

Carleton Sentinel Supplement, May 21, 1898.

OTTAWA LETTER.

Ottawa, 14th May, 1898.

The principal event of the week has been the attempt on the part of several of the Conservative members to revive the Manitoba School question, and the complete failure of that unworthy effort. The subject was brought up by Mr McDougall, of Cape Breton, on a motion to go into supply, and in a speech of more than an hour's length he charged the government with not having fulfilled their pledge to settle this much vexed question. He spoke from the standpoint of a Roman Catholic, and claimed that his co-religionists in Manitoba were still suffering under the grievances of which they had so long and bitterly complained.

When Mr McDougall sat down, it soon became apparent that his somewhat labored speech was intended merely as an introduction for a more elaborate attack on the Government by Mr Bergeron. This gentleman was particularly anxious to fasten upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier the reproach of having sought to settle the School Question through an appeal to His Holiness the Pope, and in direct defiance of the hierarchy in Canada. At the same time, he charged the government with duplicity in having settled the matter with the Manitoba Government without reference at all to the minority in that province. Following up the text adopted by Mr McDougall, he alleged that it was mere mockery to say that a settlement had been brought about, inasmuch as the rights of the Roman Catholics in Manitoba were still disregarded. He made much of the petition to His Holiness the Pope and was quite clearly bidding for the approval of the Quebec Bishops, whose authority and views he alleged had been set at naught by the Premier.

Mr Wallace followed, Mr Bergeron had aimed to arouse Roman Catholic prejudice against the Government, and now the Grand Orange Master took advantage of the occasion to make what Sir Wilfrid Laurier afterwards very properly characterized as a strong no-Popery speech, manifestly intended to influence the ultra Protestant element in the country. His chief theme was the infallibility of the Pope, and it is perhaps needless to say that he waxed warm in the refutation of this dogma of the Roman Catholic Church. It was very interesting to hear these antithetic views coming from the same side of the House; but the object was so transparent that the effort must necessarily be abortive.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's reply was characteristically broad-minded, definite and patriotic. At one point he said: "The Memorial which has been read was never sent by me to the Holy See, or to the Propaganda or Cardinal Secretary of State. I shall explain in a minute how and under what circumstances I wrote that document, but that I ever sent it to Rome is a statement which is not true; not that I would not claim the right to send a document to Rome if I chose to do so. I am a Roman Catholic and a British subject. I have no other temporal sovereign than Queen Victoria, but I belong to the Church which, in religious matters, acknowledges the supremacy of the Pope of Rome, and I would have been quite within my right if I had done so. I did not do so. I never appealed to any authority upon the Manitoba School Question other than the authority of the Canadian people."

The dignified and straightforward speech of the Premier found strong acceptance in the House, and aroused the Liberals, particularly the French Canadians, to a high state of enthusiasm. Sir Wilfrid vigorously deprecated the miserable effort to resurrect a question that had been disposed of and should be allowed to so remain. If, however, the course of the Government in this matter were challenged by a clear and definite resolution, he was prepared to vindicate the action of the Ministry. He would not pretend to say that the settlement effected was perfect; but such as it was, there it stood.

Two or three other members spoke on the question, and then the debate suddenly fizzled up, which was a fitting termination to an utterly despicable effort to fan again into flame the sectarian fires that have happily all but died out during the past two years. In all good conscience it may be safely said that the Canadian people at large want to hear no more about the Manitoba School Question. It is dead and buried, and should be allowed to rest in peace. No earthly good can possibly come from its resurrection.

This effort of Mr Bergeron to re-open the Manitoba School Question, is the first step in a movement which has for his object the setting up of that gentleman as the leader of the French Canadian Conservatives. The old Conservative leaders in Quebec are completely out of touch with Sir Charles Tupper. Chapleau has cut himself away from the party, Taillon and Angers have sunk into silence, Caron is discredited, Omet is on the bench and Dupont is dead. In this situation Sir Charles has picked up Mr Bergeron as the best man fitted to become his French Canadian lieutenant, and when he has given that gentleman the necessary status it is understood that his next move will be to establish a strong French Canadian morning paper in Montreal. It remains to be seen how this programme will work out.

Another exceedingly interesting chapter was added yesterday to the story of the Drummond County Railway. It will be remembered that, at the last sitting of the committee, Mr Farwell testified that he had seen a letter written by Sir Charles Tupper to Mr Rufus Pope, M. P., in the spring of 1896, offering to purchase the railway for \$2,500,000, or to lease it for an annual rental of \$100,000. This evidence very naturally occasioned a great deal of commotion among the Conservatives, and it was felt that an extraordinary effort would have to be made to counteract the impression which would be created in the public mind.

