

AFFIDAVIT IS READ DENYING INTERVIEW IN PENSION CASE

But Niece Says Hiram Gray
Stated Globe Report
Accurate

INSPECTOR'S STATEMENT

The case of Miss Carrie Gray, late old-age pensioner of Lloydtown, was once again referred to in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. W. G. Martin, Minister of Public Welfare.

Commenting on the report which appeared in The Globe of Saturday of the discussion in the House the previous day on this matter, Mr. Martin read a statement from Chief Inspector C. H. Green and an affidavit signed by Hiram Gray, the 86-year-old brother of the late Miss Gray.

The Chief Inspector's report, which was addressed to Mr. Martin and dated yesterday, reads, in full:

"Was Not in the Room."

"In accordance with your request that I investigate the case at Lloydtown, re the report published in The Globe of Feb. 20, given by Hiram Gray, brother of the deceased pensioner, Miss Gray, of whom it was reported that a Provincial Inspector, while making his inspection, had behaved in an ungentlemanly manner, I called on the niece of Miss Gray, a Mrs. Greenless of Schomberg, and she was very indignant about the pub-

licity given the case, and did not want to grant me an interview, but she finally consented. She reaffirmed the previous interview, and also stated that she owned the house in which Miss Gray lived, and that she visited her aunt regularly during her late illness. Hiram Gray, brother of the deceased pensioner, who was reported by The Globe as saying that Mrs. Greenless did not stay at the Gray's place, informed me that he had not discussed the report with any person since my last visit on Feb. 10; that no Globe reporter had interviewed him up until 3.30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, and that he was not in the room when the Inspector called, and did not hear anything the Inspector had said to his sister.

"He stated that Mrs. Greenless was present all the time the Inspector was there, and that he had expected his sister to pass away weeks before she did. He signed a statement to this effect, and it was witnessed by Mr. Finlay, the Inspector, in the presence of Mrs. Greenless."

Hiram Gray's affidavit, which was witnessed by Inspector J. R. Finlay, reads:

"I have not been interviewed by a Globe reporter and I was not present in the sickroom of my sister when the inspector was present, and, therefore, did not hear anything that was said.

"Mrs. Greenless was present when the inspector called and visited my sister quite frequently during her illness. (Signed) H. Gray."

"I hope that that will convince our friend The Globe that no bullying tactics were indulged in," said Hon. Mr. Martin. He stated that the inspectors were under instructions to show the utmost courtesy to pensioners, and not to act in any way suspiciously.

"It is not the province of the inspectors to be dictatorial, arbitrary or disrespectful," Mr. Martin emphasized, stating that the present sound basis of the Old Age Pensions Act's administration rests largely on the integrity of the inspectors.

Spoken to by The Globe last night, Mrs. Elizabeth Bond of Schomberg related that earlier in the day (yesterday) she was present when her uncle, Hiram Gray, was discussing the pension incident with Warden E. M. Legge of York County. During the conversation, she declared, her uncle vouched for the accuracy of the report of his statement as appearing in The Globe of Saturday, Feb. 20. Accordingly, she was at a loss to know what the affidavit could be.

Following the reference to the pension case in the House on Friday last, The Globe telephoned the Gray home and asked to speak to Mr. Gray. Mrs. Bond called her uncle, Mr. Gray, to the phone. Because of his age and defective hearing she repeated to him certain questions asked by The Globe. He answered the questions, and when they were not quite audible over the phone Mrs. Bond repeated his answers. These replies constituted the statement appearing in The Globe from Mr. Gray.

SUPPORT IS ASSURED FOR TOWNSHIP ROAD

Government Prepared to
Maintain Standard,
Says Macaulay

ENGINEERS' MEETING

"We have always felt that the question of building roads was outside and beyond politics," declared Hon. Leopold Macaulay, in the course of a brief address yesterday afternoon, welcoming 175 delegates to the eighteenth annual Conference on Road Construction, for County and Township Road Superintendents and Engineers, and the Minister continued: "So far as my department is concerned, let me assure you that there is no politics in it. Indeed, some of our engineers have been there since Whitney's time. Continuity is as important in road-building as anything I know of. You can't deal with it adequately under haphazard or log-rolling methods. If I can say anything today that will induce the municipalities to molest and change their officials as little as possible, I would desire to do so. I would suggest that every effort be made to retain the services of efficient, courteous and industrious engineers at all times."

