

A Veteran Liberal Editor Turns Against Graft Rule

Dan McGillicuddy Makes Charges Against Hon. Frank Oliver—Addressed Unruly Meeting and Read Letter He Wrote to Sir Wilfrid Laurier Detailing the Charges Against Liberal Minister.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

At a largely attended meeting, which was disturbed by frequent disorderly interruptions, and from which two men were violently ejected, Mr. Dan McGillicuddy last night at Devin's restaurant at Humber Bay discussed the charges against Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior, of which the investigation was summarily stopped by the dissolution of Parliament.

During the course of his address Mr. McGillicuddy read a letter which he sent to Sir Wilfrid Laurier in July, before the House of Commons reassembled after the summer recess. In this he recalled that he had showed the Premier a photograph of a bank account showing items of \$49,350, disbursed partly for election purposes and partly to pay off Oliver's personal accounts. He had told Sir Wilfrid of another trust account in the name of a son-in-law of the minister, deposited in an Edmonton bank, of which another son-in-law of Mr. Oliver was local manager. Mr. McGillicuddy said he would not say that the money deposited to the minister's credit at 40 Wall street, New York, came from Mackenzie and Mann, any more than he would say it had been paid by the Guggenheims or any other of the hundreds of concessionaries with whom the Interior Department did business. He charged that Mr. Oliver had "bolstered up the tottering fortunes of his newspaper in Edmonton by getting \$15,000 from a well-known corporation closely allied with the government. On February 17, 1906, he added another \$20,000 from another source, to the Bulletin's bank account." He declared that the minister had deceived the Premier by permitting the Canadian Northern Railway Company to select lands from the reserve of the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway Company in defiance of a decision of the Minister of Justice. Mr. Oliver had allowed the lands subsidy of the Manitoba and South-Eastern Railway to be selected in Saskatchewan instead of in Manitoba, eight years after the completion of the railway.

Defended Mr. Oliver.

At the opening of the meeting Mr. John Galbraith, at one time a candidate for election to the Alberta Legislature, was permitted to present the argument for the defence in the case against Mr. Oliver. He said that the "Yankee carpet bagging crooks" had gone to Edmonton and had secured a charter for the Alberta and Great Western Railway with a subsidy of \$20,000 a mile and \$400,000 for terminals. It was a bogus road, Mr. Galbraith said, and Mr. Oliver criticized it and brought about an investigation which drove Premier Rutherford and Hon. C. W. Cross out of the government. Mr. Cross, he continued, was taking his revenge, and Mr. McGillicuddy was one of his tools. He declared that no one could get out an instance in which Mr. Oliver had obtained one dollar as a result of his transactions as head of the Interior Department.

"If he is so honest why did he shirk the investigation in the House?" shouted one man in the audience. "He didn't," he asked for it, replied Mr. Galbraith, and there were cries of dissent. "Let him clear his skirts," said an elector. Mr. Galbraith said that the money in the trust account to which Mr. McGillicuddy referred, had probably been part of the Liberal campaign fund to be distributed by the minister among the party workers. He reiterated the assertion that Mr. McGillicuddy had been selected to do Mr. Cross' dirty work and there was a tumult, during which one man was thrown out of the door into the darkness.

A Liberal Slush Fund

Mr. McGillicuddy himself said that there was a Liberal "slush fund" raised in New York and that the assistant superintendent of the Pinkerton detective force had reported upon Mr. Oliver's movements in New York and about certain monies which had passed through his hands. In the first place, said Mr. McGillicuddy, Mr. Oliver had \$50,000 placed to his own account.

"How do you know that?" inquired someone. "We got it from the detectives," replied Mr. McGillicuddy. He said that only recently had Mr. Oliver admitted that he had \$50,000 in the bank to his credit. At this juncture there was another disturbance in the rear of the hall, and Dr. Forbes Godfrey announced that hoodlums from Toronto would not be allowed to interrupt the meeting. "If you interrupt again," he threatened, "there are stalwart men in Humber Bay to land you in the creek."

