

Mr. Burnaby had told the Attorney-General that he proposed on the next day to tell about "my bribery charge." Mr. Burnaby declared, and the Attorney-General, who afterwards went into the witness box, also declared, that the conversation was just a casual one, in which no details or explanations were gone into. He did not recall whether the Attorney-General had asked for the name, but he was sure that if he had he had not told him.

Application Not Made.

Premier Drury once interrupted to say that, oddly enough, there had been no applicant for the job with initials corresponding to those given. The opinion of the committee counsel, J. M. Ferguson, had been to the effect that the committee had jurisdiction to inquire into the offering of bribery to Mr. Burnaby.

Another vote of committee was necessary before the Attorney-General was permitted to take the stand. Mr. Lennox, who had conducted most of Mr. Burnaby's examination, maintained strenuously that it was proper that the Attorney-General should state his knowledge of it. On this vote, however, the majority was in favor of hearing the Attorney-General.

Hon. Mr. Raney, however, could add but little information beyond the bare fact that such an offer had been made. He had not wanted to "play the spy" in a personal matter brought to his attention, so he had not taken official action. If anyone wanted to blame him for not acting, he stated, they had that right.

Before the committee adjourned to draw up its official report it heard a protest from R. R. Hall, Liberal member for Parry Sound, over its action in throwing out his particular matter of inquiry as not affecting the honor of a member of the Legislature.

RANEY ADVISED TO ASK HASTINGS TO LEAVE BENCH

Commissioner Paterson Finds
Magistrate Too Lenient
in His Rulings

IS HONEST AND UPRIGHT

But Continuance on Bench
Not in Best Interests
of Justice

It is recommended in the report of Commissioner John A. Paterson that Magistrate David Hastings of Dunnville be asked for his resignation. The report, tabled last night in the Ontario Legislature by Attorney-General Raney, acquits the Magistrate of consciously favoring any "ring" or group, but finds that Mr. Hastings was not in sympathy with the Ontario Temperance Act, and that he "tempered justice with too excessive leniency."

"Under the powers given to me under and by virtue of my said commission," says Commissioner Paterson, "I would recommend, having regard to what has been proved before me by good and sufficient verbal and documentary evidence, and having regard to the impressions produced upon the minds of a considerable number of leading citizens of Dunnville by the administration of justice in the Police Court under Mr. Hastings, and notwithstanding the admitted fact that Mr. Hastings is personally honest and

upright, that Mr. Hastings be asked to tender to the Honorable the Attorney-General his resignation as Magistrate, and that the same be accepted, and I report the same accordingly."

Finding on Charges.

The commissioner reports on eight specific charges against Magistrate Hastings as follows:

As to number one, that "the administration of justice in the Police Court at Dunnville has ceased to command public respect, and for this condition of things Magistrate Hastings is largely responsible," the commissioner says: "I find that No. 1 was to a certain extent proved."

Of the second charge: "Mr. Hastings is influenced in his administration of the law largely by Mr. F. R. Lalor, M.P., President of the Monarch Knitting Co., Limited, and a group of other men who are associated with him in the control and domination of the affairs of the community," Commissioner Paterson reports: "I find that it has not been proved to the extent therein set forth."

Concerning charge No. 3, that "all these men, including Mr. Hastings, are opposed to the Ontario Temperance Act and to its enforcement," the commissioner says: "I find that Mr. Hastings is not in sympathy with all the provisions of the Ontario Temperance Act, and that he has publicly taken that position."

Too Excessive Leniency.

Regarding charge No. 4, critical of Mr. Hastings' administration of the O. T. A., in that he administered minimum penalties and favored the "ring which is in control of the affairs of the town," Commissioner Paterson says: "I do not think that Mr. Hastings has been strong enough in his administration. He tempered justice with a too excessive leniency. But I do not find that he intentionally or consciously favored any particular 'ring' or group."

Concerning charges 5, 6 and 7, accusing the Magistrate of using his authority to release men without bail, irregularly granting bail, refusing to take information in cases of serious infraction of the law, and of arranging cases out of court privately, Commissioner Paterson says: "Evidence was certainly given in support of these charges, but I do not regard what has been shown as to these as vitally important except as I have set forth above."

The Partisanship Charge.

And as to the eighth charge, in which the Magistrate is accused of political partisanship in his newspaper, and with being an active politician, in close business association with F. R. Lalor, M.P., the commissioner says: "I do not think that politics affected Mr. Hastings in his administration of justice, although he was Editor and publisher of a partisan newspaper, and I find, as particularly set forth above, that more than half of the job printing of his office was derived from the Monarch Knitting Company, of which Mr. F. R. Lalor, M.P., was the practical owner."

Commissioner Paterson, in the early part of his report, says that charge No. 1 really sums up the remainder. "First, I desire to report," the commissioner sets forth, "that I found from the testimony of all witnesses, and by general repute, that David Hastings, whose efficiency as a Magistrate is called into question, stands high in the community as an upright and honorable man, a leader in the Methodist Church, and one whose integrity is unimpeachable. If this was all I had to determine it would be easily, speedily and gladly done, but it is my duty here to inquire into his fitness and efficiency as a Magistrate as testified by his dealings with the cases which came before him as a Magistrate, and also by his general attitude as a Magistrate."

Ready to Take Advice.

After dealing individually with cases which were under investigation at the Cayuga probe, Commissioner Paterson says, under the head