Applause greeted the Minister's assurance that "If it be true that expenditures on the King's highways and the higher type of county roads may be materially cut down in times like these, there is one road that must be maintained—the township road—enabling the farmer to get out to his markets and on to the main roads, or else the whole system breaks down. I can assure you that the Government and the department will vote the essential amounts that may be deemed necessary to hold these township roads up to the standards of recent years."

Under the chairmanship of Robert C. Muir, Chief Engineer, Municipal Roads Branch, Department of Highways, various technical papers were read and discussed by the delegates.

The conference is proceeding today.

NIXON ATTACKS COST OF RUNNING APPRENTICE ACT

Asks Legislature to Halt
"Expensive Business" of
Commissions

SINCLAIR ALSO PROTESTS

Second reading to Hon. Dr. Joseph D. Monteith's bill to amend the Ontario Apprenticeship Act was given in the Legislature yesterday, but only after Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, and William E. N. Sinclair, head of the Liberal group, had vigorously protested one clause in the bill that would entrust future administration of the act to a Provincial Apprenticeship Committee.

"It is time," said Mr. Nixon, "that the Province called a halt on Government action of this sort—this unloading of Government responsibility upon Commissions. I notice two long lines of high-salaried Cabinet Ministers across the chamber here. There are no less than nine administrative Commissions in operation at the present time, and two new Commissions are to be appointed by legislation which is before the House.

\$33,000 to Collect \$38,000.

"Where is this expensive business going to end? It is high time the Legislature took a definite stand upon the question. Last year the Province spent \$33,000 in administering this Apprenticeship act to collect \$38,000 under its regulations. The cost of running it is out of all proportion to the administrative work accomplished."

"Would you vote to scrap the act altogether?" asked Dr. Monteith.

"Yes, I'd vote for that," Mr. Nixon unhesitatingly replied.

In the opinion of Mr. Sinclair the whole purport of the bill was "to pass the buck away from the Minister and the Government," and to turn its administration over to an independent committee.

"You've got the wrong idea of it?" put in Dr. Monteith.

"Maybe I have," replied Mr. Sinclair, "but I'm only interpreting the attitude of what I've seen in the press and the many letters which friends have written me. This act is your baby. You adopted it without first looking over its pedigree, and now you don't want the responsibility of looking after it. Turning it over to a Commission gives the Government a chance for a little more patronage. A little more expenditure of the public money, when you're preaching economy and urging every one to live up to it."

Asks Reprint of Law.

For the benefit of the ordinary members of the House, Mr. Sinclair urged of the Government that the present apprenticeship law be reprinted so that it could be studied along with the proposed amendments. Mr. Henry said that the Liberal Leader had no cause for worry about the difficulty of following the suggested amendments. "Any layman in the House can follow the legislation," said he, "if he cares to check up on it." A statement that there had been no amendments since 1928, when the law was first enacted, drew a correction from Mr. Sinclair, who indicated that several amendments had been brought down at the 1931 session.

"I went over the old bill hastily," said Mr. Henry. "I may have missed something."

"It just shows, after all," clicked Mr. Sinclair, "that all the laymen in the House aren't getting along as well with it as the Prime Minister stated."

Mr. Henry claimed that the House would be "entirely misled" were it to accept the argument of Mr. Nixon that all authority in connection with the act was being transferred to a Commission. The law to date had proved itself, and was further proving itself, in spite of the difficult times through which the Province was now passing.

D. J. Taylor (Progressive, North Grey), and T. A. Blakelock (Liberal, Halton), joined with their respective leaders, in criticism of various phases of the bill.