Sir Charles Tupper positively denied having written the letter referred to. Sir Charles has a notoriously defective memory, and in speaking directly from recollection there is

always room for the suspicion that he may be mistaken. He has erred in this respect on very many occasions. That he spoke with great positiveness, is simply characteristic of the man in all relations.

Mr Pope's story was, however, a most extraordinary thing. He did not deny having shown Mr Farwell a letter, purporting to have come from Sir Charles Tupper, who was then a member of the Government and the prospective Premier; but he declared that Sir Charles had not written him such a letter. He thought it probable that he had concocted the communication simply as an election measure, a thing which he declared he would not have the slightest hesitation in doing at any time under such circumstances.

Leaving aside the moral view of Mr Pope's statement, two or three questions are suggested, which are calculated to weaken this surprising line of defence. In the first place, Mr Farwell was the most influential Conservative in that section of Quebec, and it would seem to be as unnecessary as it was heartless to put up a job of this kind on him. In the next place, it seems improbable that Mr Pope would dare to write such a letter unless he had Sir Charles' consent to do so. If this consent were given, it will be seen that it was intended to serve the purpose of deceiving Mr Farwell and others and enable Sir Charles to repudiate the letter in the event of the elections going against him. In the straightforward and honest judgment of the people at large, a course of this kind will probably be as thoroughly condemned as though Sir Charles had actually written the letter and Mr Pope had played an honorable part in the matter.

Lord Aberdeen has tendered his resignation as Governor General, to take effect in November next. His full term expires in September, and it will be greatly regretted that he could not be prevailed upon to permit an extension. Lord and Lady Aberdeen have made themselves exceedingly popular throughout Canada, having identified themselves in a most sympathetic and active way with the life of the people in a more direct and general way than any of their predecessors. They will be greatly missed.

ST. JOHN LETTER.

Civilization vs Barbarism—City notes—The markets, etc.

The London Spectator says that the continental powers and the alien residents of the United States have always been trying to foment discord between the republic and the mother country because they dreaded the overshadowing influence of the two powers, if they worked in harmony, on the destinies of the world. Intelligent subjects of both the United States and Great Britain have always known this, and happily for the world, intelligence on this continent is beginning to assert itself. In future the Anti-British American will be regarded as Anti-American as well and especial care will be taken that he has no voice in the management of public affairs. From the Gulf of Mexico north this is an Anglo-Saxon country, and, living in amity with Great Britain, the Anglo-Saxon can laugh at the assaults of all of the other powers of the world united.

Four slight fires occurred in different parts of the city last Tuesday.

The Portland Rolling Mills Co, it is said, are going into liquidation.

It is rumored that the Prince Rupert will soon sail between D'gby and Boston instead of between Yarmouth and Boston as heretofore.

Tourist travel is not expected to pan out very largely this season.

A good many buildings are under construction in the city.

The public squares are very green and some of the trees are beginning to put out their leaves.

A couple of toughs will engage in a slugging match at the Mechanics' Institute this evening.

The celebrated Rev D. Lorrimer delivered an eloquent address in the Brussels street Baptist church last Thursday evening.

A new vinegar, pickling and preserving factory will be established in the near future.

Summer seems the time for the society musical instruments such as the guitar, banjo, mandolin, etc. F. A. Peters jr. tells me they are becoming more popular than ever this year. One reason, he says, is that such good instruments can now be had so cheaply. Good guitars, banjos and mandolins are sold from \$6 to \$10 and up. Mr Peters knows these instruments and takes pride in selecting for mail orders. The Scribner organ, he says, continues to add to its popularity.

Fishery overseer D. G. Smith of Chatham deposited 20,000 salmon fry in Loch Lomond a few days ago.

More than anything else the prohibition of the export of wheat from Russia and the removal of the duty on that cereal in France and Italy are responsible for the advance in breadstuffs in Canada and the United States. Manitoba flours are quoted to-day at \$7.80; Ontario \$6.25 to \$6.50; oatmeal \$4.60 and cornmeal \$2.35. Beans are firm at \$1.20 to \$1.30; plate beef \$16; lard 8½ to 9½ cents; canned beef 2 lbs \$2.85, and pounds \$1.55 per dozen. Lunch tongue has advanced 25 cents per dozen and starches ¼ cent per pound. Large cod sells at \$3.60, medium \$3.50 and pollock \$2.20 per 100 pounds. A further advance in sugar is expected, and all desirable grades of tea have been marked up in London from a farthing to a half penny per pound. Butter is in demand at 18 cents and eggs are in limited supply at 10 cents. Business about the wharves is very active, country merchants generally anticipating a still further advance in prices of such staples as breadstuffs, meats, sugar, molasses, etc. Northrup & Co are overwhelmed with orders for their Golden Haddies, Kipper Herring, Lyspreaux. Clams and other canned goods from points along the O. P. R. all the way to Vancouver.

