

Carleton Sentinel Supplement, May 14, 1898.

OTTAWA LETTER.

Ottawa, 6th May, 1898.

The Plebiscite Bill practically passed the House on Tuesday last. There is a further stage; but that will not cause any delay. The two principal features of the debate on Tuesday were Mr Foster's cunning speech, and the premier's clear and effective reply. Mr Foster is nothing if he is not a logic chopper, a splitter of hairs, a propounder of abstract and irrelevant propositions one on top of the other—for all the world, as Mr Blair tritely put it a short time ago, like a man baking pancakes. On this occasion his expertness in these regards was put to a severe test; for he was in a position of not wishing to stultify himself on the question of prohibition, and yet he was most desirous of placing as many obstacles as possible in the way of the Plebiscite Bill.

Of course, Mr Foster charged the Government with being insincere in this matter, and he made a desperate effort to have it appear that some of the Ministers had changed front. It need scarcely be said that this is the easiest and most ancient form of attack in political warfare. No one ever hears an Opposition member credit anybody on the Government side of the House with a good motive; duplicity and corruption are always charged. He was not able, however, to support his assertions with facts, nor was he able to present a strong line of argument in that direction. He could simply taunt and insinuate, which is at all times an easy thing to do.

He devoted most of his time in asking petty questions in a very important way, calculated to becloud the issue and draw the Government into replies that he might compromise them. He wanted to know the precise date when the voting would take place, and he demanded to know the character of the measure which the Government would introduce in the event of the plebiscite being carried in the affirmative, and how soon after the voting such measure would be brought down. He declared with great emphasis that the country had a right to know just what the Government would regard as a majority vote. In this fashion he asked many questions, clearly intended to perplex the Government, and to hinder the passing of the bill. For himself, he quite discounted the value of a plebiscite, and asserted that, beyond the educative effects of the canvass, the voting would be of no service whatever. In conclusion, he blew a loud and long blast on his own horn respecting his status and record as a temperance man.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier took up Mr Foster's speech at the point where he had left off, and it was a treat to hear him, in his picturesque and expressive English, expose the member for York. He pointed to the fact that in Mr Foster's early years in the House he had been a most aggressive prohibitionist, declaring from session to session that the time had come for the adoption and rigorous enforcement of a prohibitory law. When, however, he came to be a member of the Government, he had slowly sunk into a dormant state. For seven long years he had been silent on the matter, his last utterance on the subject having been made on the 24th June, 1891. In that year Mr Foster had declared that the Government required to have information on a great many important questions before they could take a decisive step towards legislation.

Sir Wilfrid declared that, at a cost of nearly \$200,000, a Royal Commission had provided the information which Mr Foster desired; but whether enlightened or not thereby, he had not opened his lips again on the subject. It was later in his speech, however, that Sir Wilfrid summed up Mr Foster's position in a single sentence, when he said: "There are two men in the Honorable gentleman; there is the temperance man, a very small man, and the party man, a very big man. He wants to discount the Bill; but the only thing the people are looking for at the present time is an opportunity to express their views on this question." It will be generally conceded that this hits off Mr Foster to a nicety, and if there is any one who has a doubt about it, that doubt will disappear on reading the full text of Mr Foster's speech.

Sir Charles Tupper returned to the House on Tuesday after two or three days absence. It is said that he spent quite a time undergoing dental treatment, and this probably accounts for the exceedingly bad temper he has shown since he came back. On Wednesday he indulged in a particularly fierce attack on the Governor General, apropos of Lord Aberdeen's refusal to sign certain recommendations which Sir Charles had made after the defeat of his Government in 1896. The facts of the matter are familiar to everybody; but the leader of the Opposition, who feels very sore against the Governor General, took advantage of a return brought down to have a fresh fling at His Excellency. His remarks were positively brutal in their coarseness, and he was taken very sharply to task by the Premier therefor.

The following day Sir Charles broke out in a fresh spot. This time General Gascoigne was the subject of his choice vituperation, and when Sir Wilfrid Laurier invited Sir Charles to pay some respect to the General's office and rank, he replied that he would not show respect to a cad simply because he wore a red coat. Incidentally, it may be remarked that it was on General Gascoigne's recommendation that Major General Cameron, who is Sir Charles' son-in-law, was dismissed from a lucrative office in the Royal Military college at Kingston; but it is hardly probable that a high-minded man like the leader of the Opposition would allow a little personal matter of this nature to engender hard feelings against General Gascoigne.

