

WAITING FOR GOVERNMENT PROMISES

to be fulfilled. I wanted to know how Harcourt felt about this, and he said he was only waiting to be assured of enough members to defeat the Government. I saw Mr. Harcourt that evening in the reception room of the House, and Mr. Harcourt denied any knowledge of Wilkinson's proposals, and spurned and repudiated the whole matter.

Mr. FRASER—Didn't he advise you to see a member of the Government?

Mr. BALFOUR—Yes. He authorized me to do so. In regard to every interview in the matter I have communicated with some member of the Government, and sometimes all the members of the Government.

Mr. BRODER—Did I understand you to say that you signed the round robin?

Mr. BALFOUR—No. The only intimation I gave them was that I would be a party only so far as Harcourt was a party. I rested in my belief that he would not be a party to it, and was quite satisfied that he would stand out solid. About 3 p.m. on Saturday, the 15th, Kirkland came into my room. I may say here that I never sought an interview with any of these men. He said he wanted me to name my price for supporting his timber policy by speaking and voting in the House. At that interview he became suspicious that he hadn't better go on. He said it was a serious matter for him, and I told him you haven't got enough money in the city of Toronto to get me to vote against the Government.

THE MONEY PAID.

On Sunday about one o'clock McKim came to my room and found me there. Then he got up and handed me ten one hundred dollar bills on the Bank of British North America, which he said he had just got from Wilkinson in the next room. I counted the money and handed it back to McKim, telling him that Wilkinson could see me after dinner if he wanted to. McKim went out, and in a few minutes Wilkinson came into my room, sat down, and asked me how I felt. I told him I had seen Harcourt, and that he had not satisfied me. Wilkinson said that he was now prepared with a guarantee, and if I would sign a round-robin he assured me that Harcourt was all right, that I could have the registrarship at Regina if I wanted to move away, and he would have the law fixed so that I could hold my seat in Parliament this session, and have the work done by deputy.

Mr. MOWAT—The law fixed! Did he explain what he meant by that?

Mr. BALFOUR—He did not explain. On Monday Mr. McKim came to me saying that Wilkinson had just seen him, and had asked him to say that he wanted to see me in his room. I went into Wilkinson's room; he asked me how things were going on; I told him I would sign no round-robin or anything else. He said the round robin was only for Harcourt's satisfaction, and asked me to see Harcourt and assure him that I would stand by him. He said that Kirkland had told him to give me \$1,200. In the first place Kirkland said he did not care whether the Government were sustained or whether they were defeated so long as he got his point, but now Wilkinson told me that they had assumed all liabilities, and had found out that Kirkland had not money to carry out his agreement. He then offered me \$600 down and \$600 after the vote was taken in the House. I asked him if that was the first proposition he had made me. It was then increased to \$800 and \$700 hereafter. Wilkinson said that this was not as a bribe, but as a guarantee that the Regina Registrarship or any other office that I wanted would be at my disposal. I did not accept the money very readily, but finally he said, "here, will you take it?" and handed over eight one hundred dollar new bills exactly similar to those McKim had shown me on Sunday. I then left. He seemed to be very anxious to have the matter settled, and said he expected me to see Harcourt and vote against the Government, and then gave me the money without asking me to do anything. I then saw Mr. Mowat, Mr. Ross, and Mr. Hardy, and wrote a letter to the Speaker enclosing the \$800; I went immediately to the Speaker's chamber and handed him the package. Wilkinson said he was going to the North-West as Sheriff of Calgary this spring, and he wished to see the Government defeated before he left. There were other parties acting in the matter with him, but he did not wish to give me any of their names. He assured me they had enough members of the Government already to secure its defeat and have a coalition Government.

Mr. FRASER said he had no manner of doubt that there was no reason for the insinuations made against Mr. Harcourt.

To Mr. Harcourt—Mr. Balfour said that he had been assured by him that he would not assist in the onset against the Government.

Mr. MOWAT moved that a sub-committee, composed of the leaders of the Opposition, Messrs. Meredith and Morris, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Badgerow, and the mover, be appointed to further consider the whole matter and report to-morrow if possible. The motion was carried, and the Committee rose.

AT THE POLICE COURT.

At the Police Court yesterday morning, after the disposal of the ordinary cases, John A. Wilkinson and F. S. Kirkland were brought up in custody, having lain in the Agnes-street Police Station all night. Christopher R. Bunting and

Edward Meek also answered to their names, having been served the previous night with summonses to appear. They were accompanied by a large number of friends, and took their seats at the table usually occupied by counsel. Wilkinson and Kirkland were at first placed in the dock, but Mr. Fenton, County Crown Attorney, called the attention of the magistrate to the fact that it would be unfair to place them in the dock while their confederates were allowed to sit at counsel's table. They were therefore directed to stand within the railing. Dr. McMichael appeared for the defendants Kirkland and Meek, Mr. Clark, of Foster, Clark, & Bowes, for the defendant Bunting, and Mr. Neville for the defendant Wilkinson.

