

Carleton Sentinel Supplement, June 11, 1898.

OTTAWA LETTER.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

Ottawa, June 3rd, '98.

The question as to who struck the late Mr William Patterson could be as easily answered at this remote date from the alleged assault, as the question "Who said there was anything corrupt about the Drummond county transaction?" Certainly not a Conservative in Ottawa can be found who will admit that he ever breathed a word of doubt as to the straightforward character of the matter. Mr Foster wants to know who ever made such a charge while Mr Powell has turned his eyes heavenward in a devout declaration that he never, at least, implied such a thing. All this is very funny; for every one will remember that less than a year ago the House rang with the assertion from a score of throats that a committee of inquiry would reveal the most shocking corruption, while every Conservative paper in the land condemned the Government in advance in sweeping and unqualified terms.

The situation is now changed. The inquiry is over, and not a single circumstance has been brought out to cast even the shadow of suspicion upon either the Government or the merits of the transaction. But the Conservatives emerge from the inquisition covered with mire and obloquy. This latter feeling they have very clearly shown in a minority report. This report, which is evidently the product of Mr Powell's fine Italian hand, is really a marvellous document. It is, however, so manifestly one-sided and unfair as to be of no importance. It ignores all the main facts brought out, particularly the evidence respecting the efforts of Conservatives to sell the line for \$2,500,000, and enters into a series of fanciful calculations intended to show that the price to be paid by the Government is exorbitant. The basis of all this ingenious figuring would make interesting and amusing reading; but one illustration will suffice for present purposes.

It is pointed out that the rental accruing to the Government annually from the lease of the Windsor branch is something like \$17,000. Taking this as a basis, and reckoning on the number of trains passing over the Windsor branch per day, it is argued that the Government is paying enormously too much for the Drummond County line and its privileges over the Grand Trunk. The absurdity of such reasoning is obvious. The present Government did not lease the Windsor branch to the Dominion Atlantic Company, and Mr Blair holds strongly to the view that the price is altogether inadequate. It is just like the Conservatives, however, to take one of their wasteful and imprudent bargains and set it up as a standard whereby to judge the present administration. Moreover, what sense is there in comparing the Windsor branch with a piece of property like the Grand Trunk Railway from St. Rose to Montreal, to duplicate which would cost the Government not less than \$20,000,000? This is just the kind of calculation that might be expected from Mr Powell.

In my last letter I alluded to some very interesting evidence which had been given by Mr Howell of Winnipeg, before the Public Accounts Committee, in relation to the scandalous means adopted by the Conservatives in the last general elections for the purpose of returning supporters from Manitoba of Sir Charles Tupper. The story told by Mr Howell would read more like a piece of fiction than a calm statement made under oath. Some of the guilty parties have since been sent to jail for their misconduct, but many of them escaped; and the real authors of the plot could not be got at.

It seems that for a week or two before the polling day the deputy returning officers were gathered together in night schools for the purpose of being trained in the methods that were intended to send a solid Conservative contingent from Manitoba to Ottawa. The plan, in its chief features, was to either spoil the ballots of Liberals or substitute for them ballots marked in advance for the Conservative candidates. Deputy returning officers were carefully trained in the trick of having a piece of lead fastened under their fingernail, which they could slip between the folds of the ballot when tearing off the counter foil and make such marks as would neutralize the vote. Night after night, at various points, they were schooled in this piece of villainy.

The Conservatives relied, however, very largely upon their deputy returning officers being able to substitute a ballot for their candidate for one known to be marked for a Liberal. They had a large supply of extra ballots, carefully marked and folded. When a Liberal came in to vote, the deputy returning officer concealed one of these ballots in the palm of his hand, and while engaged in tearing off the counterfoil of the ballot marked by the voter, he would exchange it for the one he desired to go into the box. This trick worked so well, that at one polling booth it was carried too far, and the result was an inquiry, and subsequently the discovery of the whole scheme. At that particular booth, there happened to be twenty Liberals present when the count was announced, and as the figures were less than twenty for the entire sub-division they at once knew that a fraud had been committed. Later it was proven that more than half the Liberal ballots had been changed for Conservative ballots.

At Shoal Lake a Dominion Government official, who drew a salary for looking after three log buildings belonging to the Crown, was appointed deputy returning officer. He turned out to be an artist in the business of securing Conservative votes. Not being satisfied with working the concealed pencil and palming trick, he struck out in a bold and novel line of action. When the train came in, he left his polling booth and went down to the station with a pocket full of ballots. He distributed these among passengers known to be in favor of good and honest government, had the crosses put in the proper place, and a few minutes later deposited a large number of slips so marked in the ballot box. It is needless to say that his division gave a very

substantial Conservative majority. Of course he was punished afterward, but the pity is that those who had put him up to such iniquity got off scot free.

