

HE OWNS UP.

Dalhousie Postmaster Confesses His Rascality.

CONSPIRED WITH A BOY TO ROB THE MAIL.

And Shared in the Proceeds.

Dalhousie, N.B., March 18.—The preliminary examination of Postmaster Johnson on the charge of stealing money from the post office commenced yesterday before Stidendiary Magistrate Smith. H. F. McLatchey, M.P.P., appeared for the post office authorities and W. Albert Mott for the accused.

George H. Chifferton's evidence was as follows: "I lately resided in Goldrock, (Ont.) and formerly lived in Dalhousie. I left for the west on August 12 last. I know the accused, J. A. Johnson. I knew him before I went west. I remember hearing of the robbery of the Dalhousie post office last summer. I know about this robbery. About a week previous to the robbery I was in the post office for my mail, and while there the postmaster said to me, 'Do you think there is an easier way of making money than working?' I answered probably there is. He said, there is a pretty good haul in here some nights. If we could get it we would be all right. I answered it would not be all right if we were caught. He said we won't be caught, no fear.

"A few days after the postmaster asked me if I had been thinking the matter over. We might just as well have it as not. I answered it was pretty risky. The following night he spoke about it again. He said, 'There is a pretty good haul tonight.' I asked him how much there was. He answered 'nearly \$400.' I said better wait, it may be better some other night.

"The next night he asked me to come in and I went and asked if there was anything for our house. He answered, 'There is something for our house tonight.' I asked how much. He answered \$500 or more; he asked me if I would take it. He said 'the bolt will be torn off the window and the drawer broke. All you will have to do is step in and take it. Will you come?' He said everything would be all right. I answered yes.

The Robbery in Detail.

"He took me where the registered letter place was and pointed out the drawer where the money would be. A night or two before the robbery he told me all I wanted was a piece of crooked iron to pry the window open. I answered it would make too much noise. He said, 'I will tear off the bolt and have them on the floor and it will look as if they were pried off. I will break open the drawer.'

"The robbery took place on 30th July last. About 10 o'clock p. m. I climbed over the north fence of the post office and went through the window. I gave the sash a push and the window went open. The window opens inward and when inside the post office I found the drawer previously shown me by the postmaster broken just as Johnson said he would leave it.

"I took the money out of the drawer and went out of the building the same way as I came in. I went home and counted the money and found there was \$428. I kept the money in my room that night tied up in a handkerchief. Next morning I hid it in a barn and went to the post office that night. The postmaster told me he had wired the inspector about the robbery and some one will be here tomorrow."

"The following night Johnson said 'somebody is here, be careful and not take any liquor; if you get drunk you will tell.' The night following he told me the detective was here and said, 'you must watch and be careful how you move around.' He told me to keep the money for one week until talk died out. I kept the money for nearly that time. He asked me how much there was. I told him the amount. He answered '\$214 each; that's all right. Give me my half any time you like.' I answered tomorrow night.

"The next night I gave him one-half of the money in the post office. On asking him if we would be found out he answered there was no danger.

"Three or four days afterwards I went west to Winnipeg and Holland, Manitoba. I received several letters while in Holland."

The letters were marked for identifica-

tion but at this stage were not placed in evidence.

Johnson's Confession.

Inspector Coler's evidence was as follows: "From information received from Postmaster Johnson I made an inspection of the post office August 1 last. On entering the post office Johnson informed me the place had been broken into on July 30 and robbed of the sum of \$500 in bills.

"On making this inspection and on an examination of the stubs of the postmaster's cash book I found a shortage of \$500, which the postmaster said had been stolen from the official drawer of the post office.

Detective Chamberlain's evidence was: "On instructions from Ottawa I was ordered to arrest Postmaster Johnson for theft, which I did. I saw him in jail the same afternoon and took him into the sheriff's office and told him I would take a statement from him if he had anything to give. I told him that I had already warned him that anything he would say might be used against him as evidence, and anything he did say must be of his own free will.

"I told him Chifferton had confessed all and handed him copies of letters found on Chifferton and asked him if he knew anything about these letters. He answered 'yes,' and told me they were copies of letters written by him to Chifferton and that he and Chifferton had robbed the post office, that he had been led into it without thinking of the consequences. He gave me a written statement to that effect written by himself."

The letters received by Chifferton at Holland, Manitoba, and also the prisoner's confession were placed in evidence. The confession was written by Johnson himself.

The accused called no witness and Stidendiary Smith committed the accused for trial, which will take place Tuesday next.

In regard to the charge against Johnson for sending poisoned candy through the mail, application was made for a remand until the 23rd, as the crown's witnesses from Northern Ontario have not arrived, which was granted.

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Mar. 14—smw31—2w1mo

MOWATT MUST GO

Is Raised Anew as a Tory Rallying Cry.

McLEAN'S ATTACK ON THE GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO

Warmly Resented by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Ottawa, March 18.—In the House yesterday W. F. MacLean, East York, said he proposed to call attention to a grave condition of affairs in Ontario, where a political crisis existed which was drawing the notice of all Canada. Certain circumstances had been made public which reflected on the moral and political tone of the province; the honor of the province and its politicians was involved. At the present moment the lieutenant governor had exceeded his term but he was still holding office, a thing which was most improper. Besides his health was such that he was not able to discharge the duties of his office.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said he did not believe Mr. MacLean had read the constitution of which he claimed to be the champion, for if he had he would have known that a lieutenant governor was not appointed for any term of years, but during the pleasure of the governor general, and the section of the B. N. A. act went on to say that for five years they should not be removable except for cause, but after that their tenure was in the hands of the governor general. There had never been a case where a lieutenant governor had been replaced immediately after the end of five years. Was the government to be told that in the case of an old and venerable public man like Sir Oliver Mowat it was to use the axe?

Mr. MacLean asserted that the lieutenant governor of Ontario was not in fit health to perform his duties. Had anything ever been said in the press against the mental capacity of Sir Oliver Mowat? Not a word. It was well known that his mind was clear and bright. If he was physically incapable of occupying the position, he had too high a sense of honor to occupy it for one day longer than he should. (Liberal cheers.)

"There is a crisis in Ontario today," the premier went on. "Is this the time to remove from the helm a man of such experience, of such knowledge, of such broad honor as Sir Oliver Mowat? Besides, if we were to remove him I think we would be doing a great crime against the province. If we were to take away the useful and experienced hand though enfeebled by age, it would be a crime against Ontario. It would be the better duty of the hon. gentleman who raised this question to wait until the crisis has passed before he calls on the government to remove Sir Oliver Mowat from the position he honors and adorns.

"In this is only a repetition of the cries which were familiar 20 years ago, of Mowatt must go. I am sorry to hear that cry again today. The people would not sanction such a cry at that time, nor do I believe today. So deep is he in the affection of the people, that they would not support us if we were to follow the advice of the honorable gentleman which we shall not follow."

Lord Liberal cheers greeted the close of the premier's speech, which was delivered with all the fire and energy of his best efforts.

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March 13—d&w2wks

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