

to the riding, in the same way the patronage for Parry Sound had gone to Mr. Beatty, who had been elected as a Conservative; and so it had been in the House of Commons, so it was in the old Parliament of Canada, and so it always would be under our party system. Members who supported the Government had certain claims upon the Government as such. They were legitimate because of our party system. The King's government must go on, appointments must be made. No Government in power will make, as a rule, appointments from the ranks of its opponents. They were chosen from its friends, and this was especially the case in diplomatic positions. He could say that the civil service in Ontario and in Canada stood as high as that of any country. Even the Governor-General or the Viceroy of India and the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland were usually chosen with a view to their political course being in harmony with their Ministers.

Mr. Gamey's Letter Voluntary.

It had been said that that letter of Mr. Gamey's had been forced from him. What was the opinion of the commission on that point. On page 36 of the Judges' report it was said: "In its ethical aspect there would appear to be nothing reprehensible if indeed Gamey truly stated what he then represented as to his candidature and approval of the Ross policy." The commissioners, having the evidence before them, say there would be nothing wrong in patronage going to him after the statements made in Gamey's letter. That was the only sensible conclusion. The Judges also said: "The letter has been called a contract or an evidence of bargain and sale. It cannot be so regarded. It is a letter to the Premier defining Mr. Gamey's position as a supporter of the Government, and asking that as such his recommendations receive reasonable and fair consideration, and that he be considered and treated as if he had been elected to support the Government."

No Bargain and Sale.

In fact, Mr. Ross said, the letter had not been suggested by a member of the Government, but by Mr. Aylesworth, a lawyer of the highest repute and untarnished character. The gravamen of the charge was that unless you send the letter you will get no patronage. (Opposition applause.) Mr. Ross went on to say the purpose of that letter had been mistaken by the Opposition, and that it had been shown by the Judges that it could not be regarded as a contract or as an evidence of bargain and sale. In fact, it would be received as an outspoken communication from a man who had decided to support the Government, and in order that there might be no misunderstanding had written a notice to that effect. The Judges said farther on in their report: "Mr. Gamey's statement sets forth the alleged promise of the Provincial Secretary that he would have the patronage of the riding entirely in his own hands, but nothing supports such a promise."

No Evidence of a Promise.

There was nothing in the examination to show that there was any promise on the part of the Provincial Secretary that Gamey would have the patronage in his own hands. "He did not direct or control any of the local patronage; he asked much, but got little. He might suggest or recommend means or endorse applications, and his voice would receive such consideration as might seem proper to the Executive, but the Provincial Secretary did not in any way propose to

circumscribe or diminish the discretion of the Cabinet, nor could he or they in any wise lessen their own responsibility to the Legislature and the electorate." The commissioners farther on pointed out that Mr. Aylesworth's evidence on the point of the letter had been accepted absolutely, the commissioners remarking that Gamey's version is "misleading and untrue." Could there be anything more conclusive? asked the Premier. The Judges had had an opportunity of studying the demeanor of the different witnesses, and they had placed reliance upon Mr. Aylesworth as against the evidence of Gamey. So that it had been shown that the charge that patronage had been used to bribe the member from Manitoulin had been completely exploded. It had not been shown that there was anything out of the ordinary procedure, as to the disposal of patronage, from the 20th of May until the 11th of March. Nothing could be clearer than the record of the Government in connection with the question of patronage.

The Protest Proceedings.

Then came the matter of protest; that was delicate ground, for most of the members of the House had been there, and knew what a protest meant. He would make a frank confession and say that of all his experience in public life nothing had been more painful than that with reference to protests. We had got into the habit in this Province of having protests at every general election and many of the bye-elections, and it could be said, as it was once said in the case of a great man, "He doth protest too much." The modus operandi was very simple. In the case of a close election both sides work with great vigor until election day; and both expect to win, but one is defeated by perhaps 150 votes. Feeling runs high, and the defeated party country, and to find that the elector are apt to feel that they have been wronged, and talk of a protest is apt to commence at once, in the hope that some corrupt act may be discovered which will open the seat. The proposal to enter a protest is often encouraged by a local lawyer anxious for fees.

The Saw-off.