Mr. McGillicuddy was then allowed to continue his statement. He said that \$6,000 of the trust fund had been used to transform a weekly paper in Lethbridge into a daily and the Edmonton Capital had remarked that there were six thousand reasons why the Lethbridge Herald should testify in favor of Frank Oliver. On Sept. 18, 1908 Mr. McGillicuddy continued, \$8,000 had been checked out to Frank Oliver personally. This statement was the signal for another outbreak at the back of the room and another man was hastily and none too gently escorted out.

Mr. McGillicuddy went on to say that he knew that the \$18,000 was paid out to Mr. Oliver personally, because he and his friends had subpoenaed the teller of the bank who had paid it out and would have testified at the investigation had not Parliament been dissolved. Another man had been prepared to go before the committee and swear that \$7,500 had been used to settle Mr. Oliver's election expenses.

Mr. McGillicuddy said that on Sept. 10th of last year \$32 had been paid out of the trust fund to a German paper called the Alberta Herald, during a by-election in the constituency of Glendon. On Sept. 12th \$500 was paid out of the fund by check to Dr. Hislop, Mr. Oliver's son-in-law. On Oct. 19th \$500 was paid out of the same account to Mrs. S. Hislop, Mr. Oliver's daughter. "Now gentlemen, if you were a jury," said Mr. McGillicuddy, "and you had these facts laid before you, what would you say?" "Guilty," cried many voices, and "hang him," added others. Mr. McGillicuddy said an item of \$747.87 had been paid out of the trust fund. This, he explained, was a

personal Oliver item, a legal account. "What about reciprocity?" asked an elector. "As far as I am concerned," was the reply. "I am not going to speak about reciprocity, and as far as you are concerned your best market is right next door. What the deuce do you want with reciprocity?"

Letter to Sir Wilfrid.

Mr. McGillicuddy then read a letter he had written to Sir Wilfrid Laurier on July 8th, 1911, while en route from Saskatoon to Strathcona, via C. P. R. It was in part, as follows: "I read your statement in the newspapers referring to the Oliver case, and regret that I was detained in Toronto at that time and was unable to get a copy of Hansard until later on, when I returned to Ottawa. I then found that the newspaper reports contained substantially all that you had said on the subject, and was surprised that you had not gone more into detail. Unfortunately, I had a recurrence of my illness, which lasted for over a month, and during that period you left Canada to attend the Convention.

"I am impelled to write you on the present occasion to correct a few inaccuracies that occurred in your statement made to the House—made inadvertently, I have no doubt—and to recall to your memory a few of the facts that I submitted to you when I denounced Frank Oliver and desired you to take action in causing his retirement from Canadian public life.

"Just to refresh your memory, I might mention a few of the features that came up during the conversation. I showed you a photograph of items contained in Oliver's bank account that totalled nearly \$70,000—the exact amount was \$69,350—which had been deposited in the Imperial Bank within a certain period, and told you that a part of it had been disbursed for election purposes, and part of it to pay off Oliver's personal accounts—that it was a boodle and graft fund. I showed you several photographs of cheques signed by Oliver which verified the items in the trust account. I drew your attention to the fact that the Imperial Bank account was not the only trust account that Oliver had in Edmonton; that he had one in the Union Bank, of which his son-in-law, Mr. Anderson, was local manager, and another son-in-law, Dr. Hislop, was disbursing. You said: 'Well, you will have no photograph of that bank account?' I admitted that I had not, but produced a photograph of a Union Bank cheque signed by J. A. Hislop (Dr. Hislop) and endorsed Oliver trust fund. I will not repeat what you said when you saw it.

"I figured up for you that Oliver, since entering the Cabinet, had acquired funds and collateral that would reach fully a quarter of a million—some put it at four times that amount—and that this large sum was altogether outside of his salary and indemnity. And your answer, you remember, was: 'He appears to have done almost as well as Sifton.' You said that if Oliver were retired he would join with Sifton and make trouble for the Government, and I answered: 'Sifton without patronage doesn't pull a pound, and Oliver is a far weaker man.'

