

Arrest of Collector Carmichael.

Considerable surprise was created on Saturday by the arrest of J. W. Carmichael, Collector of Taxes for the Township of McKim, on warrants issued by G. Harwood, Esq., J.P., charged with having on or about Nov. 25th, unjustly collected from Wm. Hamilton the sum of \$7.75, and from P. McNulty \$6.75, purporting to be taxes due the municipality. The complaints were entered in the case of Hamilton by Mr. H. Winters, and in the other by Mr. T. L. Walker. The trial took place at 5 p. m., in the Court House, before Mr. Harwood; Mr. M. C. Bigger for the prosecution, and Mr. G. E. K. Cross for the defendant. Mr. Cross objected to the jurisdiction of Mr. Harwood, and to irregularities in mode of procedure throughout and defence refused to plead guilty or otherwise.

The evidence of Mr. T. J. Ryan, clerk of the municipality, proved the appointment of defendant as assessor and collector, and that neither Hamilton or McNulty's name was on either the assessment or collector's roll. He had assisted Mr. Carmichael in making up the assessment roll, and it was quite possible that some names taken on memo. by Carmichael may have been omitted.

W. Hamilton and P. McNulty gave evidence as to the payment of the sums mentioned above, and the former had received a letter from Mr. Carmichael, saying that if he didn't get a vote his taxes would be refunded to himself and others.

The judgment of the Court was that Mr. Carmichael be committed to the next court of competent jurisdiction for trial. Bail was offered but refused.

Mr. Carmichael was taken on Sunday to Pembroke, where bail was accepted, and he returned home on Tuesday morning.

In connection with this matter the following letter was sent to Mr. Harwood:—

GUSTAVUS HARWOOD, Esq.

Dear Sir:—Mr. J. W. Carmichael was promptly admitted to bail to-day on the charges of unjustly and fraudulently collecting taxes from McNulty and Hamilton, as these charges appeared as set forth in the warrant of commitment. We beg to inform you that these charges are not the grounds of criminal prosecution at all, and that if any more of them are made we will have to lay the matter before the Attorney-General and you will be liable in a civil action for damages for it would clearly show malice on your part if you should entertain another of these cases. There can be but one result of the present prosecutions when they come down to trial, namely, the prompt discharge, and acquittal of Carmichael, and a heavy bill of expense to which the attention of the Government will undoubtedly be drawn. We send you this letter that you may have full notice that these matters cannot be taken cognizance of criminally. We remain yours, etc.,

DEACON & DELAHAYE.