The accused having been ordered to stand up, the Magistrate read the information as follows:—

CANADA,  
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,  
COUNTY OF YORK,

To wit:

The information and complaint of John W. Murray, of the city of Toronto, in the county of York, detective, taken on oath the seventeenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, before the undersigned, George Taylor Denison, Esquire, Police Magistrate in and for the city of Toronto,

FIRST COUNT.

The said informant saith that Christopher W. Bunting, John A. Wilkinson, Edward Meek, F. S. Kirkland, one — Lynch, and other persons to this informant unknown, being persons of evil minds and disposition, on the 23rd day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, and on divers other days and times between that day and the day of the laying of this information, in the city of Toronto, in the county of York, unlawfully and wickedly did conspire combine, confederate, and agree together to corrupt, deprave, impair, alter, and frustrate the constitutional procedure and action of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario and the members thereof in their votes and proceedings therein at and during the first session of the fifth Legislature of Ontario, held in the city of Toronto aforesaid, by bribing members of said Legislative Assembly to vote in opposition to the existing administration of the executive Government of the Province of Ontario and the members of said Legislative Assembly supporting such Government upon questions arising and to arise in such Assembly during the said session.

(1) And the said informant further saith that the said Christopher W. Bunting, in pursuance of and according to the said conspiracy combination, confederacy, and agreement between them, the said Christopher W. Bunting, John A. Wilkinson, Edward Meek, F. S. Kirkland, one Lynch, and the said other persons to this informant unknown as aforesaid had, did on the first day of March, in the year aforesaid, and before the day of the laying of this information at the city of Toronto aforesaid, unlawfully advise and counsel one Robert McKim, a member of the said Legislative Assembly, to accept a bribe from the said John A. Wilkinson and Edward Meek, and did also unlawfully advise and counsel one James F. Dowling, another member of the said Legislative Assembly, to accept a bribe from the said John A. Wilkinson and Edward Meek, such bribes being designed and intended to influence them, the said Robert McKim and James F. Dowling, in their proceedings as members of the said Legislative Assembly, that is to say, that they the said Robert McKim and James F. Dowling should vote in opposition to the existing Administration of the Executive Government of the Province of Ontario, and to their supporters, members of the said Legislative Assembly during the said session as aforesaid.

(2) And the said informant further saith that the said John A. Wilkinson in pursuance of and according to the said conspiracy, combination, confederacy, and agreement between the said Christopher W. Bunting, John A. Wilkinson, Edward Meek, F. S. Kirkland, one Lynch, and the said other persons to this informant unknown as aforesaid had, did on the 10th day of March, in the year aforesaid, at the City of Toronto aforesaid, unlawfully offer to pay as a bribe the sum of \$1,000 to one Robert McKim, he the said Robert McKim then being a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario and did then also unlawfully offer and promise as a bribe to pay him the said Robert McKim the further sum of five hundred dollars and to procure for him the said Robert McKim the office of Register of deeds and titles to land at Edmonton in the North-West Territories of Canada, the same being an office under the Government of the Dominion of Canada—and did thereafter unlawfully offer the sum of two thousand dollars as a bribe to one Jas. F. Dowling, another member of the said Legislative Assembly, and did then also unlawfully offer and pay the sum of eight hundred dollars as a bribe to one W. D. Balfour another member of the said Legislative Assembly, and did then also unlawfully offer and promise as a bribe to pay him, the said W. D. Balfour, the further sum of seven hundred dollars, and did then also unlawfully offer to procure for him, the said W. D. Balfour, as a bribe, the office of Registrar of Deeds and Titles to Land at Regina, in the North-West Territories of Canada, the same being an office under the Government of the Dominion of Canada; and did then also unlawfully offer as a bribe to one Robert A. Lyon, another member of the said Legislative Assembly, to procure the withdrawal of a certain petition theretofore filed and then pending in the High Court of Justice for Ontario to set aside the election of him, the said Robert A. Lyon, as a member of the said Legislative Assembly, the bribes so offered and paid by the said John A. Wilkinson to the said Robert McKim, and so offered by the said John A. Wilkinson to the said James F. Dowling, W. D. Balfour, and Robert A. Lyon, respectively, as aforesaid, being to influence them in their proceedings as members of the said Legislative Assembly as aforesaid, that is to say to vote in opposition to the members of the administration of the Executive Government of the Province of Ontario and their supporters, members of the said Legislative Assembly during the said session as aforesaid.

