

sel for the defence of the evidence that he was prepared to give, and it had never been produced in court. The Chancellor had suggested that the Premier could clear up the matter of the letter sent to Gamey. The Premier had never denied that in his opinion the whole Government was involved. Should he have hesitated, then, for a moment, to go into the witness box and prove his innocence? Instead of that, he had sent a woman, his secretary, to say that she had received the letter, and put it in a certain drawer, and beyond that knew nothing of it.

Mr. Whitney drew attention to the offensive manner, as he called it, of Sir John Boyd, toward the member for Manitoulin. It had been remarked by everybody who was present in the court. The Judges, all through, had taken the position that would be of advantage to the Government. Mr. Whitney devoted his attention to some inaccuracies and omissions which he had found in the report. Frank Sullivan's letter of February 20 was omitted, and the X.Y.Z. one put in its place. As an inaccuracy, he quoted from page 43 of the report, that a letter of Mr. Gamey to the Provincial Secretary, asking for a loan of \$2,000, had not been answered, whereas on page 13 in Mr. Gamey's statement it was said that Mr. Myers answered this letter.

Summary of the Argument.

In conclusion, Mr. Whitney delivered a summary of his argument, and of his opinion, reading from a prepared statement, for which he craved the indulgence of the House. Mr. Whitney's conclusions, with which he ended his speech, were as follows:—

(1) While the manner of the payment to Gamey, taken by itself, may present an arguable question, it is clear, from the evidence recited, and admitted by the report as worthy of credence, that money was paid to Gamey for the purpose alleged.

(2) That Stratton tried to induce Hammond to alter The Globe interview.

(3) That the charge of making and carrying out a corrupt bargain as to patronage has been already proved; Fletcher and Jackson get appointments, and Dr. Arthur admitted he understood Gamey had patronage.

(4) That the Provincial Secretary attempted to induce Hammond to commit perjury.

(5) That the Premier produced from his custody the letter from Gamey, forming part of the corrupt bargain, and the other letter to him, but refrained from giving evidence himself to exculpate himself, and, strange to say, the commissioners took care not to call him, nor did he offer himself as a witness.

(6) That the finding shows that the commissioners have unduly strained the effect of the evidence, and omitted reference to portions of it, so as to favor Stratton, the Provincial Secretary, and members of the Government.

(7) Finally, that there are errors, omissions and misstatements in the report which discredit and render it of no value.

Mr. Stratton's Reply.

Mr. Stratton, on rising at twenty minutes past 5 o'clock, was loudly applauded by the Government supporters. In addressing himself to the resolution before the House he craved the indulgence of the House if he had to make some observations of a personal character, on account of the nature of the charges which had been made against him. It would hardly be denied, he thought, by anyone that he had been the centre of attention, not only in the Province, but throughout the Dominion, for the past twelve or thirteen weeks, and that the events of March 11 last had placed him in a position that perhaps few men had occupied. When the member for Manitoulin made the extraordinary statement that he made upon the floor of the House on March 11 last—extraordinary not only in the way it was told, but also in the way in which

malignant fiction was placed with harmless fact, and that deliberately, and as far as they could learn, with a deliberate intention of placing him in a position that he had never occupied—he had become the centre of attention. They found by The Mail and Empire of April 12 that the member for Manitoulin had made his charges acting upon legal advice. But his story was not only extraordinary in the way in which it was told, but also in the way in which the charges were unfounded.

The Opposition's Course.

The hon. member for West York had said that if these charges were true they would cause every honorable member of the House and the citizens of the Province to hang their heads in shame. What was the attitude of the Opposition with regard to these charges? He desired to make exception of some of the members of the Opposition. He asked, however, whether the heads of honorable gentlemen opposite had been hung in shame. No, the hon. gentlemen were rather rejoicing. They showed every sign of rejoicing. Their faces were written over with holy joy. They went into convulsions of delight because they believed that the charges were practically going to destroy the Government. They thought this story marked the dawn of a brighter day. No matter how the fair name of this Province might suffer, no matter how a Minister of the Crown might suffer, they rejoiced because they believed that the charges were to mark their entry to the seats across the floor of the House. They folded their arms around the member for Manitoulin and, figuratively speaking, lay down to sleep with him and had pleasant dreams of the future of the Province in the hands of hon. gentlemen opposite. But when the flood of the investigation poured in, and they had an opportunity of placing his (Mr. Stratton's) position and the position of the Government before a Royal Commission appointed by the Legislature, the charges collapsed like a bubble.

