

STOLE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

To Furnish Campaign Powder for the P. P. A.

HOW ROSS WARMED A VIPER.

Serious Charge Against an Education Department Clerk.

Esten Williams Charged With Supplying Copies of State Documents to the P. P. A. for Use in the Campaign of June Last. The Accused Admits His Guilt to Hon. Mr. Ross and Surrenders the Forfeited Papers.

Toronto, Jan. 5.—Esten Williams, for 12 years a clerk in the Provincial Education Department, has been suspended pending the investigation of a serious charge. It is that of purloining private letters and documents for the purpose of making copies or photographs of them for political purposes.

HANDED OVER TO THE P. P. A. The Minister of Education asserts that he not only has Williams' admission that he took private papers for his own use, but claims that certain members of the P. P. A. organization induced Williams to get possession of the letters, etc.—in short, that there was a conspiracy for that purpose. How far the Government is justified in this suspicion is unknown at present, but it is possible arrests may be made within a few days' time.

The Attorney-General's Department is working with Hon. Mr. Ross in the matter, and Detective Greer has been put upon the case. Williams has handed back a number of papers to the Minister of Education, and states that they are all he had in his possession, and the investigation is being held for the purpose of ascertaining whether these admitted pecuniaries constitute the whole of Williams' wrongdoing.

MR. ROSS INTERVIEWED. Hon. G. W. Ross said last night: "I do not wish to say very much about the matter. Williams was guilty of most improper conduct, and has been suspended on that account. I am extremely sorry for him; he seems to regret his conduct very much. He was appointed by my predecessor, Hon. Mr. Crooke, when a boy of 16, and though I came in contact with him very little, I always regarded him as one of my 'good boys.' You will understand that it is a grave offence for a clerk in any office to divulge or make copies of important private papers. The investigation is being held at the present time in order that we may discover the full extent of his offences, although I have reason to believe that he has told me the truth and handed me all the papers he had in his possession."

THE PURLOINED PAPERS. As to the exact nature of the papers in question, the honorable gentleman was reticent. They are supposed to relate to certain contracts for school books, and similar matters involving the separate school question, which has always been used as a lever against Mr. Ross, and would necessarily be of interest to the P. P. A.

Williams was, during the last Provincial campaign, a prominent member of the P. P. A. organization, and used to attend their meetings. On one occasion, at least, he is known to have made a rattling good speech from the stand point of his friends, and in that speech he divulged some details of how business went on up in Gould street, that he could only know in his official capacity. A friend of his who was present went to him afterwards and said to him, although it was a good speech, it was not a proper utterance for a man in his position, and that sooner or later his break would come to the ears of Dr. Ross.

SENT INTO ROSS'S CONSTITUENCY. Williams failed to heed this warning. If the suspicions of the Ontario Government are correct, they believe that some of the wily minds in the P. P. A. saw in the hot-house of the P. P. A. a friend who could serve them.

The Government are endeavoring to find out whether Williams had not an instigator in his own family. He is married to the daughter of Col. Goodman, of Parkhill. The latter is a red-hot Conservative, and Parkhill is a stronghold of the P. P. A. Hon. G. W. Ross's constituency is West Middlesex, and Parkhill is in the adjoining riding. The political relations between the two constituencies are necessarily close, and it is said that certain of the documents copied by Williams were his way as far west as Middlesex, and were quietly used against the Minister of Education.

It was stated on good authority, however, last night that Col. Goodman advised his son-in-law against the course he was pursuing. The Minister of Education was aware that Williams was opposed to him in politics, but had no idea that the young man cherished any animosity towards him. He at first is said to have contemplated his dismissal previous to last Saturday, and therefore had no ground for wishing to arm himself in case of a move of that kind.

HOW THE COPYING WAS DONE. It is not thought that Williams has betrayed his employers of late to any extent. Most of the purloining charged against him took place last June. His method is supposed to have been that of removing letters and other papers and making photographic and written copies of them over night. Most of them he brought back next day, but a number he kept back and these he handed to Hon. G. W. Ross yesterday.

THE ACCUSED CLERK. Williams is now 28 years of age and a married man. His salary was \$800 per year. He has three children and resides at Lambton Mills. Formerly he lived at 23 Grosvenor street. He was up to a short time ago a silent partner in the firm of Dignum Bros. & Williams, Manufacturers Agents. He is a native of Toronto.

TO BE BROUGHT UP IN THE HOUSE. Whether the Government will be able to prove that a conspiracy existed to obtain possession of the documents, remains to be seen. They are more anxious to maintain Williams' complicity than to imprison him. His dismissal is practically a certainty, and the affair will be brought up on the floor of the House when the Legislature meets in February.

A Cough, Cold, or Sore Throat requires immediate attention, as neglect oftentimes results in some incurable Lung Disease. Brown's Bronchial Trochoc is a simple remedy, containing nothing injurious, and will give immediate relief. 25 cents a box.

A LA GAVOTTE.



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A la Gavotte-2.

A MILLER'S STORY.

He Was Given Just One Month to Live.

First Attacked With Inflammatory Rheumatism, and Then Stricken With Paralysis—Hope Abandoned and He Longed for Death to Release Him From Suffering—At Last He Found a Cure and Relates His Wonderful Recovery.

(Sherbrooke Gazette.)

