

Carleton Sentinel Supplement, June 4, 1898.

OTTAWA LETTER.

Ottawa, 28th May, 1898.

The session will end next week, and, unless something extraordinary occurs, this will be my final letter. A retrospect of the events of parliament ought to be entirely satisfactory to Liberals at large. The Government has been wholly free from reproach, it has pursued an aggressive yet prudent course, and has shown itself in every respect worthy of the confidence of the people. Wherever economy could be applied, consistent with public needs, the Liberals have faithfully kept their ante-election pledges in that regard. Two further pledges have been redeemed, in the wiping out of the Franchise Act and making provision for a plebiscite on the prohibition question. A fair judgment, looking over the work of the session as a whole, would credit the Government with consistency, energy, and a desire to administer public affairs honestly and efficiently.

On the other hand, the Opposition have not made any headway. They have found the Government invulnerable, and on their own part they have not been able to present a definite alternative to any measure which the Government have brought forward. If they had felt anything like the faith they profess in their old policy of Protection, they would have found such an opportunity when the budget was being discussed; but they refrained from challenging the judgment of the House upon a matter which had so recently been condemned at the bar of public opinion. In other matters, they conveniently flung to the winds many of the notions for which they had shown great attachment when in office. At times they displayed an unreasonable bitterness against the Liberals, and frequently lent themselves to a course of deliberate obstruction. This was one of the things which they used to condemn very strongly. In the Yukon Railway debate they took the American side of the issue, and every one will remember that this was always regarded by the Conservatives in former days as the unpardonable sin. And so in other regards they stultified themselves.

Unquestionably the two chief events of the session from a political standpoint, were the blocking of the Yukon Railway Bill by the Senate, and the investigation into the Drummond County Railway matter. It was a great shock to the public mind to discover the power possessed by the Senate, and to realize that such power could be exercised mischievously and in the service of a discredited party in the Commons. This view has been elaborated to such an extent in previous letters, that it is not necessary to go over the ground again on this occasion. Suffice it to say, that the action of the Senate this session may be but a foretaste of what the present Government will have to contend against in the conduct of public affairs. So far as the Drummond County inquiry is concerned, it has been a terrible boomerang to the Conservatives. It was expected to discredit the Government; it has cast shame upon the Opposition. It was intended to show that the Government had been improvident; it has shown that the Government has made one of the best bargains ever made by any Government in Canada. It was intended to show up a miserably constructed and unsuitable backwoods road; it has established the fact that the Drummond County is one of the best pieces of railway in Canada. It was intended to throw reproach upon the Minister of Railways; it has relieved him from the faintest shadow of suspicion.

When the Plebiscite Bill came up for its third reading on Wednesday last, Sir Charles Tupper, who had not been in the House at the second reading, took up the lines laid down by Mr Foster and asked a great many questions that were clearly intended to belaud the issue and thwart the Government in the purpose aimed at. He wanted to know whether the Government would exempt from the operations of a prohibitory law any particular Province which gave a majority against it. He almost seemed most anxious to know how much of a majority the Government would require before acting on the express will of the people. Other captious questions were also put forward. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was not drawn into a discussion of these points raised by Sir Charles, and dismissed the subject by declaring that it was unreasonable to expect the Government to give explicit answers at this time. Once again, therefore, the Opposition were foiled in their efforts to hinder the progress of the Plebiscite Bill. The measure has finally passed, and the vote will be taken at a date to be named later, but understood to be in the fall.

During the past week considerable time has been given to the amended Post Office Act introduced by the Post Master General. It would take up a good deal of space to go fully into the various amendments contemplated by this measure; but some of them will at once commend themselves to popular approval as being well calculated to improve our postal service. For example, three new Dead Letter Offices are to be established throughout the Dominion—at Halifax, Winnipeg and Victoria—which will obviate the delay now caused by sending such matter to Ottawa. The Bill also proposes to permit post masters to exercise a little common sense in the treatment of letters now sent to the Dead Letter Office at Ottawa. If they know the sender, they may at once apply to him to correct defective addresses or insufficient postage—two things which now occasion a great deal of trouble, expense, delay and inconvenience. There are also other features of an equally commendable character.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who is recognized as one of the most eloquent speakers in Canada, was heard at his best on Thursday last in his panegyric on Gladstone. It was a magnificent word painting of the life and character of that great statesman, and was a finished and scholarly effort from start to

finish. The only other speech of consequence made on the occasion was by Hon John Costigan, the character of which may be gathered from the following extract: "Mr Gladstone's efforts in the sacred cause of Home Rule for Ireland endeared him to the Irish people. His sympathy and his efforts gave to the Home Rule cause the dignity and the strength and the safety of a great constitutional movement, and this not only in the United Kingdom, but wherever Irishmen and their descendants work for the Motherland. That grand measure reform has been delayed, it is true, but only delayed, and in the struggle that Ireland will continue unto a glorious victory no moral force will help more potently than the memory that Ireland's cause has had the sincere approval and generous advocacy of a man so great and so good."