Fair progress is being made towards propagation about the end of this month. The estimates represent the principal item of business, and these would be hurried through if it were not for the scrappy disposition of the Conservatives. Scarcely an appropriation comes up but they take occasion to as-

sail the Government for the dismissals that have taken place, and in this connection they have already brought about a number of unseemly wrangles. There are very few fair-minded men who believe that the Opposition have anything to complain of on the score of dismissals. If they only realized the pressure that has been brought to bear on Ministers to increase the number of removals, and frequently for good causes, they would be silent. The Government has treated civil servants with great consideration, and Conservatives at large will probably recognize this, notwithstanding the indiscretion of their representatives here.

The Military contingent for the Klondike, left Ottawa this afternoon. They number over two hundred, and are a fine body of hardy fellows, just the sort for a service of this nature. Each man carried on his back a heavy outfit, of the character necessary for the Yukon country. They went away with bands playing and the people cheering; but in the very nature of things it will not be long before severe and trying hardships will be upon them. At Victoria they will be joined by the four trained nurses who are going out to look after the sick and suffering on the gold fields.

The Drummond county investigation is getting worse and worse for the Conservatives. After a couple of weeks respite, the inquiry was resumed to-day. Mr Farwell was placed on the stand, and his testimony was of the most interesting character. Mr Farwell is the president of the Drummond County Railway Company and is at the same time the president of the Eastern Townships Conservative Association. In fact, he is the head and front of the Conservative party in the English speaking section of the Province of Quebec, and has been for many years. Under cross examination to-day, he reluctantly admitted that he had seen a letter to Rufus Pope, M P, from Sir Charles Tupper, in the spring of 1896, which would be when Sir Charles was Secretary of State in the Bowell government, making an unconditional offer to purchase the Drummond county road for \$2,500,000 in cash, or to lease it for \$100,000 per annum. This is direct corroboration of the evidence given on a previous occasion by Mr Greenshields. In the light of Sir Charles Tupper's furious denunciation of the Drummond county transaction, what will Conservatives think of this somewhat startling testimony? And this, too, in the inquiry that was to reveal such shocking corruption and improvidence on the part of Mr Blair!

ST. JOHN LETTER.

To prevent fraudulent advertising—Notes of the city—The markets, etc.

Advertising of late has become a science and in some of the American cities experts in writing advertisements are almost as common as experts in the framing of legal documents. Formerly the writers of patent medicine advertisements were looked upon as the most imaginary of romancers; then came the mining companies and stock brokers and last of all the "bargain counter", where goods are usually sold at an advance of ten to 20 per cent on regular prices. The New York legislature has recently passed a law respecting fraudulent advertising of which the following is the principal section: Any firm, person or partnership of persons, or any employee of a firm, person or partnership of persons, who either in the newspapers or other periodicals of this State, or in public advertisements, or in communications intended for a large number of persons, wilfully makes or disseminates any statements or assertions of facts with respect to his, her, or their business affairs, especially concerning the quantity, the quality, the value, the price, the method of production or manufacture, or the fixing of prices of his, her, or their merchandise or professional work; or the manner or source of purchase of such merchandise, or the possession of awards, prizes, or distinctions; or the motive or purchase of a sale, intended to have the appearance of a particularly advantageous offer, which are untrue or calculated to mislead, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. If the enforcement of this law should ensue, which is extremely doubtful, the "bargain hunter" will lose her occupation and to many a woman the burden of life will become too heavy to be borne.

The St John Medical Society held its regular monthly meeting on Partridge Island last Wednesday.

Two grocery teams ran away and one young lady was run over by a bicyclist last Wednesday.

A special train of five cars passed through the city last Wednesday loaded with Newfoundlanders bound for Crow's Nest pass.

The gold brick fakir, "direct from Klondike", harvested a few shekels in the city last week.

Magistrate Ritchie and the city council are at loggerheads. Job was a fiery youth compared with some of our people.

The receipts at the Custom house last Thursday were \$4,020 34.

"A poor waylaring man of grief," aged 88 years, was arrested last Thursday for stealing coal from the I O R yard; perhaps five cents worth. He was allowed his liberty without trial.

Prices of flour and provisions are not seriously affected by the war because its speedy termination is anticipated. Manitoba flour is quoted to-day at \$6 75; high grade Ontario \$6; oatmeal \$4 40; cornmeal \$2 30; beans \$1.15 per bushel. Pork, beef and lard are firm at last quotations. Granulated sugar sells at 4½ and yellows at 4 to 4½ cents. Porto Rico and Barbadoes molasses are firm but prices are unchanged. Timothy seed has advanced 10 cents per bushel and clover seed ½ cent per pound.

The Jews of this city have arrived at an amicable settlement of their religious differences.

Nathan Parks made a precipitate transition from rum to water when he went over north wharf last Friday. He was fished out of the slip with a good deal of difficulty.