An Alternative Land Grant

"The effort is made by you in calling for the special committee to collate the evidence to a statement not made in the Telegram, and certainly never made by me—the open accusation of Frank Oliver—that the \$50,000 obtained by Oliver from 30 Wall street, New York, was deposited in the Edmonton Bank by the Mackenzie and Mann interests. You will recollect that when I spoke of the deal to you that I declared emphatically I would not say that the money was placed there by Mackenzie and Mann any more than I would say it was obtained from the Guggenheims or any other of the hundreds of concessionaries with whom Oliver was in the habit of doing business, and to whom he granted privileges. I said say then, and I say now that on that item it would not be difficult to establish a motive on the part of Mackenzie and Mann, if the money were from them, and the dealings connected with a certain order-in-council, dated May 8, 1907, were gone into. Whether you know it or not, at the time you appointed the special committee, you established a tribunal to prove my contention on that very point, and also upon the statement I made that, I believed, Oliver was only anxious for time to try to cover up his tracks. Thus far only one witness has given evidence before the committee. Mr. R. A. Young, superintendent of railway and swamp lands of the Interior Department, and naturally a witness favorable to Oliver. Yet he has disclosed that over 650,000 acres of land were alienated from Saskatchewan to the Mackenzie and Mann interests by the order-in-council of May 8, 1907, as a subsidy for 106 miles of railway in Manitoba which had been completed in February, 1899, and before it got into the hands of Mackenzie and Mann; the certificate of the chief engineer of government railways was dated September, 1900; an order-in-council dated Oct. 19, 1891, had been passed setting aside the area from which the land subsidy for building the road should be selected; on March 12, 1892, the company submitted a map showing certain land which it asked to have designated as the tract out of which it should select its land grant; the road was completed in February, 1899, and yet no steps were taken to acquire the land grant until the order-in-council of May 8, 1907, was made, changing the lands set forth in the order-in-council of Oct. 19, 1891, from lands in Manitoba, east of the Red River, to lands in Saskatchewan in the vicinity of Saskatchewan, now acknowledged to be among the best farming land in the world. The reason for this is given in the evidence.

"The Manitoba and South Eastern Railway, which completed the road in February, 1899, had come under the ownership of Mackenzie and Mann in 1891. There is no correspondence to show in the years between 1891 and 1907 that any exception was taken to the terms of the order-in-council that had been passed on Oct. 19, 1891, designating the tract that the land grants were to be taken from; but in January, 1907, the minister of the Interior instructed Mr. Young to notify the Canadian Northern Railway that the selection must be made. A letter was received from Mr. Mackenzie (now Sir William) taking objection to the quality of the land in Manitoba which had been designated by the order-in-council of Oct. 19, 1891, and contending that they wanted to get the privilege of going out and getting land of the same quality as other railways got in the prairie country to the West. (Page 31 of report.)

"This is the crux of the whole question. Mackenzie and Mann had discovered that the lands in Saskatchewan and Alberta were more valuable than the lands in Manitoba, east of the Red River, and they desired to have a feast of fat things from the minister of the Interior's department. 'The year previous (1906) they had tried that gentlemen out, and had discovered that he was a pretty good sort to tie to. On an order-in-council passed on June 25, 1906, the minister had allowed the Canadian Northern Railway Company to go into the reserve of the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway Company and to select 557,000 acres before the latter company made its selection, although the order-in-council contained a provision stating that they were only to select from the surplus lands after the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Co. had completed their selection. The latter company protested and the case was referred to the minister of Justice who reported that what the minister of the Interior had done was illegal. Notwithstanding that decision by the minister of Justice, the minister of the Interior allowed Mackenzie and Mann to complete their selection.

Was He Deceiving.

"Why, bless your innocent soul, Sir Wilfrid, Oliver has been systematically deceiving you almost since the day you called him to your cabinet. He deceived you when on Nov. 25, 1905, some seven months after his appointment, he used the prestige of the office you had conferred upon him to bolster up the tottering fortunes of his newspaper in Edmonton by getting \$15,000 from a well known corporation closely allied with the government of Canada; he deceived you again when, three months later, on Feb. 17th, 1906, he added \$20,000 from another source to the Bulletin's bank account; he deceived you when he passed the order-in-council of June 25, 1906, and allowed the Canadian Northern Railway Co. to select 557,000 acres from the reserve of the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway Co., against protest and in defiance of a decision of the minister of Justice; he deceived you when at the bidding of William Mackenzie, the order-in-council of Oct. 19, 1891, containing the selection of lands by the Manitoba and South-Eastern Railway to an area east of the Red River was over-riden and lands in Saskatchewan of greater value were substituted; and he deceived you when he introduced the order-in-council alienating over 650,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in payment for the construction of a railway in Manitoba which had been built eight years before, and by which transaction the country lost millions of dollars and Mackenzie and Mann were enriched to the extent. Is it to be wondered at that the two members of this firm have become multi-millionaires during the life of the Laurier government? I had asked you if the governor-general knew the responsibility which he assumed when he approved that order-in-council, and you said Earl Grey was not aware of the far-reaching consequences. I asked you if, when presiding at the head of the Privy council board, you have an idea of the true inwardness of the order-in-council, and you admitted to me that you had not. And yet you said, speaking of Oliver, 'if he is deceiving me, God help him.'