Since writing the foregoing, it has occurred to me that your readers ought to be made acquainted with the fact developed at a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee yesterday in connection with the last general election in Manitoba. The measures adopted by the Conservatives to hold the Province for the Government were of a most extraordinary character, and I propose to give the matter separate treatment next week. It ought to make very interesting reading.

ST. JOHN LETTER.

Butterflies—Gossip of the City—The Markets, etc.

The vagaries of men, who have money to burn, are wonderful to contemplate. A Boston man caught a rare butterfly in Western Africa last autumn, which he sold to a rich Englishman for \$2500. Another man caught one in the Sierras, which he sold to the Smithsonian Institute for \$1500; this one was not exactly caught for it was a fossil, and was dug out of the sand. A German baron is said to be the owner of a collection of butterflies that cost \$25,000. Speaking of the butterfly craze, a Boston paper remarks that there are a number of human female butterflies worth anywhere up to the millions, but adds, with a quaver in its voice, that they are hard to catch and expensive to preserve. This, however, rarely cools the ardor of pursuit.

A three year old boy was knocked down by an electric car the other day and escaped injury.

Several fine salmon were caught in the harbor last week.

A young woman, a native of this city, died in Boston last week, the result of a criminal operation.

Burglars are operating in the city, but they are not accumulating much wealth.

Some young ladies will appear in military drill and uniform at a North End church next month.

Plans for the King's county almshouse to be built at Norton, are being prepared. It will accommodate 50 people.

The Queen's birthday was a melancholy day in St John, for everybody was out of town and the streets were deserted. City men and women of every degree appreciate more and more the benefits derived from an occasional outing in the country.

Thomas C Carle, livery stable keeper and merchant of the North End, died at the Public Hospital last Tuesday, aged 65 years. He was a native of Queens county and was esteemed and respected by thousands of friends all over the Province. He leaves a wife and one daughter.

The money sent to the Windsor fire sufferers has been equitably distributed, but of the hundreds of thousands sent to the St John fire sufferers no equitable distribution has been made. "Verily," as the scripture says, "they shall have their reward."

There are few things about which the average man or woman knows less than a musical instrument. Yet there is nothing, perhaps, which we are less willing to entrust to a dealer to select for us. Truth to tell, often the dealer himself does not know good from bad, having taken up the music business as a money making means, and having no musical experience or knowledge. One dealer in St John, at least, knows what he sells and the musical and intrinsic worth of it, and customers for anything from a violin, mandolin, guitar, or banjo, to a piano or a Scribner organ, can be assured of getting from F A Peters, jr, what they pay for.

Markets were quiet last week with very few changes in prices. Plate beef now costs \$16.20 to import. Canned corned beef has advanced to \$3 per dozen for 2 lb tins. Very little codfish in the market; nominal quotations are medium \$3 50, large \$3 60, and pollock \$2 per 100 pounds. Dried apples are in brisk demand at 5½ cents, evaporated dull at 10 cents. Sugars are very firm; DeForest & Sons have imported, from Liverpool, 200 sacks handsome yellow C, which they sell at 3½ cents; it is better value than the local refined. Choice butter is in demand at 18c and eggs at 10c.

The question of establishing a pork packing factory in this city is being vigorously agitated.

Twenty one deaths, nine marriages and thirteen births were registered in the city last week.

EDWARD EDWARDS.

St John, May 30.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From our Regular Correspondent]

Washington, D. C., May 27, 1898.

That Spanish fleet dodged once too often when it dodged into the harbor of Santiago, Cuba. It found getting into that harbor easy enough, but the ships composing the fleet will never get out again, unless they are brought out under the American flag. That harbor is shaped like a very large bottle with a very small mouth. Our warships are outside that mouth and will not have the slightest trouble in destroying the Spanish ships as fast as they attempt to come out. It is

possible that our ships may decide to go in after them, but it is not at all necessary that they should, as a comparatively small force can keep them where they are, until they are starved out, and it may be considered good policy to follow the latter course and use our fleets for work elsewhere, that promises better results with less risk to our men and ships. The long and narrow channel to Santiago harbor is known to be heavily mined and for our ships to go in there would be extremely hazardous. The same results can be obtained by keeping the Spanish fleet shut up there; therefore it is more probable that the latter plan will be followed.

