

Q.—Have you the numbers of the bills you gave him? A.—No; we never keep the numbers.

Q.—What time of the day was it? A.—Between 10 and 11 o'clock.

Q.—What he got was six \$500 bills for three \$1,000? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did Shields come with him into the bank? A.—Yes.

Q.—And went away with him? A.—Yes.

By Mr. MEREDITH:—

Q.—You said you thought it was Stimson. What reason have you for thinking? Have you seen the description in the newspapers? A.—No, Shields told me it was Stimson.

Q.—That day? A.—No, not that day.

Q.—All these large Dominion notes are fairly new? A.—Yes, as a rule they are only handled between banks.

Q.—Do you know the rule for the issue of Dominion notes? A.—They are issued from the Receiver-General's Department.

Q.—Do they issue them at Ottawa? A.—They send them to the branches.

By Mr. FRASER:—

Q.—When was it that you had this conversation with Shields? A.—Yesterday.

#### MR. MORRIS EXPLAINS.

Mr. Morris spoke in a low tone and was heard with great difficulty. He was understood to refer to an article in THE GLOBE referring to the fact that he who had so persistently insisted on others being sworn had not taken the oath himself. He said Mr. Fraser had handed the letter to him and he had without a moment's thought identified it as being in Mr. Macpherson's handwriting.

#### AN EXPLANATION.

The following letter was read by the Chairman, signed W. H. Higgins:—

SIR,—From the report of my evidence given before the Committee, as printed in the newspapers, it might be inferred that Archbishop Lynch had written me a private letter to be used in the last elections in Muskoka, North Ontario, and East Simcoe, or either of them, as put by Mr. Meredith. Any such inference would be incorrect. His Grace wrote me no letter, private or public, to be used in the late elections, or in any way. The stolen letter mentioned in the evidence was dated as far back as Sept., 1892, and was a private communication sent me by the Archbishop during the height of the "Marmion controversy," to which it had reference.

The Committee then adjourned.

#### AT THE POLICE COURT.

The counsel and defendants in the conspiracy case came into Court on Saturday about a quarter to eleven, as soon as the Police Magistrate had disposed of the ordinary police cases. A short conversation took place between Mr. Denison and Mr. Irving, the counsel for the Crown, over the advisability of making all the counts in the indictment separate, and thus permitting the defendants to give evidence one for the other. It was eventually decided that this should be done. The first count was then taken as a separate indictment, defendant Meek's name being omitted.

Mr. W. D. Balfour was the first witness called. Being sworn he said in reply to a question by Mr. Irving that he was a member of the Local Legislature, and had been in attendance at the House since the opening on the 23rd January. He had lived at the Walker House the whole of that time.

Q.—Do you know a gentleman named Kirkland? A.—Yes.

Q.—When did you first meet him? A.—It is almost impossible to fix the date, but it was during the early part of February.

Q.—You never met him before this session? A.—No.

Q.—When did the first meeting take place at which anything of this affair was spoken of? A.—On Tuesday, the 11th March.

Q.—Where? A.—In the card-room of the Walker House.

Q.—At what time? A.—Some time before noon.

Q.—What took place? A.—Mr. Balfour said in reply that he would like to have leave to refer to notes that he had made very shortly after the various interviews he had had. He had made these notes because he did not wish to charge his memory with them.

Mr. Denison said the witness must try his memory first. When that failed the notes could be referred to.

Mr. Cameron (counsel for Kirkland)—As soon as he refers to his notes I shall cross-examine him.

Q.—Now, to the best of your memory what took place at your meeting with Kirkland? A.—Mr. Kirkland talked over with me Mr. Pardee's timber policy, which he condemned. He said he wanted changes made in the policy; he had spoken to Mr. Pardee of these changes, but appeared to think he had not been well treated by him. He wanted to get some

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of the House to assist him in the matter. He said all he wanted of me was that on the resolution which was to be moved in regard to the timber policy of the Government I would make a speech in the House against the Government. If I would do it he would do as he had been accustomed to do with other parties in cases of this kind, and would pay me for my trouble in preparing and making the speech. He said Mr.