While Mr Blair's estimates were being discussed the other night, Mr Foster and Mr Haggart, as might be expected, attacked every item. Among other things, they found fault in a very strong manner with the purchase of cement from the Messrs Battle, of Thorold. They declared that the cement was worthless. They seemed to be in ignorance of the fact that the Battles have been strong Conservatives; but they were soon reminded of this by half a dozen Opposition members, who told Messrs Haggart and Foster that they did not know what they were talking about, and were really condemning what they should have commended. A very serious family jar among the Conservatives has been the result, and Mr Clark Wallace, who is aspiring to the Conservative leadership, is probably whispering around that he, at least, would not have committed such a tactical blunder.

The Senate has not dared to throw out the Franchise Bill; but it has done something subversive of representative government. One of the excuses for the blocking of the Yukon Railway measure, was that it had not been passed on by the people, and by their friends this was accepted as a complete line of defence. Assuming that they would be consistent and stay their hands when the Franchise Act came before them, which had been an issue in the last campaign, it was believed they would pass the measure when it came up from the Commons without discussion. Not so, however. They received it in a most hostile spirit. The Tory Senators stood out strongly for the principle of Sir John Macdonald's Bill of 1885; but finding that it would never do to boldly go back on the lines laid down in the Yukon matter, they simply shovelled in an amendment permitting an appeal to the County Judge in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The effect of this would be to restore the Dominion lists in those two provinces, and thus render the Act inoperative. They might as well have rejected the Bill. The Commons cannot accept the amendment, and the only hope of bringing the session to a close soon rests upon the possibility of the Senate withdrawing the objectionable clause when the measure is returned to them from the Lower House.

The Senate may have had in mind that if the Franchise Bill does not pass this session there will be no plebiscite until after another meeting of the Parliament. The Plebiscite Bill declares that the voting shall be under the Franchise Act of 1895, and, of course, if the Franchise Bill is killed, the plebiscite dies with it. If this should be the result, the Tory Senate will commit an outrage against public judgment; but the Senators have shown that they care very little about that.

ST. JOHN LETTER.

The Shark—Around Town—The Markets—Etc., Etc.

A shark twelve feet long was captured in the harbor the other day. Big schools of fish preceded him and it is presumed that he was betrayed into danger by an enormous appetite. To come into the harbor was an unlucky move for the pursued as well as the pursuer, for wires and nets were waiting for them on every hand. There are sharks in every sea, that are known by various names, in the air, and all about the land, who prey on their fellow fish, fowls and humans, very much like his sharkship to whom reference has been made. They act on the principle that "the world owes them a living," which is the most unprincipled principle that was ever promulgated. The world owes no living creature anything, but for work on the farm, or in the workshop she pays promptly and well. The human shark and the man eating shark are much alike except in form.

Talips in full bloom beautify some of the public squares.

The Street Railway Co is asked to pay \$100 for a dog that it slaughtered last week.

A man more than eighty years old and well known in the city was placed on trial last week for perjury.

Several tenants in arrears for rent have recently been "evicted" in the city but no riots have resulted.

The Carleton salmon pond will be restored in a few days.

A coroner's jury has found that no blame attaches to the lunatic asylum management for the death of the late Falton Beverly.

A four year old son of Havelock Wilson of the Strait Shore, fell into the harbor last Wednesday and was drowned.

P S MacNutt & Co have moved into their splendid new quarters, 37 and 39 Dock street, and now have the largest and best equipped warehouse in eastern Canada devoted to farm machinery, buggies, harness, etc. Everything needed by the farmer for the cultivation of the soil is carried by this progressive firm. They make a specialty of the celebrated Walter A Wood mower which is recognized as the best mower in the known world.

A miser died in the city awhile ago leaving between \$7000 and \$8000 which is being "absorbed" as was the estate of the Annings.

Flour is quiet and about 15c per barrel lower than a week ago. Sugar is firm, late imports from Liverpool show better value than is offered by local refiners. Barrelled beef is firm and 25c higher. Pork and lard are weaker but prices are unchanged. An advance in all kinds of wooden ware is looked for. Porto Rico and Barbadoes molasses continue firm at 35c/30c. Broom corn has advanced 15 per cent and a corresponding advance in manufactures is looked for. Eggs are in fairly good demand at 10c and strictly choice butter at 16 1/2c.

Twenty-nine births and four marriages were registered in the city last week.

EDWARD EDWARDS.

St John, June 6.

Montreal experienced an earthquake shock on Friday last.

GEORGIA LETTER.