Whether the members of the Opposition were all aware of the plot or not he was not prepared to say. Personally he believed they were not all aware of it, but he believed that a few of them were. But whether they were all aware of it or not, certainly they all endorsed the object given by the member for Manitoulin. What was the position of the leader of the Opposition on that occasion? He took the documents as if they were the title itself to the Premiership of Ontario. A careful examination of the statements made by the member for Manitoulin showed that the charges could not be substantiated. They were satisfied when they saw the statement that it could not be substantiated, and the leader dropped the responsibility for accepting those statements, and they were handed back to the member for Manitoulin, with the statement that the latter needed them to give to his counsel, and that they were afraid if these documents were handed over to the Speaker of the Legislature, or placed upon the table of the House, they might not be forthcoming when the trial came on.

Mr. Stratton desired for a moment to show the good taste and spirit of British fair play that was exhibited by The Mail and Empire towards a Minister of the Crown. The Mail and Empire was a paper that endeavored to preach that fair play should be given to all classes of our citizens. What attempt did it make to preach fair play on this occasion, regarding what was perhaps one of the most serious charges that had ever been made in the history of this Province or in the history of the Dominion?

Mr. Stratton read from the headlines and description in The Mail's report of the proceedings in the Leg-

islature, when Gamey made his charges, which he said was conclusive proof of their bias. He then read the description of Mr. Whitney's dramatic action in handing the documents back to Mr. Gamey in the House, and added, "I will not say that the member for Manitoulin stole these documents were out of his possession." will be remembered how he stole out of the House with them—(applause)—and what an evident relief it was to the leader of the Opposition that these documents were out of his possession.

Mr. Whitney—The papers were given up by me in order that they might be put before the House.

Mr. Stratton—I did not understand that the leader of the Opposition was giving up these papers to the member for Manitoulin with a view to having them placed in the hands of the Speaker. I did not understand that. (Laughter.)

Mr. Whitney—I did not say that.

Mr. Stratton said he believed the statement read by Mr. Gamey in the House on March 11 had been shown to counsel, and they had come to the conclusion that the charges could not be proved before a competent commission or a committee of the House. His charges had been accepted readily by hon. gentlemen opposite, though they reflected on men who had given the public a quarter century of their lives. Yet the Opposition were quite willing to enjoy the fruits of henchmen, and perhaps paid advisers, and they were careful not to accept the responsibility for the statements of the member himself.

The Treacherous Independent Press.

The Gamey charges had not promised very well at first, but, urged on by certain newspapers and by certain of the Conservatives of the Province, they were bound to go on, notwithstanding their belief, in his judgment, that they never expected to be able to prove the statement made by the member for Manitoulin. They hardly themselves thought that the charges could be substantiated, but the party press took on a most malignant character, and he had every reason to complain of what he might reasonably term the treacherous independent press of this city. What did they find? They found that the case was too good a one to be lost. They had a statement coming from the member for Manitoulin, and they seemed to make the best of the opportunity afforded. The members used the privileges of the House to prejudice the case pending its submission to the commissioners. Everybody upon the Government side of the House was pronounced guilty. They were condemned by the ipse dixit of the member for Manitoulin, and what showed an utter disregard for fair dealing in this Province was the haste of the press to assume guilt, and inflame public opinion in prejudging the case, and the rabid denunciations of each and every member of the Government. The policy of the Opposition was to frustrate and delay the investigation, and what could have been said in three short hours of discussion was prolonged into three weeks. An amicable concurrence could have been arrived at, had there been a desire to have the question submitted to an unprejudiced tribunal, to have it thoroughly investigated.

Unsupported Assertions.

"But, sir, principles of British fair play in this Legislature were outraged," said Mr. Stratton. "I was condemned without the opportunity of being tried. I was condemned by many leaders of hon. gentlemen opposite without the opportunity given me to prove myself innocent of the charge. In one sense they were not to blame, because it is the only chance they were ever going to have to make political capital out of the charge of the member for Manitoulin. (Hear, hear.) And after the first outburst of enthusiasm was over, then assertion took the place of proof, and the assertions were made perhaps more strongly than they had been previously, with a view to snatching from the people of the Province a verdict that could not be got from any judicial investigation before any Judge in the British Empire to-day.