Meredith had gone over the whole matter with him, and seemed very favourably impressed.

Q.—When did you next see him? A.—It is difficult to fix the date exactly; it was probably on Thursday that some approach was made to me.

Q.—What was the next matter that took place? A.—Mr. McKim came to me, and it was in consequence of this that I went to Mr. Wilkinson's room. He wanted to see me. There was some general conversation between Mr. Wilkinson and myself about the weather, &c., and he then asked me what I thought about the coalition Government. I told him I had thought of it somewhat. He said it was a bad thing for the country to have so much party strife prevailing in the Province, and it would be good if we could get rid of it.

#### ONTARIO WOULD GET HER RIGHTS

if a coalition Government was formed. I asked him what were the chances for our party, and he asked me what I thought of Mr. Harcourt. I told him I had great respect for Mr. Harcourt. He said he did not wish to use any names of other members of the Government side who would be in the coalition Government. He told me the names of their party who would be in the Government were Mr. Meredith, Attorney-General, Mr. Morris was to be Minister of Education, and Mr. Creighton, Provincial Treasurer. He thought the latter was the only member in the House who was fit to be made Provincial Treasurer.

#### SOMETHING ABOUT "THE NEW GOVERNMENT."

Mr. Harcourt, he said, would be leader of the Reform contingent of the Cabinet. A prominent farmer would also be taken in. An outsider, who was a prominent lawyer and a prominent man among the Irish Catholics of the Province, would also be taken in. They were not to have an election now, as it would not be advisable to go to the country. They hoped to be able to carry on the new Government for the rest of the term, and they hoped by that time the Archbishop would be dead, and that they would not then have his opposition in an election. He said he did not wish to commit members from our side of the House who were to go into the new Government.

Q.—What did he say in regard to Mr. Bunting? A.—He said that Mr. Harcourt was in communication with Mr. Bunting. Mr. Harcourt would remain passive until the matter was settled and until the defeat of the Government. The effect of what he said about Mr. Bunting was that he was arranging the matter with him. That is the best of my recollection of the matter.

Q.—What did you mean, speaking generally, of "this matter?" A.—That he was trying to secure a sufficient number of members on the Reform side to defeat the Government and bring about a coalition Government.

Q.—How were you to be interested? A.—He said they would defend me in my constituency, and see that no other Conservative candidate would be put up against me. If it was

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that I wanted, or anything else, they would give me what I wanted. Those who helped them, he said, would be remembered. He also told me that he would secure me some printing from the Departments at Ottawa if I would comply with his request. He said he would also give me some guarantee for the performance of these promises.

Q.—How long did the interview between yourself and Wilkinson occupy? A.—About forty minutes.

Q.—How did it terminate? A.—He asked me to think of the matter.

Q.—Where did you go? A.—I went to the House and acquainted the Ministers with what had passed, as I had done on the previous occasion.

Q.—After you went to the House of Parliament how soon did you acquaint the Government with the matter? A.—Either on the same day I had the first interview or the next.

#### KIRKLAND ON THE WAR-PATH.

Q.—When did you see Kirkland after your interview with Wilkinson? A.—Kirkland came to my room immediately after the interview that I had with Wilkinson. I had the interview with Wilkinson in his room, and immediately I went to my own room after the interview Kirkland came to me in my own room in the same hotel.

Q.—What time elapsed between your interview with Wilkinson in his room and your interview with Kirkland in your own room? A.—About a minute.

Q.—What then took place between you and Kirkland? A.—He said the vote was coming up soon and he wanted to know what I was going to do. He said the currency had not come yet, but it would come soon. It would not do to give me a draft, as I might be detected. He was prepared, he said, to give me some amount—\$1,000 or \$1,200—if I was prepared to speak for them on this resolution. He said he was working for Kirkland and for nobody else. He said he had a large interest in some timber limits at Pigeon River, which he wanted to secure. He said he wanted to get the timber laws changed, so that he could get possession of this limit.

#### KIRKLAND'S CONNECTION WITH THE BRIBERS.

Q.—Did he give reasons in reference to others working with him? A.—He did not mention