Eighteen deaths, two marriages and ten deaths were registered in the city last week.

EDWARD EDWARDS.

St John, May 16.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From our Regular Correspondent]

Washington, D. C., May 13, '98.

The greatest disappointment of the war came to Washington this week, when it became known that the Spanish fleet which Admiral Sampson was sent out to annihilate had gone to Spain, instead of coming to Cuban waters, from Cape Verde.

The news came just when almost everybody there were a few including some prominent naval officials who never believed that Spain would send the Cape Verde fleet where Sampson could get at it—was expecting to hear of a battle between the two fleets.

The administration has received direct information from the commander of the insurgent army in Cuba which makes it evident that little aid can be given by the insurgents in the contemplated attack upon Havana. There are lots of the insurgents, but they are scattered about in inaccessible places, with no means of rapid concentration or even of rapid communication with each other. This has made it necessary to increase the strength of the army sent to Cuba. It is now contemplated to send at least 60,000 men there just as quick as possible. While the official plans are carefully guarded, it is known that the first landing of troops in Cuba is expected to be made inside of five days.

The first batch of recruits for Admiral Dewey—he was nominated and confirmed Rear Admiral this week—has already started from San Francisco on the cruiser Charleston, and others are to go as fast as the ships to carry them can be got ready. The administration has fully decided that the Philippine Islands are to be held at all hazards during the war. What will be done with them afterwards has not been officially considered, but the sentiment in favor of retaining them permanently is rapidly growing in Congress, and one member of the Cabinet is credited with having said that he favored keeping them.

Secret service officials say there is ample evidence to secure the conviction of the ex-ssailor with several names who is in a steel cage at the Washington barracks, charged with being a Spanish spy. It is claimed that documents found on the prisoner and in his baggage leave no doubt of his guilt. He will be tried by court martial and if found guilty will be hung.

The Senate this week adopted by a vote of 39 to 10 the resolution providing for submitting to the legislatures of the several states an amendment to the Federal constitution, changing the date for the beginning of the presidential term from March 4th to May 4th, the change to take effect in 1901. If adopted, this would add two months to the length of the present administration, and to the terms of senators which would otherwise expire March 3, 1901, and to the term of the House that will be elected this year. This last is regarded as the best and most important. There is not sufficient time between the first Monday in December and the 4th of March, the legal limit of the short sessions of Congress, to properly prepare the regular annual appropriation bills; consequently other important legislation is almost always neglected at the short sessions. Much could be done in the two months that this amendment would add.

In offering a concurrent resolution providing for a congressional recess from June 6 to July 19, Representative Dockery, of Mo., made a counter move against those who are planning for the early adjournment of Congress. Mr Dockery thinks it would be better for Congress to take a recess, or several of them, if the war continues, than to adjourn while the war is going on, while Speaker Reed and others say there is no reason why Congress should remain in session after it has provided all the money that will be needed by the administration to carry on the war. Mr Dockery's resolution is before the Ways and Means committee, and will probably stay there as long as the speaker desires, but the Senate will have to be reckoned with, and it would not be surprising to see Mr Dockery's idea carried out, even if his resolution is smothered.

The annexation of Hawaii has been much discussed this week. All of those who favor our keeping the Philippine Islands are anxious to hurry up Hawaiian annexation. The House committee on Foreign Relations has favorably reported a joint resolution providing for the annexation of Hawaii, and it will be adopted by the House, and Senators say it can be forced through the Senate in two or three weeks. The other side of the annexation question is represented by a resolution offered by Representative Johnson, of Ind., who is opposed to annexation under any circumstances or conditions, providing for the appointment of commissioners by the president to act with commissioners appointed by Great Britain, Germany, Russia, France, Austria-Hungary, Japan and China, in formulating a plan for the permanent neutralization and independence of Hawaii, and prevention of any nation taking possession thereof either directly or indirectly. This resolution is mentioned merely as a legislative curiosity; it could not command a dozen votes in Congress.

The House has recorded itself in favor of the election of senators by direct vote.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

LONDON, May 13.—In the election held yesterday in the south division of Norfolk, for a successor in Parliament to Mr Francis Taylor, Liberal Unionist, who resigned his seat, the Liberal candidate, Mr Holmes, was elected by a majority of 1330.

HAVANA, May 13.—The first political step taken by the Cuban Congress after it was definitely constituted, was to appoint a commission which would send through the Spanish Government to the Powers and to the United States a protest against American intervention in Cuban affairs, declaring the entire adherence of the people of Cuba and the colonial authorities to Spain and the Spanish Government.