

States Proposal Constituted Shock, Hence His Protest

When Hon. William Finlayson Concludes Statement Before Committee Former Orillia Magistrate Rises to His Feet and Calls It "Camouflaged Harangue"—Gives Detailed Account of His Visit to Finlayson Office and Alleged Drawing-Up of Agreement—Declaration Document Produced by Globe

SUGGESTION TO DESTROY LETTER MADE BY PRICE, IS HIS EVIDENCE

Daniel McCaughrin, one-time Police Magistrate of Orillia, stood before a Legislature committee yesterday and detailed his charge of an attempt to buy him out of office. Later he heard two Ministers of the Crown, alleged parties to the attempt, describe him as a money-grabbing incompetent.

"A camouflaged harangue," he said of the Hon. William Finlayson's explanation of the case. "I'll say no more; it's not worth while," he added before Hon. William H. Price testified to "trying to do a kindly thing for an incompetent old man."

To the Conservative lawyers of the Private Bills Committee, Mr. McCaughrin described an interview in the office of Forests Minister Finlayson, at which, he said, it was agreed that his successor in office pay him \$2,000 for his resignation; he said, too, that his faith in the integrity of the Attorney-General of Ontario was demolished when Mr. Price agreed to the transaction.

Five-Hour Session.

The Ministers' replies closed a five-hour session of the committee, which adjourned apparently with the intention of hearing no more witnesses. Mr. Finlayson said "Absurd" to Mr. McCaughrin's claim he had been shocked at what he felt was trafficking in office; Mr. Price regretted only that he had not removed Mr. McCaughrin from office long before.

The committee made a long quest on the trail of Daniel McCaughrin's statutory declaration, which was first published in The Globe six weeks ago and which was brought to the committee table by the newspaper's President and Assistant Managing Editor.

Authorship of the declaration was traced to Harry Johnson, Secretary of the Ontario Liberal Association. At the close of yesterday's sitting Mr. McCaughrin made, and then retracted, a request that Mr. Johnson be called to testify.

First witnesses heard today were: Mr. W. G. Jaffray, President of The Globe; A. A. McIntosh, Assistant Managing Editor of The Globe; James Harvie, of Orillia, Mr. McCaughrin's solicitor; W. G. Bingham of Orillia, before whom the statutory declaration was signed; and two officers of the Attorney-General's Department.

Discussion With Editor.

Mr. Jaffray, first to testify, said he had no personal knowledge of the declaration's arrival at The Globe office. He had not seen it before its publication, but he had discussed the matter with Harry W. Anderson, Managing Editor of The Globe, and now confined to a hospital bed. He believed the documents were in the committee-room at the present time.

Mr. McIntosh, next sworn as witness, said his first knowledge of the McCaughrin case had been a casual mention from Mr. Anderson on, he believed, the day before publication of the declaration. Later the same afternoon he had been summoned to Mr. Anderson's office, where three men

were in conversation with The Globe editor. These men were Mr. McCaughrin, Harry Johnson and A. W. Roebuck.

"In what capacity were they there?" asked Wilfrid Heighington (Conservative, Toronto-St. David's).

"They didn't tell me," replied Mr. McIntosh; "it was only a casual conversation. There was no trial going on there; nobody had to identify himself."

Mr. McIntosh regretted the unavoidable absence of Mr. Anderson, who had all knowledge of the facts leading up to The Globe's publication of the documents. His own connection with the matter had been limited to conversations with Mr. Anderson, and to the one incident cited above, when he had been briefly in Mr. Anderson's office and had read Mr. McCaughrin's declaration.

Asks Protection of Law.

In reply to Mr. Macaulay's question about the present whereabouts of the declaration, Mr. McIntosh said: "I brought the documents here for the purpose of production and of helping the committee." He pointed out, however, that it was not the property of The Globe, but of Mr. McCaughrin, and that it had lain in The Globe's vault since December waiting for the owner to claim it. He asked that protection before the law be accorded The Globe in transferring the document to the committee.

This point was debated at some length, with lawyer-committeemen contributing largely, until Mr. McCaughrin, rising at the rear of the committee, said that he would produce his declaration, Clive A. Thomson, acting as solicitor for The Globe, argued that the document should be transferred to Mr. McCaughrin before production. Finally, on Mr. McCrea's ruling, the declara-

tion was passed over and became Exhibit 1 before the committee.

Alterations in the document, subsequently proved to have been initialled by Mr. McCaughrin, caught Mr. Macaulay's eye. He asked had the changes been made after the declaration reached The Globe office, but this Mr. McIntosh was unable to state from personal knowledge.

Photostatic Copy.

Mr. McCrea asked: "Why didn't you publish a photostatic copy of the declaration, as you did of the rest of the correspondence, showing the alterations?"

Mr. McIntosh—We were publishing merely news.

Mr. Macaulay—That would have been "news" to a lot of people, to know that there had been all these alterations. You mean, of course, that you were publishing the portion of the "news" which built up the case? There were photostatic reproductions of Mr. Price's and Mr. Finlayson's letters. Why did you stop at the declaration?

Mr. McIntosh—I don't know any reason why we should not.

Mr. McIntosh then formally identified two pages of The Globe—issues of Dec. 22 and 23—and these were entered as exhibits.

Mr. Macaulay—Tell me: Was that front-page story in The Globe written entirely in The Globe office, or did the "board of strategy" of the Liberal Party have a skeleton of it already written for you?

Mr. McIntosh—I don't know any "board of strategy." I don't know that there is such a board.

Mr. Macaulay—Don't you know, not only that there is such a board, but also the personnel?

Mr. McIntosh—I am sorry to say, I do not.

Mr. Macaulay—Come now, Mr. McIntosh, you are a newspaperman—

Mr. McIntosh—No one outside The Globe office writes a story of that kind.

"Reasons" Asked.

Junior committeemen pressed for the "reasons" which led Mr. McCaughrin to submit the declaration. Here again, Mr. McIntosh was unable to answer from personal knowledge. "It is an unfortunate circumstance," he said, "that I am here instead of Mr. Anderson, who made all arrangements."

Mr. Macaulay thought it a more unfortunate circumstance that The Globe did not publish a photostatic copy of the declaration itself. "Don't you think so, now?" he asked.

Mr. McIntosh, as a newspaperman, saw no reason to agree with Mr. Macaulay. "It occurs to me to say," he added, "that if Mr. Macaulay desires us to publish a facsimile tomorrow—mistakes and corrections and all—we shall be very glad to do so."

The correspondence between Mr. McCaughrin and Mr. Price, Mr. Finlayson and Mr. Gover, all published in photostat in The Globe, next were produced by Mr. McIntosh and entered as evidence.

Ethics Discussed.

W. A. Baird (Conservative, Toronto High Park) attempted to launch a discussion of the ethics of publishing letters marked "personal and confidential," but Chairman McCrea himself met this point by remarking that the "confidential" had applied not to The Globe, but to the recipient of the letters. Questioned by Mr. McCrea, Mr. McCaughrin told the committee he had not the least objection to tabling of the correspondence.

"I like The Globe," confessed Mr. McCrea. "I'm only trying to help them."

C. A. Seguin (Conservative, Russell) interrupted the testimony to quiz Mr. McIntosh on the latter's knowledge of the difference between a statutory declaration and an affidavit. "I'm not quite sure," admitted Mr. McIntosh. He had been told several times by lawyers, but he was still in the dark on the distinction. Mr. Seguin, a lawyer, painstakingly explained it again.