The government still maintains secrecy in regard to all intended movements, but the events of the week speak for themselves and require no official explanation. Gen Miles, with his staff, is preparing to go to Florida to take personal command of the army, and the president has issued a call for 75,000 additional volunteers. This means business, and immediate business, and there are good reasons for saying that the army is going to move upon Porto Rico as well as upon Cuba. It has been the opinion of some of the President's ablest advisers, from the first, that Porto Rico should be captured before the general invasion of Cuba was put into effect. Both are now to be done in short order.

Nothing could more strongly emphasize the scarcity of breadstuffs in Europe than the action of the French government in temporarily removing the duty on wheat—\$1 35 for 220 46 pounds—carried into that country. As a special inducement to hurry shipments, notice is given that the usual tariff will be collected, on wheat on and after July 1st, by France. Some persons are disposed to regard this move as a step in preparing for war, but at the French Embassy, in Washington, it is stated to be merely an attempt on the part of the government to increase the stock of wheat, hoping thus to decrease the cost of living in France.

The only reply that Gen Miles has made to the numerous publications, alleging him to be trying to get the invasion of Cuba put off until Fall, was to say: "The U S will in due time bring Cuba under its control, by judicious methods and without useless waste of life. The U S is too great, too strong and too powerful to commit any foolish act in connection with the invasion. As for myself I have only to say that no officer is fit to command troops who, from any motive whatever, would needlessly risk the life of a single soldier, either from disease or the bullets of the enemy. I have never sacrificed the lives of men under my command, and I do not propose to subject them to any unnecessary risks in the present campaign."

There was no pretence of competition in the bids submitted by the Carnegie Steel Co, and the Bethlehem Steel Co, for making the armor for the battleships Alabama, Illinois, and Wisconsin, now under construction. The bids were for the full limit authorized by Congress to be paid, \$400 a ton. The Carnegie Co bid for the armor of the Wisconsin; the Bethlehem Co put in an exact duplicate for the armor of the Alabama, and they put in bids for equal portions of the armor for the Illinois. The bids of both stipulate that delivery of the armor shall begin next December and be completed within one year. That will make it well into 1900 before the ships can be finished.

That Congressional legislation is a complicated machine composed of wheels within wheels, all of which must work in unison to bring success, is very well known to those who have had experience. It was not therefore so surprising as outsiders might suppose when it was learned that the joint resolution for the annexation of Hawaii, which the House would gladly adopt by a big majority if it could get to a vote upon it, was somewhat tangled up with the war revenue bill, which is still before the Senate. Speaker Reed, whose vote in the committee on Rules would get the resolution before the House by means of a special rule, had about made up his mind to vote for the rule, although personally opposed to annexation, when he was informed by leading Senators that it might endanger the war revenue bill for the House to adopt the annexation resolution. Consequently the present understanding is that nothing will be done about the resolution until the Senate has passed the war revenue bill.

Riley Brook (Tobique) Items.

May 17, 1898.

Farming is the order of the day. The inhabitants are preparing for hard times.

Peddlers, peddlars, picking up all the loose change. Fast as one goes another comes. Here is Mr Wade and Mr McDougall with a complete outfit of all kinds of goods.

19th. Mrs J T Everitt and daughter, Mrs Gardener, of Dow Flat, are visiting relatives and friends in this place.

Harry Watters, who has been absent from his home for the past eight years on the ocean, returned tonight by stage; he has grown to be a fine looking young man and very accomplished in manners; will take the young ladies' hearts by storm.

Rev J Puddington arrived here Friday evening to meet his appointments; will attend conference Saturday evening and service Sabbath morning. He was very busy Saturday making calls in this place, Rocky Brook and Nictau.

Washburn Turner made a visit to this place on Friday. We wonder why he is not a welcome visitor to some.

We see some young man striking out for Johnson's Anodyne on Saturday evening. Perhaps he has a cold or will be cold or he gets there, as it is a long drive and the nights are cold.

23rd. Mrs J Tapley and Mrs Milleage Lockhart returned to their home today, after an absence of 10 days at Perth.

ONE INTERESTED.

The price of wheat is higher in Britain than for twenty years past.