

HON. J. R. STRATTON IN SELF-DEFENCE

Accused Minister Denies Giving \$3,000 to Frank Sullivan as a Bribe to Mr. Gamey.

TELLS OF GAMEY'S VISITS.

Witness Reviews the Conversations Relative to Patronage and the Withdrawal of the Manitoulin Protest—Was Not Surprised When Government Clerk Frank Sullivan Warned Him That Gamey Was Not to Be Relied Upon to Support the Government—Blake's Cross-Examination.

Toronto, May 5.—At the opening of the fourth week of the Royal Commission yesterday morning Mr. Johnston asked that John Galbraith and John Hillier be called. They are witnesses who have several times been absent when wanted, and as they were again absent yesterday morning the Chancellor directed that warrants be issued to compel their attendance.

A Minister Testifies.

The first witness of the morning was Hon. John Francis Guilfoyle, Minister of the Penitentiaries, at Long Bay, Manitoulin. He said that after the Globe interview appeared on January 29th, he saw Gamey at his home, and he said he would only support Government in such measures as were for the good of the constituency; that he was as good a Conservative as ever, and that Gamey looked stronger in print than he intended. To Mr. Ritchie he said Gamey had denounced Government policy very vigorously, and that he made the strange remark after a Conservative meeting at Gore Bay that "There will be something move later on."

To Shake the Dry Bones.

Mr. Johnston put in a letter written by Mr. Gamey, dated Feb. 16, to the editor of The Manitoulin Express, after the publication of The Globe interview, telling him that he had not gone over to the Liberals as completely as possible, that neither party properly represented the

people, and that there would be a big shaking up of the dry bones in the near future.

Mr. W. J. Boland, barrister, testified to his many business transactions with Mr. Stratton, which called them into close relationship. He had a business interview with Mr. Stratton on the 10th Sept., beginning a little after 11 that morning, and that he had not lost sight of Mr. Stratton until after 1 o'clock.

To Mr. Ritchie he said the \$3,000 cheque paid by the Ontario Government on Sept. 9 was on a bond transaction of the Riviere Du Loup Pulp Co. of which Mr. Stratton was president and he a director, and that it was paid to the Dominion Permanent Loan Co.

Where Did the Money Come From.

"Can you enlighten us on the question that is going round? Where did the money come from?" suggested Mr. Ritchie.

"I know nothing whatever about it," said Mr. Boland. He added that he knew nothing about a campaign fund being got together before the election.

MR. STRATTON'S EVIDENCE.

Though Last Election Was Close He Did Not Regard It as a Crisis.

Hon. J. R. Stratton, sworn, testified, that, though the last election was closely contested, he did not regard it as a crisis. In the previous election the members were 46 Liberals, 45 Conservatives, 2 not heard from, and 1 election not held. But the Government was sustained. Further, for three months after the last election the Premier and Attorney-General were in England, and other Ministers were away at intervals. The matter of protests was left in his hands. Some protests were withdrawn, but he had nothing whatever to do with the Manitoulin protest. After the third meeting between the parties, early in June, he determined to have nothing more to do with the protests, and left the matter in the hands of Mr. Grant, acting for the Liberal Association. The first he knew of the Manitoulin protest was from the papers, the end of June or beginning of July. He knew nothing about the Manitoulin protest until he saw that it was transferred to Toronto, which meant it was settled. This was in October. During all this time he had no consultation with Mr. Grant about it. He never employed Jones or the Sullivans, or anyone else, to approach Gamey. He never employed those or any others to approach Gamey in any manner.

His Knowledge of Mr. Gamey.

He had heard rumors that Mr. Gamey was going to support the Government prior to the 9th Sept., when the member for Manitoulin came to see him. That was absolutely all the knowledge he had of Gamey then. He did not know on or prior to that date that Gamey was coming to see him. Of all the patronage referred to, not one appointment recommended by Mr. Gamey was made by him, and only two were made otherwise. He said he met Capt. Sullivan once at a hotel table in the "Savoy," and was casual, and he had not met him since. He met Frank Sullivan in the same casual way. He knew nothing about Frank Sullivan's relations about the North Shore. The first he heard of Gamey was when Frank Sullivan introduced him to him on Sept. 9, a few minutes after 10 o'clock.

The Gamey Interview.

Neither was ever there before. Sullivan came first and said Gamey wanted to see him. Sullivan then introduced Gamey. They spoke a few minutes in a general way about Manitoulin, the crops, the railway, the condition of the people, etc. Gamey said the policy of the Government was approved by the people, with the exception that the administration of some of the officials was bad. Gamey spoke about the Fletcher appointment as J. P., and was referred by him to the Attorney-General. Gamey also said he would best serve his constituents by supporting the Government, and that his contest was conducted so as to enable him to do so. In reply to a question, Gamey said he had carefully considered the question, was sure the people would back him. Gamey complained of the administration of the mining law, but approved of the law as a whole. Gamey was in the office perhaps half an hour.