"If Oliver courts 'the fullest enquiry by Parliamentary enquiry or otherwise' why, in Heaven's name, Sir Wilfrid, don't you let him have what he so dearly desires and be as kind to him as Sir John Thompson was to McGreevy and Langevin? Why don't you engage the power of the committee to enable them to investigate the charges preferred against Oliver to you by me, where there is no suppression of names or dates, no hocus-pocus, no beating about the bush, but where Oliver is denounced as a political grafter, boodler and political corruptionist not worthy of a place in the cabinet of any government in this or any other country?

"It has just occurred to me that it may have escaped your memory that one of the principal resolutions passed at the great Liberal convention held in Ottawa in 1893, dealt with a similar question that which is before you at present. You took the liberty of reproducing said resolution: 'We arraign the Government for retaining in office a Minister of the Crown proved to have accepted very large contributions of money for election purposes from the funds of a railway company, which while paying the political contributions to him, a member of the Government, with one hand, was receiving Government subsidies with the other.'

"What was sauce for the Conservative goose in 1893 should be sauce for the Liberal gander in 1911."

Capt. T. G. Wallace responded to demands for a speech in a brief address. He said that the fact that the charges against Mr. Oliver were not investigated, might be interpreted by some people as an evidence of the minister's guilt. Capt. Wallace also vigorously criticized the Government's naval policy.

Let two persons wish as they break the wish bone of a fowl: the one who gets the long end will obtain his wish.

Grand Meeting at GAGETOWN, MONDAY, Sept. 4th (Labor Day), at 2 p. m., to be addressed by Mr. R. L. Borden, the Leader of the Liberal-Conservative Party of Canada, and other speakers.



Liberal Conservative Meetings in York County.

Thursday, August 31.

KINGSCLEAR (McGinley's Hall, at 8 p. m.)—Oswald S. Crockett, Lewis H. Elias.

HARVEY STATION (Taylor's Hall at 8 p. m.)—Hon. H. F. McLeod, Coun. S. B. Hunter.

MOUTH KESWICK (Yerxa's Hall, at 8 p. m.)—Dr. O. E. Morehouse, M. P. P., R. B. Hanson, Dr. B. M. Mullin, Hon. Geo. J. Colter.

UPPER DURHAM (Royal Templars' Hall at 8 p. m.)—John A. Young, M. P., P. Lewis H. Bliss, John Cowperthwaite.

WM. C. BURTT Queen Street, FREDERICTON, N. B.

Friday, September 1.

PENNIAC BRIDGE (The New School House, 8 p. m.)—Dr. B. M. Mullin, P. A. Guthrie.

TAYMOUTH (Temperance Hall, 8 p. m.)—John A. Young, M. P., P., Lewis H. Bliss, R. B. Hanson, John Cowperthwaite.

SPRINGHILL (Church Hall, 8 p. m.)—James K. Pinder, M. P., P., Fred P. Robinson, J. Stewart Mavor.

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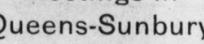
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Liberal Conservative Meetings in Queens-Sunbury

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TUESDAY EVENING, Sept. 5th, Edmund Rostand's fantastic Comedy, "The Romancers."

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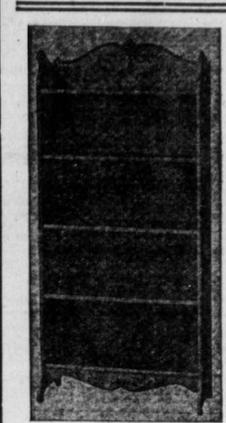
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