Ten deaths were registered in the city last week. EDWARD EDWARDS.

St John, May 9.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From our Regular Correspondent]

WASHINGTON, D C, May 6, 1898.

Washington has not had such a week of rejoicing in many years as the present one has been. It was expected that Commodore Dewey would win a victory with the Asiatic squadron, but he exceeded expectations by wiping out the whole Spanish fleet, capturing Manila, and practically the whole group of Philippine Islands—a victory that writes his name high up on the roll of the world's naval heroes, and that will make the battle of Manila harbor figure in song and story as long as brave and daring deeds are honored among men; and that has already given him an admiral's flag. The official report of the battle of Manila harbor has been received, and it is a report of which every American has a right to be proud. It will be received all over the world as an unanswerable tribute to the fighting quality of American sailors, and its effect will be seen for years to come in increased respect and deference paid to the stars and stripes by all foreign nations.

Commodore Dewey's victory is not the only cause for rejoicing in Washington. It is known that orders have been issued, the exact nature of which is known to a few but which it would be both injudicious and unpatriotic to make public now, which there is every reason to believe will result in as crushing a blow to the power of Spain as was the loss of its Asiatic fleet and of the Philippine Islands. There is a general feeling that the fighting is to be pushed now and the war fought to a speedy and victorious close. That is certainly the intention of the administration and of Congress. Porto Rico, Cuba and the Spanish navy, all are marked as our prey.

The Postmaster General issued a very significant order this week. It provides for the establishment of postal service in the Cuban port first occupied by the U S, and appointed a special agent to organize the service, and that special agent has been authorized upon his arrival with the mail at such port in Cuba as may first be occupied by the U S, to rent suitable quarters for handling the mails, if they cannot be furnished free by the military authorities.

Orders have been issued requiring all army officers to wear the uniform of their rank at the places where they may be stationed. These orders will facilitate the business of the War and Navy department in various ways, and will be of much service to business men having dealings with those departments by enabling them to know the difference between the officers attached to those departments and the civilian employees at a glance. It will also save army and navy officers who are unknown to the employees, whose duty it is to watch every person who enters the building, the annoyance of being held up until they have been identified.

The Senate Finance committee gave Secretaries Gage, Long, and Alger, impossible tasks to perform, in asking them to furnish the committee with accurate estimates of what the war will cost. The best that any man can do is to guess, owing to the uncertainty as to the length of the war. Secretary Gage's guess was that the war expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1st next, provided, of course, that the war continued that long, would be about \$300,000,000; Secretary Alger thought about half of that would be needed by the War Department, and Secretary Long said he would do some figuring before submitting his guess. \$140,000,000 will have been spent on accounts of the war before July 1. Meanwhile the Finance committee is trying to agree on the report to be made on the war revenue bill passed by the House last week. An agreement may be reached at any time, but it will not be surprising if the bill is not reported to the Senate until next week. The clause for the issue of bonds is being bitterly fought, but it is the opinion both of its opponents and supporters that it will be left in the bill.

The President doubtless offended a few people, prominent in the political and social world, when he announced that under no circumstances would he give a general's commission in the volunteer army to a man who had not had experience as a soldier, but he pleased thousands, and his action will make him new admirers all over the country among those who believe that the principal business of a volunteer army is to fight, and that it should be officered by men who know how to conduct that business. It is only those in Washington, who know of the enormous pressure that had been brought to bear in favor of the would-be parlor generals, who can fully appreciate the backbone displayed by the President in turning the whole crowd down for good and all. Of the 11 major generals, whose nominations have been sent to the Senate, all, except four of the major generals, are officers in the regular army. The four outsiders named for major generals are all men who have brilliant military records in the late war—Senator Sewell of N J, and General James H Wilson, Delaware, representing the Union army, and General Fitzhugh Lee, of Va, and General Joseph Wheeler of Ala, representing the Southern army.

The following conversation occurred at the White House between ex-Senator Butler of SC, who has been strongly recommended for a commission in the volunteer army, and Secretary Alger. Alger—How is your health now, Butler? You look as young as you did 20 years ago. Butler—Well, all I can say is that I secured a \$10,000 increase in my life insurance a few months ago, and the examining surgeon says I am good for 25 years yet. There is one thing certain—I cannot take yellow fever in this, (exhibiting his wooden leg, with a chuckle); you Yankees filled its predecessor full of lead in the late war, and I have the bullets with me as souvenirs.

Gen Butler is past sixty years old, and so is Commodore Dewey.

The Tamworth hog seems to be the only animal in swineedom that is now looked for by those in quest of feeders for the production of bacon.