Gamey asked about the protest, and he replied the Government had nothing to do with that, and referred Mr. Gamey to Aylesworth. Mr. Grant, who had charge of the protests, and he replied that if Gamey supported the Government he would get the same consideration as any other Government supporter. Afterwards he spoke to Mr. Aylesworth about the protest, and Mr. Aylesworth suggested it would be a good idea to get Gamey to write a letter of his intentions to support the Government.

Mr. Stratton then explained his connection with the Sapphire Corundum Company, about which he had the interview with Mr. Boland on September 10th, and why he resigned as director. Mr. Boland came into his office shortly after 11 o'clock.

Letter Not His Own Idea.

While Mr. Boland was there Mr. Aylesworth's letter was dictated, as suggested by Mr. Aylesworth, and the substance was the pith of what Gamey said the day before. Up to that time he had no knowledge of the Manitoulin protest or the evidence about it. The letter was not his own idea, and was not addressed to anyone. Mr. Boland was in the office from about 11 until 12.25, when he (Stratton) drove to Ottawa when the court was over at 1 o'clock gave him the letter.

On September 10th Gamey was not in his office or room. Neither was Sullivan. The next day he saw the report of the Conservative caucus, and that Gamey was present supporting Mr. Whitney. He did not know what took place in Mr. Aylesworth's office until October 23. He knew before breakfast that Gamey was at this caucus, and was surprised.

He did not rely on Gamey's support then or at any time.

"I never had any confidence in him," said Mr. Stratton, emphatically. On the morning of September 11th, he discussed the Nova Scotia Eastern Railway with Mr. Boland. About \$6,000,000 was involved in the project. Nearly all his colleagues, in fact all, in the railway are Conservatives. They left the office about 10 o'clock, and walked down to the Trusts Company office. Neither Gamey nor Sullivan was in his office together or alone prior to the 9th September and neither was in his office on September 11th, never twice consecutively. In September, Gamey was at all in September. Gamey never saw him again until October 23rd. "There was nothing to see him about. He then gave all the details of his movements up to half-past 2, when he closed his office.

DENIES PAYING MONEY.

Question is Put Straight and Denied in the Same Way.

Q.—Now, just let me put the matter perfectly straight, Mr. Stratton, did you upon the 9th, 10th or 11th of September pay Mr. Gamey any money for him? A.—I did not.

Q.—Did you give Frank Sullivan \$3,000 to divide between him and Gamey? A.—No, nor three cents.

Q.—Did you send a man with a package or parcel to the smoking room with instructions as to what should be done? A.—I did not.

Witness, continuing, said neither Gamey nor Sullivan nor D. A. Jones had any authority to act for him in this or any matter, and if they wrote letters with regard to Gamey he knew nothing about it until the matter came up in the House. Gamey's statement that he would get some "consideration" was not true. The only way consideration was used was in the sense of the consideration a Government supporter ordinarily received. There was no reference to a parcel or to the smoking-room. There was no arrangement made with Mr. Gamey that he was to sign a letter to support the Government.

Stratton's Personal Resources.

He said Mr. Gamey's statement that he was to get some appointments to please his friends was a pure invention. He emphatically denied Gamey's statement that he (Gamey) Sullivan nor D. A. Jones had first in his (Stratton's) office. The statement with regard to a parcel to the smoking-room Mr. Stratton characterized as "a manufactured statement, absolutely false." Gamey was never in his office except on the 9th and came then at his own instance. He never made any appointment to meet Gamey.

"As to where the money came from," said Mr. Johnston. "I suppose that it would be easy for you to obtain \$3,000?" said Mr. Stratton.

"For your own money?" said Mr. Johnston.

"From that time up to the meeting of the House he never saw Frank Sullivan nor Gamey. There were no such relations of intimacy as Sullivan described in his letters.

The court then adjourned for luncheon.

Wanted the Letter Back.

In the afternoon Mr. Stratton said to Mr. Gamey came of his own accord to see him on the morning of October 23rd or 24th, and that was the first occasion after September 9.

Gamey said he wanted to get the letter he signed in Mr. Aylesworth's office on September 10; that he had been persuaded to attend the Conservative caucus on September 10, and that in consequence he wanted to get back the letter, which was addressed to the Premier, and to have it sent later, because it would be awkward to have it then in the hands of the Premier. Mr. Stratton replied that he did not know where the letter was. In the course of conversation...

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CROSS-EXAMINATION.

Not Relying on Gamey for Support in the House.