Forsyth, Ga., May 31st 1898.

DEAR SENTINEL—In my last I promised to write again after the war was over and Cuba free, but as it looks like these events keep in the distance I have decided to reconsider, and write again, and thus keep you posted about Georgia matters, that may be of some interest to some of your readers.

The weather is up to summer heat, dancing between 85 and 95 degrees of heat, yet farmers are very busy cutting their oats and wheat, both of which are fine this year; I have mine all housed without rain. So far we have had but very little rain here this year, and many wells are dry that never failed before; but I have plenty in my well and it is called very fine water here, but my brother said it tasted like pond water to him. You see he was not a native of Georgia, and of course was not the best judge of good water. Now as soon as we get sufficient rain, I will sow peas on my oat ground and plow them in, and by the fall will have a good crop of peas, which can be gathered and saved, and the vines remain. For a fertilizer to the ground, these peas are worth in the market from fifty cents to one dollar per bushel, according to supply and demand. This may be new to some of your readers; here in Georgia if the farmer lets his oat stubble land lay until September and then plows it with a turning plow, he will have plenty of seed in the ground for another crop next May, from the shattered grain left on the ground at harvesting. The mulberries are on now and there is abundance of them. The chickens are delighted, so are the children as well as some of the older ones too. Perhaps some of your readers don't know what a mulberry is like. There are several varieties mostly black, but some are white, and all are very similar in taste; they grow on trees which grow to considerable size, with large tops and long limbs, the fruit is from one to one and a half inches long and half an inch in diameter; it is made up of little bulbs very much like your blackberry and is quite sweet and palatable, and is fine for fowls and hogs. It is easy to tell when the children have been to the mulberry trees, the mouth and fingers soon betray the act. This fruit ripens and falls for about two months. There is quite a large crop of cotton planted this year, and farmers are having it chopped out to a stand; that is to say thinned out to one stock in a place and from fifteen to twenty inches apart. When this seed is planted it is necessary to straw it quite close in order to get up enough to insure a stand, when cotton is chopped out, the plant is three to four inches high.

Gardens are well matured; we are eating beets and snap beans, onions and potatoes, the tops of which are dead. We generally let the potatoes stay in the ground and dig as we use them; my carrots are fine and I believe they are good, as my wife often samples them; our sweet corn is in tassel. Tomatoes are forming; grapes are as large as English peas; plums are over half grown and the wild varieties are ripe. The peach crop and plumb crop is very heavy this year in Georgia; it is estimated that there will be three thousand car loads of these fruits shipped from Georgia this year. The watermelon crop will no doubt exceed this by far. So you see we have something good down here beside opium and sweet tater. The latter plants are already set out and growing. We have a fly here very similar to what you call the buffalo fly in Carleton Co., but ours are of a much more harmless nature than yours. There are not enough of them here to cut much of a figure, much less to cut off the horns of our cows, as I was told they do in Carleton Co. Perhaps your winters are too mild to cool the ambition of these little pests. I think if they had a few Georgia summers on them it would weaken their ambition and lessen their destructiveness.

The war still goes on, but slow from necessity on account of circumstances. Many hundreds of car loads of men and munitions of war have passed through our town, bound for the coast and thence to victory, which we hope will soon be ours. Our town is in a flutter just now; our two schools are having their usual commencement; one is the Monroe Female College and the other is the Bank's Stevens' Institute, a large mixed school; both are well patronized. I am glad your people are treading once more on mother earth, after so long a slip, slum and slide on the beautiful snow and ice. It seems strange to the Georgians to hear of teams crossing the rivers on ice and especially so late as April. I am glad to note in your paper the good prospect for hay in Carleton Co. May God bless my dear old homeland, and give it great richness, and no war, and at last an immense representation on the other side of the river is the prayer of

ONE OF YOUR OLD BOYS.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From our Regular Correspondent]

Washington, June 3, 1898.

Just enough is known in Washington of the movements of our army and navy to cause a general state of suppressed excitement and expectation of great achievements by both branches of the service. It is known that a large number of troops have embarked from Florida ports, and believed that a portion of them have been landed in Cuba for the purpose of assisting Commodore Schley to crush the Spanish fleet that he has shut up in the harbor at Santiago de Cuba by capturing that city and the adjacent forts, and that the rest of them have gone to Porto Rico to act in conjunction with Admiral Sampson in capturing that island. There has been news of some preliminary fighting, and there is daily expectation of news of decisive battles from both Porto Rico and Santiago. The lines are being so tightly drawn around Spain that a prominent European diplomat predicts it will be begging for peace on any terms in a very short time.

Senator Lodge struck a patriotic keynote which should find a congenial response in