

air of injured innocence which had characterized the speech of the Provincial Secretary. He asked why Mr. Stratton had not on the day the charges were made stood up and pointed out what portions of the statement were "malignant fiction," and what part "harmless facts." Instead he had sat in the House for weeks without saying anything. The truth would stand telling at any place at any time. No wonder the people believed him guilty, and no wonder many people still believed him guilty. Why didn't he deny the statements?

Mr. Ross said Mr. Stratton had denied the accusations to his leader, which was the proper course. (Applause.)

Mr. Lucas continued:—The Government had all the same motive in securing the support of Gamey. If criminal proceedings had been taken and the case referred to this House as a jury, the Provincial Secretary would not have been to-day occupying his seat in the jury box. The case had been looked upon as a crime; the most eminent criminal lawyers had been retained, and Mr. Johnston said they were charged with a crime.

A Supposititious Guilt.

Mr. Lucas asked them to assume for argument that the Provincial Secretary was ready to buy Gamey. How would he be able to insist upon Gamey "delivering the goods"? He took the best steps he could to that end by obtaining Mr. Gamey's letter. He did everything in fact that was consistent with a theory of his being guilty.

The House rose at five minutes to 1 o'clock.

Searching For Mistakes.

Mr. Lucas resumed his speech at 3.15 o'clock. He asked what the purpose of the Aylesworth interview could be. Was it not to disarm suspicion by having the deal go through the hands of so eminent a counsel? From beginning to end the commissioners had failed to submit in their report all the surrounding circumstances on the subject, but had charged the jury favorably to the Provincial Secretary. On page 22 of their report the Judges said: "It is to be noted that Mr. Gamey deposited \$900 in the forenoon of September 11th." If that were so the prosecution were out of court, for Mr. Gamey had said that it was deposited in the afternoon.

Mr. Stratton—You forget that Mr. Crossin says that Mr. Gamey deposited the money in the forenoon.

Mr. Whitney asked whether Mr. Stratton was reading from the printed evidence, and the latter replied that he had about 1,000 pages of it. Mr. Whitney commented that he supposed he would get a copy at the last moment.

That Deposit Slip.

Mr. Lucas then discussed the evidence regarding hour of the deposit of \$900 in the Ontario Bank on September 11.

Mr. Stratton—Where is the slip?
Mr. Lucas—"Never mind. Do not try to sidetrack me, and get out in that way." This was not the issue. If Mr. Gamey and Mr. Stratton wanted to throw dirt at one another perhaps they would have an opportunity to do so, and Mr. Gamey would be well able to take care of himself.

Mr. Lucas, continuing, said the Judges again on page 24 said that Gamey changed his recollection as to who carried the money parcel, at the instance of Sullivan. That was not a fair way to put it. It was not a matter of recollection, but one of uncertainty.

The Alibi Defence.

The report said that Mr. Buckingham saw Mr. Stratton and Mr. Boland at the Trust Company's office at about 11 o'clock, on September 11, and he left them there. Had they said that Stratton and Boland left Buckingham there it would have been nearer the truth, for the last he saw of them was when they were leaving the office.

Mr. Stratton corrected Mr. Lucas, saying that Mr. Buckingham's evidence was that he saw them leaving Mr. Coffee's office and going into the board room. Neither of these gentlemen said that he saw them leaving the

office.
Mr. Lucas—"No, but they do not account for you." The point he wished to make was that the Judges did not make a fair report when they said that Mr. Buckingham left Mr. Stratton and Mr. Boland in the Trust Company's office. Mr. Stratton had continued in his alibi, saying that he had called at Robertson's foundry and Bennett & Wright's office. Why did he not call some one from Robertson's or Bennett & Wright's?

Mr. Stratton—Why did not you call him?

Mr. Lucas—Oh, ho! That is his answer. Well, I leave the alibi there. It has gone to sleep. It is a lullaby.

Mr. McEvoy's Position.

The commissioners said that the Crossin books would probably show where the money came from. The defence had had an opportunity to see those books. Mr. McEvoy had gone through them. If he wished to be unkind he could say (and the evidence would bear him out) that Mr. McEvoy was the last man to see those books intact on Friday night. Mr. Lucas discussed Mr. Stratton's reference to Hammond's evidence, and said fancy a Mowat, a Mackenzie or a Blake asking a man to commit forgery and being turned down by a reporter. The fact that the Premier had not replied to Mr. Gamey's letter announcing that he would support the Government, Mr. Lucas said, was very cold, and not in keeping with his policy of conciliation, but rather showed his knowledge of the negotiations.

Mr. Cameron on the Floor.

