKay of North Grey and Stock of South Perth moved and seconded the address. They are pleasant speakers, with good voices and the opposition to begin with the usual compliments to his "young friends" on the other side, and then proceed to dress down the government. Instead of that, up rose Gamey, who was sitting on the opposition side, in the front rank, nearest the door.

Gamey said that he wanted to explain his position in the House. Still the unformed did not perceive that a bombshell was coming. Gamey had been elected as a Conservative, and had apparently gone over to the government, and some awkward apology was looked for. In fact, people felt rather sorry for Gamey, as a man who did not know the customs of the House, and was blurring out his explanation at the wrong time. But nobody on either side undertook to correct him, and it soon appeared that he knew what he was about, and had something serious to say.

AMAZING TALE OF STRATTON'S CORRUPTION.
Briefly, the tale he unfolded was that after his election was protested he was approached by Captain John Sullivan, a well-known worker for the government, and informed that there was strong evidence against him, enough to disqualify him, and that he had better resign. The threat falling, bribery was resorted to, and Gamey was told that he could have \$5000, as the government must have more support. Gamey decided to lead his would-be tempters on. He admitted that he did not like the plan, but said that nothing would convince the people but the production of the most direct and plain evidence, and with a great deal of untaught dramatic art, he unfolded the story, in which the parties were himself, Captain Sullivan, Sullivan's son and a Liberal lawyer—name not to be disclosed at present.

At length he came to an interview in which Minister Stratton took part, and in which it was arranged that he should go into another room, where an envelope would be handed to him. He obeyed the instructions; a messenger came in with a parcel, which was found to contain \$3000 in Ontario Bank bills. This money, according to agreement, was divided between Sullivan and Gamey. "Later on," said Mr. Gamey, "I will tell where that money is." Subsequently, Gamey gave an interview to The Globe, in which he declared that he would give the government an independent support. This he did, and Sullivan got another \$1000, which he divided with Gamey, and Gamey produced, to the astonished House, a roll of bills, which he said was his share.

HOW THE ALLEGED CONSPIRATOR ACTED.
These revelations were received with applause from the opposition side of the House. As yet Gamey has not said a word, but he sat very still, with his face turned toward Gamey. Presently the Minister rose and walked to a place behind Premier Ross and Minister Gibson, who are desksmates, and held a consultation with them. People in the galleries bent over as if they imagined they could hear what was going on. Minister Stratton went back to his seat.

Gamey walked across the front row of the opposition seats and handed his statement, documents and wad of bills to the leader of the opposition, Mr. Whitney. Whitney asked what he had to say. Gamey replied, in a moment, then with a quick, impulsive movement grasped the exhibits. Another moment of hesitation in which the people wonder whether he will entrust them to Mr. Speaker or Mr. Clerk. But they go into the leader's desk, the lid is slammed, the key turned, and the Conservatives look as if they thought Whitney ought to carry the desk off under his arm.

There is a short, vigorous speech from Mr. Whitney, and then the Premier rises and says that he declines to deny the truth of the charges, but that there must be a thorough investigation. The life has all gone out of the debate on the address, and the debate is adjourned, and the House also.

The crowd lingered in the corridors wild with excitement. Some of the older men recalled the "Liberty plot" of 1884, in which a Liberal member told a story somewhat similar to Gamey's and handed a roll of bills to the Speaker. There were rumors that the government would resign. The only Mr. Stratton is directly involved, the charge is of so tremendous a character that it might seem fitting for all the Ministers to resign and stand aside while the inquiry is going on. They seemed to be dazed, astonished, stunned by the extraordinary occurrences of the day.

READY FOR FINAL EFFORT.
When Mr. Gamey arose, immediately on the close of the speech of the member for Manitoulin in reply to the speech from the throne all eyes were turned towards him. Mr. Whitney moved up to the seat left vacant for Mr. Miskampbell and turned around so that he could better hear what the member for Manitoulin was saying. The government side of the house was just as alert and the occupants of the galleries leaned forward to get a better view of the member who was recently described by The Globe as a man of force, and who had made himself famous by his somewhat striking and euphonious declaration, "Manitoulin is my politics."

COL. J. P. WHITNEY IS AMAZED PLAN OF ACTION UNCERTAIN

Leader of the Opposition Expresses His Surprise Over the Corrupt Methods Exposed and Says Future Course Not Yet Settled.

"What have I to say?" queried Col. J. P. Whitney, when seen in the evening. "Well, what is there to say, or rather what can I say? The disclosure made by the member for Manitoulin is of such a grave and serious nature that I can make no comment whatever at the present time. Speaking frankly, I have not been able, as yet, to fully weigh the statement of Mr. Gamey. It is of such tremendous import that any criticism of my own in regard to it would be premature, and to-morrow or the next day something might turn up that would alter my thoughts, and put a very different aspect on conditions as they now appear." "Do you think that a criminal prosecution of Mr. Stratton is at all likely to take place?" Mr. Whitney declined to commit himself to any opinion on this point, which is uppermost on the minds of everyone. "I cannot say whether he will be prosecuted," he said. "The House has the right to say whether or not it will be prosecuted. It is up to the House to decide whether or not it will be prosecuted."

