

The charges were made with great detail, as will appear from the statement which is given in Mr. Gamey's own words, and were listened to with breathless excitement by the members of the House and hundreds of people in the galleries. The speech was not without dramatic incidents. Mr. Gamey produced a roll of bills, that he declared to be the \$500 received from Sullivan in January. Later, he told amid absorbed interest how he had on the previous evening enticed Sullivan to a down-town piano factory, where three shorthand writers had been concealed behind piano cases that they might listen to and record the conversation between Gamey and Sullivan in reference to the transactions spoken of.

The most dramatic incident, however, was when the member for Manitoulin, in concluding his statement, declared that he thought it wise to hand over the papers and the \$500 to "his leader, Mr. J. P. Whitney." This he did by walking down the floor and depositing the documents and money on Mr. Whitney's desk. The Conservative leader no less dramatically placed the package in his desk and turned the key.

#### Premier Pledges Immediate Investigation.

While the Conservatives, apparently not realizing that applause was scarcely in place in the presence of such grave charges, delightedly pounded their desks, the Premier rose. He said:—

"I am assured by my colleague that the charges affecting his honor are untrue. So much, however, has been said by the hon. member for Manitoulin that it becomes us to take steps to make an early and a thorough investigation. (Loud Ministerial applause.)

"That investigation shall be made at once, under the rules of the House, either by a special committee to be appointed by the House for that purpose, or the Committee of Privileges and Elections in the usual way. But the investigation shall be made, and made with as little delay as practicable. (Ministerial applause.) That is all I have to say about it."

Mr. Whitney, following, in a few words expressed his belief that the charges were too serious to be lightly thought or spoken of, and that justice must be done in the matter, in which two members were involved.

#### Mr. Stratton Makes a Denial.

At the conclusion of the sitting of the House a representative of The Globe asked Mr. Stratton if he had anything to say in reference to the allegations made by Mr. Gamey. Mr. Stratton said that Mr. Gamey had come to his office in the Parliament buildings on three or four occasions. On one occasion Mr. Gamey had spoken to him in reference to the appointment of a Justice of the Peace in Manitoulin, and Mr. Stratton had suggested that if he (Mr. Gamey) had any recommendation to make, he should forward it in writing to the Attorney-General, who had charge of such appointments, but who was at that time out of the city.

On the occasion of another of Mr. Gamey's visits, he said he came to see about some road grants which he desired for certain roads in Manitoulin. Mr. Stratton told him he had better send his application in writing in the usual way to the Department of Public Works, which has charge of colonization road matters.

On another occasion, Mr. Stratton said, Mr. Gamey had come to him complaining of the bad enforcement of the license law in Manitoulin. He asserted that hotelkeepers were not observing the law, and that the inspector was absent from his official duty a great deal, attending to his private affairs. Mr. Gamey asked for the appointment of an inspector, but his request was not acted upon, and he also asked to be allowed to name one of the license commissioners who were to be appointed for the new license district resulting from the subdivision of the district into constituencies. Mr. Gamey also

the McGraw-Langevin scandal, which resulted in the withdrawal of Sir Hector from public life, Mr. Tarte made his statements good before the House of Commons Committee of Privileges and Elections.

The only matter of the same nature that has come before the Legislature of Ontario was the bribery plot of 1884, when, it will be remembered, a conspiracy was entered into by a number of leading Conservatives to secure by bribery the support of several of the followers of Mr. Oliver Mowat, whose majority at that time was very small. On March 17 Mr. Mowat asked the Speaker to open certain letters placed in his hands. These disclosed charges by Robert McKim and Wm. D. Balfour, members of the House, against John A. Wilkinson, Christopher Bunting, Edward Meek, and others, of attempting to purchase the support of members. In the case of Mr. McKim one thousand dollars in bills was placed in the Speaker's hands, and in the case of Mr. Balfour \$800 was handed over, as having been received from the would-be bribers. Various promises of office had been made, with the expectation of securing the votes of Mr. Balfour and Mr. McKim. Mr. Mowat, as Attorney-General, at once moved a reference to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections. The committee began an investigation, which was transferred after a few days to a commission of Judges, consisting of the late Mr. Justice Proudfoot and Judges Sinclair and Scott, who continued and completed it.

It does not seem improbable that even if the present matter goes in the first instance to the Privileges and Elections Committee the inquiry will develop into one in which a commission of Judges will be a more satisfactory tribunal to determine the issues raised by Mr. Gamey.

#### MR. GAMEY'S STATEMENT.

The House met at 3 o'clock. The mover and seconder of the address, Mr. Mackay and Mr. Stock, had concluded their addresses, and the members looked to Mr. Whitney to follow, as is the custom on such occasions. Instead there rose Mr. Gamey, with whose face or name probably few members were familiar. So unusual was the proceeding that attention was at once turned to the speaker.

Mr. Gamey said:—"I was pleased with the speeches of the mover and seconder, and I might say that I could find some objections to the speech from the throne, but I will not take any time on this subject to-day. I am satisfied that the members are anxious to hear something from me in regard to my position. I am satisfied that there is something which ought to be told to this House. I am satisfied that you believe there is something which should have been told to this Province long ago. But whatever I have to say—and I regret to say I have considerable to say this afternoon—I want to tell you that I have decided through the whole course that whatever I say will be said only on the floor of the House. I will not take any time with regard to anything else. I will simply go into my own particular case. I will read to you

something in connection with this case if the House will bear with me."

Mr. Gamey then read the following statement:—

#### The First Approach.

I was elected in May, 1902, as a straight Conservative, defeating J. M. Fraser, the Liberal candidate, by about 340 majority, and beating the combined vote of Fraser, the Liberal, and McMillan, Socialist candidate, by about 100 votes. The returns by the returning officer were held back, and not declared until June 17th. This, I believe, was done to give the Government a chance to protest my election if necessary, after they saw how the rest of the protests stood. In due time a protest was entered in the usual way. Several parties were sent up to the riding to look up evidence. About August 7th I was going to Toronto, and met Capt. J. Sullivan at the lunch-room at Allandale, and he said to me: "I hear, Gamey, they have strong evidence against you up there." I replied that I had heard nothing of that. He continued the conversation, and confidentially remarked to me as a friend, as he said, that I would be disqualified, and said if he was in my place he would resign. I laughed at him and paid no attention to it. I went on to Toronto, and he remained. In Toronto, at the Walker House, where I stay, I met his son, Frank J.