Mr. M. G. Cameron (West Huron) followed Mr. Lucas. He said that he had on a previous occasion on following Mr. Lucas said the latter had been fair. He wished he could say so this time. (Applause.) As to Mr. Stratton's prompt denial of the charge, how could he have said more than he did, that the charges were fiction. A loud proclamation of innocence was not always borne out, for in 1873 Sir John Macdonald had proclaimed "These hands are clean"; but they were not. The aspersions cast on Mr. McEvoy were exceedingly cowardly, and if Mr. Lucas would repeat the statement out of the House he would be promptly brought to account. Mr. McEvoy's visit to the piano factory on that occasion was in company with two Conservative lawyers, Mr. McPherson and Mr. Macdonald, and if the leaves had not been torn out we might know where the money came from. The evidence of Mr. Crossin left no doubt as to who made away with the leaves. Mr. Cameron then quoted from Mr. Aylesworth's evidence to show that he contradicted Mr. Gamey on several points. The prosecution had failed to show that Sullivan was the agent of Stratton; hence their whole structure fell to the ground.

One minute the Opposition said the Judges went too far, and the next minute they said they did not go far enough. At any rate, the report was satisfactory to the Liberals, and would be accepted by the country as a finality. It was true there had been a few verbal slips in the report, but they were of no consequence whatever in regard to the main issue, and his hon. friend should be above referring to them.

Compared to a She Bear.

In resuming in the evening, Mr. Cameron remarked that Mr. Whitney's speech had made up in vituperation what it lacked in argument. The loyalty of the Tory party out of office could never be counted upon, and, as Joe Rymal used to say, "a she-bear was not more ferocious than a Tory out of office." The Judges would live down the ire of Mr. Whitney; they were too high to be injured by a man of the calibre of the leader of the Opposition. The Chancellor had not commended Frank Sullivan's evidence; on the contrary, he had linked Sullivan's name with Gamey's. The Government did not call the Judges to their assistance, but they called them to get at the truth. (Applause.) Mr. Blake had had perfect confidence in the decisions the Judges would give. The people would punish these men for their outrageous attacks on the Judges. (Opposition laughter.) The Opposition had at first

said the scope of the commission was not wide enough; but later on, when it was proposed to investigate the campaign funds, they thought it was too wide. Mr. Donald Sutherland had been marched around the Province as an example of the men whom the Liberals tried to bribe—a man who only escaped disqualification by the skin of his teeth, when he would have been prevented from being even pound-keeper in his own town.

Mr. Whitney had said not a word of Gamey's absconding, the mutilation of the cash book, or the episode with the deposit slips. It was a principle of law, and was admitted by Mr. Blake, that the burden of proof was on the accuser, and in this case there was not a tittle of corroborative evidence. The Opposition were not satisfied, but the Liberals did not care. The people would pass judgment, and their opinion would agree with that of the commissioners. Mr. Gamey had written in the interview that he would support the Government "in matters he was satisfied with." Anyone on the Opposition side could promise that without interrupting his party allegiance; and yet it was said, forsooth, that Stratton was fool enough to give \$1,000 for it. And Mr. McGregor, who was brought down especially to help get evidence, was never put in the witness box. (Applause.) Mr. Cameron asked if the evidence of such a creature as Gamey would be effective in consigning to oblivion a young man like the Provincial Secretary, who had risen from the bottom of the ladder almost to the top.

Some Names Called.

His accuser, the man who had posed as a patriot, was only a common liar. The Opposition hoped to attain office by clinging to the skirts of a degenerate, who had left himself open to the charges of larceny, perjury and forgery.

Mr. St. John raised a point of order as to whether such language was permissible.

The Premier said the force and pith of the hon. gentleman's words had been embodied in the report of the Judges. The Speaker said he did not know where he would begin if he called every hon. member to order for using unparliamentary language. There had been wide latitude allowed in the discussion, which the very nature of it made unavoidable, but occasionally a member would say something he should not say. He had no doubt the hon. member for Huron (Mr. Cameron) would say he should not have used the expression common liar. He had anticipated trouble, but he hoped such words as liar and thief would not be used any more in the discussion.

Mr. Cameron said he had much pleasure in bowing to the Speaker's ruling. He had intended to convey the meaning that Mr. Gamey by his course of action had left himself open to that charge.

Open the Gates Wide.

Mr. Whitney said that he did not object to the language used, because he thought that the Provincial Secretary and the member for Manitoulin could not make their speeches satisfactorily to themselves without using such language. He thought it would have been improper to interfere with the Provincial Secretary, and if the hon. member for Manitoulin were given the same liberty no objection could be made. Under that consideration, and with the ruling of the Speaker, he thought that there would be no further trouble.

Mr. Cameron, continuing, referred to some of the triumphs of the Liberal party, and concluded with an eloquent tribute to the Premier, saying to the leader of the Opposition that he would be a fortunate man if he was as successful a leader as Mr. Ross, who had not been surpassed by any Liberal leader in this Province.

Mr. Cameron was warmly congratulated by his Liberal friends when he resumed his seat at 9.35 o'clock.

Dr. Nesbitt's Criticisms.

Dr. Beattie Nesbitt, who followed Mr. Cameron, criticized the commissioners' report for the statement, "which they made flat-footed and without equivocation," that Mr. Gamey