MR. STRATTON'S STATEMENT.

At the conclusion of the sitting of the house a representative of the World asked Mr. Stratton if he had anything to say in reference to the allegations made by Mr. Gamey had come to his office in reference to the building on three or four occasions. On one occasion Mr. Gamey had spoken to him in reference to the appointment of a justice of the peace in Manitoulin, and Mr. Stratton had suggested that if Mr. Gamey had any communication to the Department of Agriculture, which has charge of certification road matters, he should forward it in writing to the Attorney-General, but who was at that time out of the city.

On the occasion of another of Mr. Gamey's visits, he said he came to see about some road grants which he desired for certain roads in Manitoulin. Mr. Stratton told him he had nothing to say in reference to the matter, but he said that if Mr. Gamey had any communication to the Department of Agriculture, which has charge of certification road matters, he should forward it in writing to the Attorney-General, but who was at that time out of the city.

Mr. Stratton said that he had never seen Mr. Gamey in any capacity other than as a member of the House of Representatives. He said that he had never seen Mr. Gamey in any capacity other than as a member of the House of Representatives. He said that he had never seen Mr. Gamey in any capacity other than as a member of the House of Representatives.

MEMBER R. R. GAMEY.
Who Exposed Sensational Conspiracy.

Mr. R. R. Gamey was born in the year 1862, in the village of Gresham, Ontario. He attended the Public School of Maxwell and the High School, following which he spent the early years of his life in that county. In 1884 he pursued a course of study at the University of Toronto, and for some years the present member for Manitoulin worked on his father's farm. Mr. Gamey when 27 years of age took up life insurance work, and is now the general agent for the Confederation Life in his home district. Mr. Gamey is largely connected with the mining industry that is of such importance in the district of Manitoulin, and has also a large stock farm near Gore Bay. He was elected last spring to the provincial legislature as a Conservative.

CRIMINAL CODE APPLIES.
The World's attention was drawn last night to the Criminal Code as a means of investigation and of punishing the parties exposed in wrong doing in the legislature yesterday.

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Dramatic scene on floor of house when Member Gamey walks to Col. Whitney's desk and deposits the bribe money and proof of the conspiracy.

Gamey's Dramatic Story Of the Famous Conspiracy

Gives All Details of the Plot, Exhibits the Incriminating Documents and Points Meaningfully to the Men Who Did the Bribing.

In spite of the intensely dramatic situation that Mr. Gamey's exposure of the conspiracy developed, his own story of the extraordinary game he played with such consummate cunning as to completely entrap the government agents is told with no attempt at sensationalism. It is repetitive, however, with startling statements and reinforced with documents of such an indisputable character as to carry conviction in every mind. Here is the victim in every room, and he has carried off the prize, and the game is over among those involved in the meshes of the net.

"I was elected in May, 1902, as a straight Conservative candidate, by about 340 majority, and beating the combined forces of Fraser and McMillan, Socialist candidate, by about 100 votes. The returns by the returning officer were filed back and not declared until June 17. This, I believe, was done to give the government a chance to prevent my election. I was elected on the 17th of June, and the next day a protest was entered in the usual way. Several parties were sent up to the riding to look up evidence."

"About August 7 I was going to Toronto and met Capt. J. Sullivan, in the lunch room at the Allan. 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 disqualified, and would resign. I laughed at him and paid no attention to it. I went on to Toronto and he remained."

WORLD DISQUALIFY HIM.
"In Toronto, at the Walker House, where I stay, I met his son, Frank J. Sullivan, who also said he understood 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 I 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, resign rather than face a fight. I told him that his father had spoken that way, and I wondered why he was speaking thus. He said only as a friend, as he had known me a long time, and he was sorry that I would be 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 \$5000 in cash could be got for me, and if I would stay over a couple of days he would provide 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."

GOVERNMENT WAS ANXIOUS.
"The first intimation that the government was anxious to deal with me, he also suggested that the government were very anxious to get information for the trials against Smith and Miskampbell. I told him that it would be impossible for me to do. I left Toronto for home about the 12th. On my return home I consulted J. R. McGregor at Gore Bay, the only executive officer in Gore Bay, and he said that he would be glad to see me, and I would be glad to see him. I went to see him, and he said that he would be glad to see me, and I would be glad to see him. I went to see him, and he said that he would be glad to see me, and I would be glad to see him."

ARRANGED THE SECRET MEETING.
About Tuesday, August 12, Frank came to me and said a prominent Liberal would be glad to see me, and I would be glad to see him. I went to see him, and he said that he would be glad to see me, and I would be glad to see him. I went to see him, and he said that he would be glad to see me, and I would be glad to see him."

