

Carleton Sentinel Supplement, May 28, 1898.

OTTAWA LETTER.

Ottawa, 20th May, 1898.

The session is perceptibly nearing a close. There are always indications of the end which the experienced eye cannot fail to notice, and some of these symptoms are prominently in evidence. The members are restless, quite a number have gone home, the sittings of the House are poorly attended, little interest is manifested in the verbal encounters that spring up from time to time, and there is a general disposition to talk about getting away. Very little business of importance remains to be transacted; but there seems to be an unwritten rule accepted by all oppositions to the effect that a certain amount of fault-finding and threatening must be indulged in in connection with the estimates. The Opposition members are always dead sure that a scandal lurks somewhere beneath every item, and they feel it an act of duty to warn the Government what will happen when they come to answer for their sins at the bar of public justice. In this way, a great deal of time is taken up.

Speaking of scandals, the Opposition have tried to work up quite a number this session. With a keen recollection of the events which combined to hurl them from power in 1896, they are naturally disposed to attach very large significance to the destructive power of scandals. But they have made no headway in this regard during the past three or four months, though they have striven with great energy and zeal to cast a shadow of suspicion upon the Government. Their chief scandal—the Drummond County inquiry—which was to reveal such shocking iniquity, has gone thoroughly bad on their hands, and it ought not to be surprising if they feel a little bit discouraged over this miscarriage. In the public accounts committee they have sought to retrieve their wasted political fortune; but it has been up-hill work and they have nothing to show for all their pains. With perfect truthfulness, and without qualification, it may be said that the Conservatives have not succeeded in revealing even the appearance of evil on the part of the Government, which is a thing the supporters of the party at large may well be satisfied with. Every Liberal in the House is not immaculate, and in the very nature of things somebody will get himself into disgrace before many years are over; but thus far every one has behaved in exemplary fashion.

Having failed in fastening anything of a scandalous nature on the Government, a cause is found for the exceedingly irritable and obstructive disposition of the Conservatives during the past week or two. All through the session they have seemed to regard Mr Tarte and Mr Blair as "big game," upon whom they might turn all their guns, and they have been popping away at these two gentlemen at every available opportunity. On the public works estimate the other night they opened out with a terrible fusillade against the minister, but the plucky little Frenchman, who is a mass of nervous energy, was more than a match for the Philistines. Mr Blair's estimates have not yet been reached; but he will probably have to stand an all night broadside on the subject of Intercolonial diamals. Being an exceedingly timid and inexperienced hand in political warfare, he will probably break down under the assault.

By way of keeping their hands in, and incidentally for the purpose of wiping off old scores, the Opposition submitted the Post Master General on Tuesday night to what they call "a roasting." It does not require a very high order of ability to carry out this process, even the savages being experts at it, and probably the Conservatives were pretty well satisfied with their work. Mr Mulock was asked to answer a certain question, not at all cognate to the subject under discussion, and because he referred them to the reply made a day or two previous, they set themselves to the task of forcing him to do what they wanted. For hours they kept pegging away, led by Mr Foster, talking all sorts of rubbish for the purpose of showing the minister that no progress would be made until this particular question was answered in just the way that they had put it. This will seem like childish procedure to an outsider, and so it was; but there is no telling to what tactics a lot of disappointed men will resort for the sake of a little passing satisfaction.

In connection with the estimates, the stock cry of the opposition is that the Liberals preached economy and have practised extravagance. In substantiation of this charge, they point to the fact that the total appropriation asked for is slightly larger than in the days when the Conservatives held sway. They know, however, that the total figures do not afford either an honest or a business-like test. In all branches of the service where reductions could be properly made, there has been a material cutting down of the expenditure, and in that regard Liberal pledges have been faithfully redeemed. New conditions have, however, called for new drafts upon the Treasury; but some of these will not necessarily represent in the end any actual expenditure of public money. For example, every dollar required in connection with the extension of the Intercolonial to Montreal and the administration of the Yukon country must be asked for precisely as if not a cent of revenue would come from these sources; whereas, it may fairly be expected that the revenue in both these cases will fully meet the outlay. Therefore, in the final making up of accounts at the close of the fiscal year, a very substantial offset will be found against the appropriations being asked from Parliament, probably reaching \$1,500,000.