(3) And the said informant further saith that the said Edward Meek, in pursuance of and according to the said conspiracy, combination, con-

federacy, and agreement between them the said Christopher W. Bunting, Jno. A. Wilkinson, Edward Meek, F. S. Kirkland, one Lynch, and the said other persons to this informant unknown as aforesaid, at the city of Toronto aforesaid, unlawfully offer a bribe to one Robert McKim, a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, by aiding and procuring the sum of one thousand dollars to be paid by the said John A. Wilkinson as a bribe to him, the said Robert McKim, and then did also unlawfully offer a bribe to one Robert A. Lyon, a member of the Legislative Assembly, by unlawfully undertaking to procure the withdrawal of a certain petition theretofore filed and then pending in the High Court of Justice for Ontario to set aside the election of him, the said Robert A. Lyon, as a member of the said Legislature—the bribes so offered to the said Robert McKim and Robert A. Lyon being to influence them in their proceedings as members of the said Legislative Assembly, that is to say, to vote in opposition to the members of the Administration of the Executive Government of the Province of Ontario and their supporters, members of the said Assembly, during the said session as aforesaid.

(4) And the said informant further saith that the said F. S. Kirkland, in pursuance of and according to the said conspiracy, combination, confederacy, and agreement between them the said Christopher W. Bunting, John A. Wilkinson, Edward Meek, F. S. Kirkland, one Lynch, and the said other persons to the informant unknown as aforesaid had, did on the 1st day of March, in the year aforesaid, and before the day of the laying of the information at the city of Toronto aforesaid, unlawfully offer a large sum of money to wit the sum of \$3,000 as a bribe to one Robert McKim, then being a member of the said Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, and did then also offer the sum of \$1,000 as a bribe to James F. Dowling, another member of the said Assembly, and did then offer other large sums of money as bribes to other members of the said Assembly—the bribes so offered by the said F. S. Kirkland to the said Robert McKim, James F. Dowling, and other members of said Assembly as aforesaid, being to influence them in their proceedings as members of the said Assembly, that is to say, to vote in opposition to the members of the existing Administration of the Executive Government and to their supporters, members of said Assembly, during the said session as aforesaid.

(5) And the said informant further saith that the said one Lynch, in pursuance of and according to the said conspiracy, combination, confederacy, and agreement between the said Christopher W. Bunting, Jno. A. Wilkinson, Edward Meek, F. S. Kirkland, Lynch, and the said other persons to this informant unknown, as aforesaid had, did on the 16th day of March, in the year aforesaid, at the city of Toronto aforesaid, unlawfully offer the sum of \$1,500 as a bribe to Robert McKim, a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, to influence him, the said Robert McKim, in his proceeding as a member of such Assembly, that is to say to vote in opposition to the members of the said existing Administration of the Executive Government of the Province of Ontario and their supporters, members of the said Assembly during the said session, as aforesaid.

To the great damage of the said Robert McKim, W. D. Balfour, James F. Dowling, Robert A. Lyon, and other members of the said Legislative Assembly, and to the great danger of the peace and welfare of the said Province of Ontario, in contempt of our lady the Queen and of the laws and Government of the said Province, to the evil example of all others in the like case offending, and against the peace of our lady the Queen, her crown and dignity.

SECOND COUNT.

And the said informant further saith that the said Christopher Bunting, John A. Wilkinson, Edward Meek, F. S. Kirkland, one Lynch, and other persons whose names are to this informant unknown, being persons of evil minds and dispositions, on the 23rd day of January, in the year aforesaid, and on divers other days between that day and the day of the laying of this information at the city of Toronto aforesaid, unlawfully and wickedly did conspire, combine, confederate, and agree together to subvert, change, alter, defeat, and overthrow the then existing administration of the Executive Government of the Province of Ontario by bribing members of the Legislative Assembly of the said Province to vote in opposition to the members of the said Executive Government and their supporters, members of the said Legislative Assembly, upon questions arising and to arise in said Assembly during the first session of the fifth Legislature of Ontario.

And the said informant further saith that the said Christopher W. Bunting in pursuance of and according to the said confederacy and agreement between them the parties in this second count of this information above named, did then and there do and commit the overt acts in the first count of this information charged on the overt acts by him the said Christopher W. Bunting committed in the said first count, as then and there alleged, and to the intents then and there stated; and the said informant further saith that the said John A. Wilkinson, in pursuance of and according to the said conspiracy, confederacy, and agreement between them, the parties in the second count of this information above named, did then and there do and commit the overt acts in the first count of this information charged as the overt acts by him the said John A. Wilkinson committed in the said first count as then and there alleged, and to the intents then and there stated. And the said informant further saith that the said Edward Meek, in pursuance of and according to the said conspiracy, confederacy, and agreement between them, the parties in the second count of this information above named, did then and there do and commit the overt acts in the first count of this information charged as the overt acts by him the said Edward Meek committed in the said first count, as then and there alleged, and to the intents then and there stated. And the said informant further saith that the said Kirkland, in pursuance of and according to the said conspiracy, confederacy, and agreement between them, the parties in this second count of this information above named, did then and there do and commit the overt acts in the first count of this information, charged as the overt acts by him the said Kirkland, committed in the said first count as then and there alleged and to the intents then and there stated. And the said informant further saith that the said Lynch, in pursuance of and according to the said conspiracy,