THE FALL OF THE A...
Have you been reading The World's comments on things political in this country—at Toronto and Ottawa? If you have you will not be surprised at the sentence appearing in the legislature yesterday.

It is in this substance: That the Ross government preferred office to honor; that they sold legislation and franchises for money to be used for corruptly keeping themselves in office; that agents of their stores and election-rigged ballot boxes, switched ballots, stuffed boxes, and as a final and ultimate resort started in to buy Conservative members to betray their constituents and to support them!

Look at the newspaper incidents that surround the situation of the last few months: J. S. Willison resigned the editorship of The Globe for a compelling reason. He saw what was coming, and the confessions he has made in his new paper are truthful and bear on the events of to-day. That capricious contractor who was assessed to keep governments in power.

Look at the appointment of his successor; a move dictated by Mr. Ross for the express purpose of further hoodwinking the electorate, especially the temperance element, and of making all people believe that because a minister of the gospel was put in The Globe's chair the men in the Ross government were of superior character, and gave forth only the high, clear ringing notes of statesmanship!

Look at other papers supporting the Ross government, some whose editors were in the House, who thought they might be Ministers, in justifying all these franchise and corporation deals that gave the money for the election funds, and packages like the ones handed to Mr. Gamey! Many a package has been handed to Mr. Gamey!

What about the conduct of The Globe in the Gamey interview published by it? What can Mr. Ross do? He is responsible for everything that Stratton did. So is Gibson. So are the rest. Stratton must resign. So must they all. They can't do it out no longer, nor can a preacher in The Globe pulpit save them. Nor will the franchise-holders, nor the men who have made deals for legislation care to do anything more. In fact the revelations are only coming.

Mr. Ross must resign as soon as Stratton resigns. So the rest. The program which included one of them going to Government House as Lieutenant-Governor must be immediately ordered. The House ought not to be side-tracked by any reference to the Criminal Code or to a royal commission. Let the Criminal Code be enforced if the Attorney-General dare to put the law in motion—and it rests with him—but let the parliamentary investigation go on. Let there be no further business till the deck is cleared of this last scandal. The House is greater, even than the government or any party, and must purge itself and maintain its honor.

Offense Liberal all over the province will demand resignations, and insist on full parliamentary investigation.

Greedy of office and a disposition to do anything to hold it has at last wrecked the Liberal Ministers in Ontario! Here they are!

Mr. E. J. Davis of the North York episode. Mr. Harcourt of the Centre Bruce episode. Mr. Gibson of the power deal, the Connors Act, the scrap iron law. Mr. Stratton of the Gamey affair. Sir Oliver Mowat has lived long enough to see his party disgraced. George Brown died before his paper passed into the hands of corporation grafters, who made of it as a personal organ of Ministers of the Crown. Liberal governments that gave them valuable considerations!

And the great body of Honest Reformers have come to see their party absolutely disgraced by its own leaders, who had a distorted appetite for office and power.

Let the Ross cabinet resign. Reformers must insist on their getting out. At last what The World has said for many a day has been overwhelmingly proved!

TO-DAY IN TORONTO.
Trades and Labor Council, 8 p.m.
U. C. Loyalties, 3 p.m.
Prince Edward County Old Boys' at home, 8 p.m.
London Old Boys', Queen's, 8 p.m.
Anglo-W. A. St. James' Cathedral, 8 p.m.
Lenten service, St. James', 12:30.
Wireless telegraph test, 4 p.m.
Pontyri Hellenic Association, St. George's Hall, 8 p.m.
Lanier Club, 8 p.m.
Young Men's Hebrew Association at home, 8 p.m.

The Silk Hat Season.
This is silk hat weather the spring of the year. Especially are they necessary for Sunday wear. The Dineen Company has imported particularly at this early date a full line of silks, both English and American. It includes all those by the big English manufacturers and by Dunlop of New York, for whom Dineen is sole Canadian agent.

GAMEY PLAYED GAME ALONE UNTIL GRAND CLIMAX IN HOUSE

Singular Side Light of the Conspiracy That Landed Provincial Secretary Stratton on the Rocks and Exposed Desperate Methods of Grips.

There is no doubt that Mr. Gamey played his game of yesterday off his own bat. For months he has been carrying his secret, having only one confidant, Mr. McGregor of the Conservative Association of Manitoulin. He has borne all the opprobrium of his supporters in Manitoulin; has even had to avoid them at times in the fear of being mobbed; and for the last few days has been under a great nervous strain, so severe that he says he could never go through the same experience again under any circumstances. He kept his own counsel, with the exception of calling in his four friends to overhear his conversation with young Sullivan.

The first intimation that the Conservative had of his intentions in the "nation" was told last night. The Conservative was told last night by a good authority, was just before 8 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when he sent a message to Dr. Willoughby, the Conservative whip, that he would like to see him, and that he would like to see him. Dr. Willoughby saw him, Mr. Gamey said that he would like to see him, and that he would like to see him. Dr. Willoughby saw him, Mr. Gamey said that he would like to see him, and that he would like to see him."