On Wednesday the Conservatives again brought up the subject of preferential trade. They seem quite unable to get over the shock which Sir Wilfred Laurier's achievements in England, and the subsequent crystallization of those results into a definite and practicable policy by the Finance Minister gave them.—Somehow they had come to regard preferential trade as their own peculiar property, with Sir Charles Tupper as the chief stock-

holder, and because Sir Wilfred put into practice that about which they had so long merely theorized, they feel terribly sore. It so completely neutralizes their old reproach of disloyalty against the Liberals. On this occasion they were met by a square amendment from Mr Bain, expressing satisfaction with the action already taken by the government, and Sir Charles Tupper having moved the adjournment of the debate, it is probable the subject will not come up again this session.

On a question respecting the presence in Canada of Senor Polo, late Spanish Consul at Washington, the Premier announced that the Dominion would observe the strictest neutrality in the war now in progress. Incidentally, Mr McCleary, the conservative member for Welland, took occasion to make an exceedingly indiscreet remark. He declared, that while Canadians sympathized with the American cause, they nevertheless hoped that our neighbors would receive what he termed "a little spanking." This feeling he thought was quite proper in view of the unfair treatment that Canada had received at the hands of the United States. From a member of Parliament such a remark was a most reprehensible and stupid blunder.

ST. JOHN LETTER.

Plant Trees—City Gossip—The Markets, etc.

Thirty years ago, a prominent Chicagoan, then a boy, planted a cottonwood sapling, which at first he had intended to use for a fish pole. He planted it near the house where he was born and ten years later he climbed eighteen feet up its trunk. Now it is a hundred feet high and a landmark for the whole country side. The old house has disappeared and most of those who inhabited it are dead, but the Chicagoan visits the place every summer and in the shade of that cottonwood he feels at home. If every boy who reads this paper would plant a tree this spring—a maple, an oak, an elm, or an apple tree, and take care of it, years hence it might become one of the strongest reminders left him of his youthful home and friends.

Loyalist day, May 18, was not marked by any demonstration, but a good many citizens availed themselves of the occasion to go fishing or otherwise enjoy themselves in the country.

That two suicides should occur in the provincial lunatic asylum in a single week is not very creditable to the management of that institution.

James W Davis of this city is under arrest for attempting criminal assault on a fifteen year old girl living at the North End.

News of "labor trouble" comes from the pulp mill under construction at Mispico.

Several excursions up the rivers and lakes are planned for May 24.

Rumor with her lying tongue has it that a dozen Spanish war ships are hovering about the Nova Scotia coast.

An inquiry will be made into recent occurrences at the Provincial lunatic asylum.

Messrs Starr's employees, receiving \$2 per day struck recently for \$3. Their places are supplied by better men at \$2 and they are looking for work.

The members of the city council do not propose to be the obedient serfs of any self appointed autocrat.

A young lady was run down by a bicyclist on Main street last Friday and very seriously injured.

Fourteen births, two marriages and seven deaths were registered in the city last week.

It is rumored that a prominent citizen had presented one of the Fairville churches with one of the two manual pipe organs, costing \$1200. Such an organ, Mr Peters says, is superior in every respect to the old style \$2,000 church organ.

Western millers have not changed their quotations for flour, but local dealers are selling from 10 to 15 cents per barrel lower than a week ago. Oatmeal and cornmeal are firm at last quotations. Provisions are unchanged. The market at this moment is bare of dry fish. Choice Canada herring are quoted at \$5 per barrel; \$2 65 per half barrel. P R molasses has advanced to 35 cents and the available stock is light. Granulated sugar is quoted at 4½, bright extra C 4 and yellow 3½. Eggs are in demand at 11 cents and good butter at 18 cents.

EDWARD EDWARDS.

St John, May 23.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From our Regular Correspondent]
Washington, D. C., May 20, 1898.

That Cape Verde Spanish fleet is now in American waters is sure enough, but instead of coming to fight it appears to have come to dodge around and avoid a fight; to try to carry aid to Gen. Blanco, who is known to be in want of supplies, especially ammunition, and to stave off the invasion of Cuba by an American army. Up to this time it has succeeded in dodging all right, and, owing to the superior speed of its vessels, it is feared that it may continue to do so for a while longer. But it has not succeeded in aiding Blanco, and both President McKinley and Secretary Long are confident that it cannot do so, unless it fights and defeats one of our big fleets, and that is not regarded as even among the possibilities. Its arrival in American waters did temporarily stave off the invasion of Cuba, but its presence will not continue to do so. The plans for the invasion were suspended because it was deemed wise to wait until after the big naval fight which the Spanish were supposed to be seeking had taken place, but now that it is known that no fight is being sought by the Spanish fleet, those plans are to be carried out. Meanwhile our fleets will seek the Spanish fleet and destroy it, if they can catch it.

