

would come to them.

### To Hold Stratton Up.

It was not denied that it was thought that they could hold him (Mr. Stratton) up, on a proper story, for \$100,000. That was what Mr. Kinney said in the witness box. "Mr. Sullivan never saw any correspondence in my office in his existence. The information he obtained about any patronage was obtained by his father at the Walker House, in conversation and gossip."

Mr. Gamey had deceived every member of the House and the public by stating that he had had three shorthand writers at the piano factory. They were three young men, who had taken no notes, had subsequently recited the statement agreed upon, but could not tell the same story when question as to what had occurred, first, second or third. Their evidence was entirely against Mr. Gamey, and the story concocted there was for a plot. The next day Sullivan disconnected himself from the plot, and left Mr. Gamey to plot it out by himself.

There was no relationship with himself (Mr. Stratton) and Jones, or of Sullivan on the one side, or Jones and Sullivan with the members of the Government, on the other side. He (Mr. Stratton) never saw Jones, never spoke to him, nor had any connection with him, directly or indirectly.

### Manufacturing Evidence.

There was no doubt that Gamey had been introduced to him on the 9th of September. That was corroborated by Mr. Aylesworth. There was no doubt of his seeing Mr. Aylesworth on the 10th, and on that day Gamey signed the letter. There was no doubt of that, in spite of what Gamey said. He believed Gamey's action throughout indicated that he would support the Government. His position seemed consistent until the 24th of February. He then learned that the Government were taking active steps against him. The Government, however, were not caring where he was or where he would be. But at that time he made up his mind to play the patriot, that he would send the Liberal Government up in an explosion. That was when he began to concoct his story on the shores of Manitoulin. He found, however, he had no evidence, so he came to Toronto and arranged the piano factory interview. It was there and then that the pages 8 and 14 of his statement were extracted, and new pages inserted, and those were the pages that dealt with the alleged transactions on the 9th, 10th or 11th of September and the 29th of January. There was no more suspicious circumstance. Those two weeks between the 24th of February and the opening of the House he made up his story, and when he made it up he never expected that it would go before the competent commission appointed by this House.

### Mr. Hammond's Evidence.

"There is one crumb of comfort to the hon. gentlemen; it is an infinitesimally small crumb," said Mr. Stratton, "but sir, they are making the best of it they possibly can make. I now refer to the matter of my remarks made to Mr. Hammond of The Globe, and I desire to say, first and before all, and to be perfectly frank about it, that I have no fault to find with the statement made by Mr. Hammond, or the manner in which he made that statement in the witness box or out of it. When Mr. Hammond came to me on the 28th of January in my office we were discussing the interviews that were appearing in the papers with regard to the grant given by Mr. Carnegie to the City of Toronto. We were discussing at the same time the attitude of The Globe with regard to the Toronto & Niagara Power Company and on the very same day that Mr. Gamey gave Mr. Hammond The Globe interview I gave him an interview—and I think it appeared in The Mail as well—an interview with regard to the Toronto & Niagara Power Co. I had several discussions with Mr. Hammond with regard to the attitude of The Globe to

the Government on that question. I had written communications and was about to write communications to The Globe under the non de plume of 'Taxpayer,' finding fault with The Globe for the attitude it had taken in connection with this matter. The Globe criticized me severely, as they had every right to do, as I had every right to write to the press in connection therewith.

### Irrelevant Matters.

"When Mr. Hammond gave his statement to Mr. Johnston it contained four closely typewritten pages of matter relating to Gamey, Carnegie and the Power Company. And I thought to myself, what is there in giving this evidence to the country with regard to my actions or sayings with The Globe upon these questions that were irrelevant and had nothing to do in any manner, shape or form, but which Mr. Hammond gave to Mr. Johnston?"

I did not go to Mr. Hammond; he did not come to me. After the sitting of the House one evening when we were going through the corridor, I said: "I have seen your evidence given to Mr. Johnston." I said, "Can't you forget some of that matter." (Opposition applause.) He said, "Perhaps I can." That is the assertion, that is the statement, that has been misconstrued and misapplied by hon. gentlemen in connection with this case. (Ministerial applause.) I will resign my seat tomorrow if Mr. Hammond will say I asked him to withhold one iota of the facts of the Gamey case." (Loud Ministerial applause.)

Mr. Whitney—Not withhold.

Mr. Stratton—Or forget, I will resign my seat if Mr. Hammond will say that in any way on account of that statement that I made that he withheld any information that he knew of what occurred on that particular occasion. (Renewed applause.)

Mr. Whitney—He didn't withhold.

### What's the Row About?

Mr. Stratton—No. So what is all the row about? (Applause.) I did not ask him to withhold anything. I asked him if he could forget bringing up matters entirely irrelevant, and entirely disconnected, and with no bearing whatever on this case. (Applause.)