The benefits arising from the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are well known to the Gazette. It is a frequent occurrence that people come into the office and state that they have been restored to health by their use. It occasionally happens that extraordinary instances of their curative powers come to our notice, and one of these was related to us recently, so astonishing in its nature that we felt the closest investigation was required in order to thoroughly test the accuracy of the statements made to us. We devoted the necessary time for that purpose and can vouch for the reliability of the following facts, wonderfully passing belief as they may appear:

There are few men more widely known in this section than Mr. A. T. Hopkins, of Johnville, Que. Previous to his removal to Johnville, Mr. Hopkins resided at Windsor Mills, and was for three years a member of the Municipal Council of that place. When a young man Mr. Hopkins was noted for his strength and his activity as a wrestler. His strength stands him in good stead for his work hard at his business, carrying heavy sacks of flour in his mill for many hours during the day and frequently far into the night. Active as he is, and strong as he is, there was a time not long distant when he was as helpless as an infant and suffered intolerable agony. About three years ago, while residing at Windsor Mills, he was attacked by inflammatory rheumatism. It grew worse and worse, until, in spite of medical advice and prescriptions, after a year's illness he had a stroke of paralysis. His right arm and leg became quite useless. Sores broke out on both legs. He suffered excruciating agony, and had rest neither day nor night. He sought the best medical advice that could be obtained, but no hopes were held out to him by the physicians. "He will certainly die within a month," our well-known practitioner told his friends. "He will be a cripple for life," said two other doctors. It is no wonder that, as he says, life became a burden to him and he longed for death to relieve him from his sufferings. This was in August, 1892. About October of that year he heard of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and as a forlorn hope determined to try them. He did so, and before long was able to take outdoor exercise. He persevered with the treatment, closely following the directions, and is to-day nearly as strong as when a young man.

and is able to follow successfully and without difficulty the laborious calling by which he gets his living.

Such was the wonderful story told the Gazette by Mr. Hopkins, who attributes his recovery solely to the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and he is willing to satisfy any person who may call on him as to their wonderful effects. A depraved condition of the blood or a shattered nervous system is the secret of most of the troubles which afflict mankind, and by restoring the blood and rebuilding the nerves, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills strike at the root of the disease, driving it from the system and restoring the patient to health and strength. In cases of paralysis, spinal troubles, locomotor ataxia, sciatica, rheumatism, erysipelas, scrofulous troubles, etc., these pills are superior to all other treatments. They are also a specific for the troubles which make the lives of so many women a burden, and speedily restore the rich glow of health to sallow cheeks. Men broken down by overwork, worry or excess, find in Pink Pills a certain cure. Sold by all dealers or sent by mail, post-paid, at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N. Y. Beware of imitations and substitutes alleged to be "just as good."

THE CITY SOLICITOR'S SALARY.

Work Done and Expenses Paid in the City's Law Department.

To the Editor of the Times:

Sir,—As some of the aldermen who are seeking re-election have been found fault with in voting in favor of an additional allowance to the City Solicitor's department, I think that, as a matter of justice to them, I ought to say a few words on the subject. Many of the ratepayers outside of the City have a very erroneous idea of the work and duties of the City Solicitor and are therefore unable to form a correct estimate of the amount which ought to be paid to him. As a matter of fact, all questions of difficulty and importance connected with civic legislation or administration are referred to the City Solicitor, whose advice and services are required in almost all matters in every department of the city service which are outside of the ordinary routine. He has to advise and decide in all cases of doubt, and has to take all the responsibility of the course to be adopted where important interests of the city are involved and large sums of money are at stake.

The preparation and revision of all important by-laws, contracts, and documents, and of all acts of the Legislature in which the city is interested, at the instance of the Mayor or the Council, are among the most important duties of the City Solicitor. He has also to investigate and advise upon every one of the numerous claims that are presented or defended, form part of the duties of the City Solicitor. He has also to investigate and advise upon every one of the numerous claims that are made upon the city and to conduct all the proceedings from the commencement of the action to the final judgment in every suit brought against the city.

The office diaries of the City Solicitors

show that during the past year the legal work actually done for the city, exclusive of all law suits, amounted to nearly \$6,000, and, in addition, there were pending during the year twenty-seven actions to which the city was a party and in which the City Solicitor has received and will receive no costs whatever. I do not think any fair-minded citizen would ask that the city should be let off at less than 50 cents in the dollar of the money actually earned by any one who has worked for the corporation, and those who find fault do so because they are not conversant with the facts.

It must be borne in mind that, while in all other civic departments the city pays the salaries of all assistants and clerks and all office expenses, the City Solicitor gets all these salaries and expenses himself out of the allowance received from the city.

The work in the City Solicitor's department has more than doubled since the salary was fixed at \$3,000, yet the increase now found fault with was only \$600.

When the matter came before the Council twenty-two members were present, and not one of them said that the increase was not well earned. Ald. Martin said that until he came into the Council he had no idea of the amount of work that he could not vote for the increase, as there was no appropriation for it. Ald. Field and Ald. Neilligan both said that they would vote for the payment of an increase of salary, but objected to it in the form of an allowance for extra work. The other eighteen members of the Council voted in favor of paying the amount.

When it is considered that the city has a population of 50,000, a large area of territory under its jurisdiction, and an annual revenue of three-quarters of a million, and is engaged in transactions involving sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars, it seems incredible that any intelligent man could object to the payment of so moderate a sum as \$3,600 a year for all the law expenses involved in the care and management of such varied and important interests, including the constant litigation to which a city corporation is always subject.

I should be sorry to think that the people of this handsome and ambitious city would condemn any of their representatives for doing in their public capacity an act of justice which any citizen in his private business would be ashamed to refuse.

When I look back upon the long and tedious hours of work I have gone through, the difficult questions I have had to deal with and the serious responsibilities I have had to bear in the course of the city's legal business during the past year, and count what is left of \$3,600, after paying salaries and office expenses, I have little ground for believing that I have been overpaid for my services.

F. MacKellan.

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