This government is now acting upon the old saying, You must fight the devil with fire. In other words it is doing what the Spaniards have done from the first—concealing the movements of its army and navy, and throwing the enemy off the scent by

allowing misleading news to be published. While this new policy of the government is hard upon news-gatherers, there are no two opinions about its being the correct way to conduct a war. Until this policy was adopted our newspapers had furnished the Spanish advance notice of every movement that was to be made by this government.

The House has passed an eight hour bill, which limits the labor of all persons employed upon government work, as well as those actually in government service, to eight hours in each day; also a bill for the appointment of a non-partisan labor commission to consider legislative problems affecting labor.

That Anglo-American alliance, which so many people believe will be an accomplished fact in the near future, has been very much at the front this week, owing to the speech of Hon Joseph Chamberlain, a member of the English Cabinet, which seems to have created a sensation among the European governments. Although there is reason to believe that European politics figured in the making of the speech, it has been received with great cordiality in Washington. Neither the President nor any member of the Cabinet would allow themselves to be quoted for publication on such a matter, but it is known that they were much pleased with Mr Chamberlain's speech; also, that they regard it as an important factor in making any European government that feels disposed to give Spain more than a timid moral support see the wisdom of not going further. In Congress there has been many expressions of pleasure because of the latest sign of the increase of friendliness between the great English speaking nations, and more than one prediction has been made that the friendliness would be closer yet. Whether anything like an alliance between the two countries is to come out of the present situation is more than anybody can tell at this time, much will depend upon circumstances, but that a warmer feeling exists in the U S towards England to-day than at any time since the independence of this country is apparent to even the most casual observer.

Cuba will soon be cut off from cable communication with the world, except through the two cables to the U S, and they are under government supervision, orders having been issued to cut all the others.

The men of Admiral Dewey's squadron will receive about \$200,000 premium money, under the law that authorizes the payment of \$100 for each man on an enemy's warship destroyed in action.

The British Parliament—Mr. Gladstone.

LONDON, May 20.—The eulogies of Mr Gladstone in the house of commons to-day formed a historic episode. There were more members assembled in the house than upon any occasion since Mr Gladstone himself introduced the home rule bill. They filled every seat, clustered on the steps of the speaker's dais, and the peers' gallery was crowded with the foremost members of the house of lords. The United States ambassador and all the members of his staff were among the diplomats present. After prayers they silently awaited Mr Balfour for a quarter of an hour, and when he rose all heads were bared.

Mr Balfour's speech was remarkably eloquent and displayed great good taste, while Sir Wm Vernon Harcourt's eulogium of his dead leader were delivered in a more glowing style. The liberal leader's voice thrice broke with emotion, and he was compelled to pause and wipe his eyes.

Mr Dillon was in his most oratorical style, and when he described how Mr Gladstone's sympathies were unbounded by nationality and embraced the oppressed of all races, the Irish benches responded with murmurs of assent.

In the house of lords there was a full attendance of members. The Marquis of Salisbury spoke feelingly of Mr Gladstone who, he said, "was ever guided in all his efforts by a lofty moral ideal." Continuing, the premier said the deceased would be remembered not so much for his political work as for the great example, hardly paralleled in history of the great Christian statesman.

The Earl of Kimberley, the liberal leader, followed with a touching tribute, and the Duke of Devonshire expressed generous appreciation of Mr Gladstone's services in behalf of the liberal unionists, saying their severance from Mr Gladstone was a most painful incident. But, he added, he could recall no word from Gladstone which added unnecessarily to the bitterness of the situation.

The Earl of Rosebery delivered an eloquent panegyric on the deceased statesman.

LONDON, May 20.—Queen Victoria's message to Miss Helen Gladstone was as follows: "I am deeply grieved at the sad news, Beatrice and I wish to express our deepest sympathy with your dear mother and with all of you."

Centreville Items.

May 24th 1898.

This being the 79th anniversary of our most gracious sovereign Queen Victoria's birthday, all the business places of this town are closed in honor of that event. The flag is flying at full mast on the band stand.

The O M Band was out in full force this morning early and rendered some very fine music.

Mr and Mrs James Johnston, two of our most respected citizens who left their home nearly a year ago to visit their sons in Oregon, have returned looking well and report having had a lovely visit; our citizens heartily welcome them home.

Mrs O M Sherwood and her daughter Lena have gone to St John to spend a few weeks. We hope the much needed rest will do them a great deal of good.

James Prior, one of Williamstown's esteemed residents passed away to his reward on Sunday night. Funeral to day at 2 o'clock, at the Methodist church, Williamstown.

No one can arrest time, but it is wonderful how many people can stop a minute.