Hon. gentlemen are welcome to the crumb of comfort that they may be able to get out of the statement made by Mr. Hammond on that occasion. Mr. Hammond withheld no information; the public have all the information that he had with regard to that."

Mr. Stratton then referred to his request to Mr. Hammond to strike out a portion of The Globe interview, and read from the evidence to show that he offered to call Mr. Gamey back, but in the end did not, nor was the interview altered. He quoted from Mr. Hammond's evidence to show that even he had forgotten when first examined that he had questioned Gamey independently, but no one would say that he committed perjury; but, rather, that he was innocently mistaken. He closed his references to the evidence by saying there was nothing improper in his remark to Mr. Hammond, nor in Mr. Hammond's reply thereto.

### Mr. Stratton's Conclusion.

"The findings of the Royal Commissioners I accept without any feeling of triumph or personal boast," said Mr. Stratton, in concluding, "and in the same spirit as I hope they will be accepted by my friends in this House and in the country. I was content to have the charges preferred against me investigated and tried by any tribunal chosen by the Legislature. No one free from prejudice doubted that the conclusion would be that which the evidence warranted. The learned Judges who sat as Commissioners have found that I am innocent of the serious charges made against me by a member of this House. These charges gravely affected my position as a Minister of the Crown, my standing as a member of the Legislature, and my character as a citizen of Ontario. I met them at the proper time and place. I desired the fullest inquiry and sought the closest investigation. The consequences were of greater importance to me than

to any other member of the Government. It is true that the political life of the Government was endangered, but my whole business and personal career depended on the result. Yet throughout the long and trying investigation which was made I neither feared nor faltered. Conscious that my relations with the member who made the accusations would bear the most careful scrutiny, and feeling secure in the ultimate triumph of truth, I bore with patience the abuse of the Tory press, and never flinched under the lash of the Tory hireling. Long before the accusations had the sanctity of an oath, however worthless, to support them; I was condemned and pronounced guilty by my opponents. The average fair play which is given to the worst and meanest criminal was denied me. Every fact was tortured, every circumstance was colored, every act was purposely misconstrued, in order to destroy my character as a public man and as a private citizen, and all this was done with a greedy delight far beyond the lines of decency and honest self-respect on the part of my enemies. (Applause.)

### Stood His Ground.

"At length, in the halls of justice, I met my accuser. I stood my ground, whilst he fled. (Loud applause.) I had everything to lose. He had everything to gain. I at least played no part of the coward shrinking from justice. I waited in silence, whilst some of those who had once called themselves friends doubted my innocence. When called on for my answer, I was ready. There was no mutilation of books—(hear, hear)—no fabrication of documents, no fleeing from the terrors of the law on my part. The records of my private life were laid bare to my enemies. Not a page was found missing, not a leaf bore evidence of the hand of the despoiler. The sanctity of my family relations was not spared. Business dealings with my fellow-men were openly laid on the dissecting table and every item of my personal transactions was willingly offered as a sacrifice to the knife of my accuser. I asked for no favors, sought no man's intervention, save the assistance of counsel, claimed no protection from first to last in this long trial.

### Now Has His Reward.

"To-day I have my reward, and I accept that reward more gratefully in the interest of the good name of my Province than as a vindication of my own personal reputation. (Applause.) The attempt to cast a stain on the fair name of Ontario has miserably failed. The strenuous effort made to destroy the character and wreck the future of myself has met with a like defeat. The judgment of the Royal Commissioners may not be able to undo all the wrong that has been done to me and mine, and may not effectually silence the tongue of the slanderer or stay the pen of the needy libeller, but it will be a source of gratification to the many friends who have stood loyally by me in these months of shadow and suspense to know that their confidence was not unfounded. Such friends will be gratefully remembered throughout the years God may give me to enjoy, but no one of them with that great feeling of affection and thankfulness which I owe to my esteemed friend, the Premier of this Province—(loud applause)—whose faith has never been shaken for a moment and whose sympathy for me never wavered in the hours of greatest adversity.

"I hold no resentment against those of my opponents who have been misled for the great wrong they have endeavored to do me. And I would say to my accusers that I hope they will learn, from their experience in connection with this matter, that falsehood works its own revenge, and deceit brings its own just punishment." (Loud and long-continued applause.)

### Shook Hands With Mr. Stratton.

Mr. Lucas had only begun to reply when he was interrupted by applause on the Government benches at the sight of Premier Ross walking down to Mr. Stratton and shaking hands with him.

"Bravo," said Mr. Whitney.

"Why don't you go down and shake hands with your man?" asked Mr. Graham, amid laughter and applause.

Mr. Lucas opened by referring to the