Mr. Stratton was under direct examination for two hours and ten minutes. His cross-examination by Mr. Blake began at 2.50, with this question:

Q.—If I did not misunderstand you, Mr. Stratton, you made the statement that after what took place on the 10th Sept., read by you on the 11th of the Conservative meeting (report), you were not relying on Mr. Gamey for support? A.—I was not.

Witness, continuing, said he had understood on various occasions that Mr. Gamey was perhaps not altogether to be relied upon politically. He had heard of this during two months before the September interview. He knew he was dealing with a man of whom he was told to be careful.

The Talk of Coalition.

He was questioned at some length about the standing of the parties after the election, but did not think there was any serious crisis, even if there was only a majority of one, if the Legislature did not meet immediately. There might have been some discussion of a coalition by the Ministers, but it was not serious. The matter had been discussed on the street and in the press. He was asked when it was decided to give up the idea of coalition and to "fight." He replied that he supposed the resignation was to Mr. Ross' Newmarket speech, but he could not remember the date or whether it was after the Gamey interview in September. He promised to look up the date of the first public announcement of the Government's intention to "fight."

Not Surprised at Sullivan's Statement.

He was not surprised when Frank Sullivan said to him, "The fellow Gamey is not going to support the Government"—as he never expected he would. Asked whether he was not surprised that Sullivan, a clerk, would so address him, he said that as they had come to him together on the 9th Sept. he was not. Nor was he alarmed.

Mr. Stratton was closely questioned about what became of his personal letters, and said that as a rule they were filed, although a very few might not. He said he did not keep any personal books of account, beyond his bank and check books.

Mr. Blake asked for their production, and Mr. Stratton said he had no objection whatever to a thorough private inspection, and it was agreed (Continued on page 8.)

A Peculiar Supporter.

Gamey at this interview urged the appointment of his brother and was again referred to the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Gamey said he was a supporter of the Government, and Mr. Stratton replied that he took a peculiar way of showing it in that he had assisted the Conservatives in North Perth. Mr. Gamey after some conversation about his position, said he thought the best way to put himself right before the public was by a newspaper interview. At Mr. Gamey's request he prepared the interview, and took down in lead pencil notes which he suggested. On January 23 Mr. Gamey telephoned about the interview, but he was busy, and in reply to Mr. Gamey, said he would be in the office the next afternoon. He dictated to Mr. Yokome The Globe interview, practically as published. It was in long-hand, and Mr. Myers afterwards typewrote it. On January 29 Mr. Gamey called and asked if the interview was ready. He gave him the interview and he said it was too strong, and suggested he would take it away to alter it. About half-past 6 Gamey returned with the interview altered. After reading it he returned to Mr. Sullivan who took it out to give Mr. Hammond.

Denies Giving Parcel of Money.

Q.—Did you see him again that evening? A.—No.

Q.—Was Mr. Frank Sullivan there that evening? A.—Not to my knowledge; I did not see him.

Q.—Did you have any parcel of money or bills of any kind that you gave to Mr. Sullivan on that evening? A.—I did not.

Q.—Or an envelope? A.—No.

Q.—Or Gamey? A.—No.

Q.—Or anybody? A.—None whatever.

Q.—Then so far as that interview was concerned there was no money passed directly or indirectly? A.—Directly or indirectly between Mr. Gamey, Mr. Sullivan or myself.

Q.—When did you next see Mr. Gamey? A.—I saw him in the Legislature.

Q.—That was the only time that you saw him? A.—That was the only time that I saw him.

Sullivan's Warning.

Q.—Did you see Frank Sullivan before you saw Gamey in the Legislature? A.—I saw Frank Sullivan the day before the House opened.

Q.—Did he speak to you? A.—Yes. I was going to the Premier's office, he motioned to me, and I stopped for a moment, and he said, "I don't believe that fellow Gamey is going to support the Government." I said I did not care whether he did or not, I never expected that he would.

Q.—And you passed on? A.—I passed on.

Letter in Premier's Office.

The Premier was out, but he got the letter of Sept. 10 from Gamey to Mr. Ross in the latter's office and had Mr. Ford make a copy of it which he had Mr. Myers mail to Mr. Gamey.

He never heard of any timber or mining deals in connection with D. A. Jones or the Sullivans. He declared "not true" Gamey's statement that they met in the passage between the two rooms and that he told Gamey that he had given Sullivan a certain number of bills making up \$1,000. Gamey's statement about the payment of money that date was not true in any shape or manner. He never told Gamey that he would have the patronage of the riding. Statement after statement of Mr. Gamey as to what passed on that interview was characterized by Mr. Stratton as "not true."

Regarding Gamey's letter of December 4, asking a loan of \$2,000, he said he never gave him reason for



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