Sometimes evidence was discovered, and sometimes it was not, and the practice was, where there are a number of protests entered against each party, for lawyers representing both sides to set off a number of protests on the one side against those on the other. In many cases there was nothing in this, as there was no evidence and going to court would be expensive and have no result. In this case the protest against Mr. Gamey had been set off against the member for South Wentworth, as the result of a conversation between Mr. Bristol, the Conservative lawyer, and Mr. Grant, the Liberal lawyer. Mr. Bristol had then said that he was a friend of Mr. Gamey; they had business relations together, and he asked Mr. Grant, in a sense as a favor, to oblige his friend in this way. There was no wrong in that, so far as he could see. That protest had been settled, and a number of other protests had been settled in the same way.

Mr. Whitney—Centre Bruce.

Mr. Ross—Centre Bruce was not settled. The protests against my hon. friend and myself were settled.

Mr. Whitney—I didn't ask it.

Mr. Ross—Nor I; I was out of the country.

Mr. Whitney—There was no protest against me.

Mr. Ross—There was one threatened; that was all there was against me. They were settled out of court in the same way.

The Money Charge Failed.

Mr. Ross then took up the third branch of the charges, namely, that money was paid. In the minds of most people, that had seemed to be the most serious of all, that a certain sum of money was paid, with a view to his changing his political allegiance. To the public mind that was the most

shocking form of the transaction, putting patronage out of observation, out of the line of vision for the time being. That an actual payment was made was such a cold-blooded transaction that it certainly shocked public opinion more than any other phase of the charge, and naturally and properly. Now, that matter has been investigated very fully by the commission. Many witnesses have been examined.

Conclusions Damaging to Mr. Gamey.

What do the commissioners say on this point? It was found on page 46 of their report: "The conduct and memory of Mr. Gamey as to these bribe moneys detracts from his credibility. At a momentous point in his life, and within a few months of the occurrence, he is uncertain as to the day when, and the person from whom, the \$3,000 came. Having conferred with prominent men in his party (as he says), and arranged his methods, he employs his share, \$1,500, in business, as if it were a legitimate transaction. He makes no mention in his statement to the House of how he came into possession of \$1,200, part of the other moiety said to be received by Sullivan, and of which he says \$900 was paid into the Crossin business. But when this was discovered by search in the Crossin books the two pages containing entries for the 10th and 11th September disappear, not by the hands of Mr. Crossin—and Mr. Gamey is the other who had access to them." Who that had read the evidence in that, commented Mr. Ross, had not drawn certain conclusions, most damaging conclusions, as to the party concerned.

The Deposit Slip.

The report then went on: "Then follows the procuring of the deposit slip from the bank by Mr. Gamey and its disappearance. Then the explanation given to the reporters at Buffalo, with a view to publication, that this \$900 was collected during the summer in Manitoulin Island; and the final statement under oath that it was part of the loan of \$1,200 from Frank Sullivan. The evidence on the other side precludes the conclusion that this \$3,000 was received by Mr. Gamey from the Provincial Secretary on or about the 11th September, and if that be so its true source is not yet disclosed.

"And, again, as to the \$500 said to be received on the 29th January. Though Mr. McGregor comes expressly to assist Mr. Gamey at this stage of the enterprise, and does assist in correcting The Globe interview; and though he and Mr. McGregor meet that same night and discuss this matter, yet the money is not exhibited or mentioned. . . . From these omissions the inference is most persuasive that no bribe or money was received from the Provincial Secretary on the 29th January, but that the money was afterwards acquired."

A Complete Failure.

"There is the sum of the evidence and the conclusion as to the payment of money," said Mr. Ross. "Could anything be more conclusive? Would anybody be committed by any Magistrate on any evidence of that kind? Wouldn't there be a dismissal of the case instantaneously if there was no stronger evidence in support of it than in this case? The Judges could come to no other conclusion. That disposes of the gravest charge that has been made, leaving the case not unproven, but disproven.

The Conspiracy Charge.

"Then we have one more charge, and I am done. That is the charge of conspiracy; that is, that the other members of the Government were in collusion with the Provincial Secretary, and that between us we had determined that Gamey's political faith should be undermined, and that he should be transferred from that side of the House to this. That would have been a very serious charge, and if proven would certainly warrant the execration of every right-thinking man. It is no disgrace for a Government to appeal to the electors of this