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The statement made to this honorable House by Mr. Robert F. Gamey, member for the electoral district of Manitoulin, on Wednesday, the 11th day of March inst., and all matters and things which, in the judgment of the commissioners, relate thereto or affect the same; such commission to be directed to two commissioners, who shall be two of the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Judicature, or the President of the High Court of Justice and one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Judicature, and the said commission shall confer upon the said commissioners all the powers contained or given in or by, chapter 19 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, being an act intitled "An act respecting inquiries concerning public matters," or in or by any act amending the same.

The Powers Conferred.

The resolution sets forth the standing of the commissioners, two Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Judicature, or the Chancellor and one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the Province; also the statutes showing the limitations of their powers. I may say that this commission is under almost the very terms as the resolution moved by Hon. Oliver Mowat in 1884, when the Government from its side proposed to investigate the charges made to corrupt members of the House, and the terms of the commission, which are already being considered and practically drafted, will be similar to the terms in that order. I hope the House will approve of this resolution, so that we can proceed with this investigation without delay. (Loud Ministerial applause.)

Mr. Whitney's Speech.

When Mr. Whitney rose to reply he was greeted with loud applause by his supporters, and also by a demonstration of hand-clapping from the gallery. This the Speaker reprimanded by saying:—I hope the people who are permitted to come here as spectators to-day will observe the rules of the House. If this is not done we will have to ask all of you to retire.

Mr. Whitney said:—Mr. Speaker,—It seems, sir, that the position is that the accused parties are to choose the tribunal. They can go before the people of Ontario and say we—it is not I, as I shall show—we who have been accused of these high crimes and misdemeanors are not willing that any tribunal shall try us for these allegations of crime and misdemeanor except a tribunal appointed by ourselves. And it is a fitting climax, sir, to the conduct of the Government of this country for the past few years by the hon. gentlemen who sit upon the treasury benches, and are brought down to that position to-day, that in their opinion there is no safety for them from punishment except that the dice be loaded, except that the tribunal chosen to try them shall be nominated by themselves. (Applause.) And, sir, they sit secure in the safety which has been theirs for years. They forget that the pitcher goes too often to the well. They forget that the patience of any people who have in them the elements of that self-respect which is necessary will be unwilling to further condone misconduct. They produce this outrage upon propriety which no men except men who are unworthy of such arguments would not only dare to make, but be willing to accept for their trial. So much for that point.

A State Prosecution.

It is to be also, we are told, a State prosecution. A State prosecution forsooth! Isn't it a good thing, perhaps, from some points of view, that we are living in an advanced stage of the world, because if we carry our mem-

all know how careful the Attorney-General has been with the offenders in this Province that none escape. We all know perfectly well that the machinery of the administration of justice has been kept in a state of repair, and no matter how high the crime or misdemeanor during the last three years, no man has escaped prosecution and punishment. (Applause.)

Not Fair to Mr. Stratton.

I said it was not I; the plural should be used when the hon. gentleman speaks; he should say "we," rather than "the Provincial Secretary." The Provincial Secretary has peculiar ideas, I know, with regard to myself, and I am going to allow him to continue to hold them; but I want to say this, and I say it with all possible fairness, that it is not fair to the Provincial Secretary to say that he is accused by my hon. friend from Manitoulin yesterday. He is only one of those who are accused. (Opposition applause.)

And, although the statement given in halting tones by the Premier last night—not exactly as he remembers it to-day, but I am not accusing him of intentional misrepresentation—the statement given by the Premier as being a denial by my hon. friend the Provincial Secretary, only covers a small portion, a very small portion, of the charges made by the hon. member for Manitoulin—this statement in denial on behalf of the Provincial Secretary is the only one we have heard from the Treasury benches. The Attorney-General, the Minister of Public Works and the Premier are all implicated and charged in the statement of the member for Manitoulin. (Applause.) And the Provincial Secretary is the only one that stood up and attempted to say a word of denial of the charges made against him. Let us see whether it is true or not, what I say.

Mr. Latchford's Prompt Denial.

I take the report of yesterday's proceedings of The Globe newspaper, and I will say this, before I touch upon that, that from the reference to the Minister of Public Works, there can be no possible denial of his knowledge that Mr. Gamey was being influenced to support the Government, because my hon. friend wrote a letter, in which he acknowledged the receipt of—

Mr. Latchford—Will the hon. gentleman permit me to deny that most emphatically here and now?

Mr. Whitney—I will finish my statement, and if he will wait until I get through he will understand it and be able to deny it reasonably. (Opposition applause.) I say that the member for Manitoulin read a letter from the hon. gentleman acknowledging an application for an appropriation for road grants; that is what I said, and I got that far when he said—

Mr. Latchford—Let us have this cleared up. What I understood the hon. gentleman to say was that I could not deny that I had knowledge that Mr. Gamey was being influenced.

Mr. Whitney—Very well.

Mr. Latchford—I deny that.

Mr. Whitney—It is the third time. I will proceed with the exposition of my charge. Here we have the Commissioner acknowledging an application from a straight Conservative member for a grant of appropriations from the Government to which he was opposed, and the hon. gentleman's letter in acknowledgment, that speaks of it as a pretty large order. (Laughter.) This proves that the gentleman knew there was some reason to expect that the hon. member for Manitoulin was not thought of as a straight Conservative. (Applause.) Because we all know, and nobody knows it better than the Commissioner, that larger grants for these appropriations are given to Government supporters than are given to members of the Opposition.

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was going on. While it was quite possible for the Premier to have been utterly and entirely ignorant of all this up to a certain point, yet the knowledge that something was going on, no matter what it was, without any details being given, was sufficient to put him on his guard and to allow him to put his foot down on any proposition that was being made. Therefore I say with all possible confidence, believing that all reasonable men who listen to me will believe, that the people accused by my hon. friend yesterday, and who will find it necessary to make their defence before the bar of the people of Ontario, include not only the Provincial Secretary, but three other members of the Government of Ontario. (Opposition applause.) And therefore I say that the idea that these gentlemen should nominate their Judges is such an idea that if it were not a very serious matter would provoke laughter.

The Caron Case.

True it is that in the Caron case at Ottawa, after long and protracted dispute, in which several points of difference came up, a royal commission was issued. Now, I do not care what is said about the Caron commission; I do not care whether it is right or wrong, wise or unwise; it has nothing