

# The Carleton Sentinel

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WHOLE No. 2883.

## OTTAWA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, April 28th, 1901.  
When the Minister of Railways returned to the Capital after a week's rest, which became necessary as the result of an attack of grippe, he found the Opposition prepared to give him a hot time. They had been turning over the steel rails contract in their minds, and forming all sorts of conclusions as to the matter. They had planned quite a feast of roast Minister; but, as often happens in human affairs, their expectations were not realized. The Minister would not roast.

Few things have come up during the Liberal regime in connection with which the Opposition have appeared to a greater disadvantage than this matter of the steel rails contract. In the hope of embarrassing the Government they have not only been reckless and intemperate in their talk, but they have been willing to take upon themselves the reproach of inconsistency in respect of the one thing about which they have always boasted of their stability. In order that the matter may be clearly understood it may not be amiss to state the facts briefly.

In June of last year Mr. Clergue, who is at the head of the Lake Superior Power Company, approached the Government with a proposition to sell a large quantity of steel rails. Mr. Clergue was at that time organizing a company for the manufacture of steel products, and he regarded it as of the first importance that he should have the patronage of the Government. In fact, the success or failure of Mr. Clergue's arrangements turned very largely upon his securing a contract with the Government. The industry would involve the investment of millions of capital and the employment of a very large force of labor. The matter was brought up and discussed in Council, and the Minister of Railways was authorized to enter into a contract with the Lake Superior Power Company for the purchase of 25,000 tons of rails per annum for a term of five years.

The objections taken by the Opposition were under four heads in chief: First, that the order was unnecessarily large and covered too long a period; second, that the price for the first year was too high; third, that American manufacturers should be considered in the fixing of the price for the succeeding years; and fourth, that the bargain was corruptly and secretly made. It was with allegations of this nature that they started in on Tuesday last to hurl their entire forces against the Minister of Railways; but he was prepared to meet them at every point.

With respect to the extent and duration of the contract, Mr. Blair pointed out that it would have been impossible for Mr. Clergue to get his enterprise under way unless he had a definite understanding with the Government for a term of years. The Minister had already decided that it would be in the public interest to re-lay the Intercolonial with 30 pound rails, and it would require about 175,000 tons to do this. Fifteen thousand tons has already been purchased abroad; and when the remainder could be had in Canada, and by purchasing the same the Government could give encouragement to an enormous industry, it was decided that a contract should be entered into on the terms proposed.

So far as the price of \$32.60 per ton for the first year is concerned, that was a reasonable figure for steel rails at the time the purchase was authorized. The Conservatives allege that the market was falling and that the rails could now be had for \$8 per ton less. It is unquestionably true that American manufacturers have offered recently to supply rails at a lower cost; but if Mr. Blair had waited to ascertain how low rails would be this year Mr. Clergue's industry would never have started. Contracts for rails are invariably entered into many months before the time of delivery, and the purchaser must take the risk of a rise or fall in the market. When Mr. Blair made his previous purchase he got the rails \$14 less per ton than the actual price at the time of delivery.

The feverish interest which the Opposition have manifested in American manufacturers is inconsistent with both their preaching and practice for many years. During the time they were in power they argued that it was necessary in the protection of Canadian industries to maintain a high tariff wall in order that Canada might not be made a slaughter market for surplus products of the United States. This policy did not during the entire 18 years it was in operation result in

establishing a single industry of the extent and importance of that which Mr. Clergue has now all but completed. Yet these same Conservatives now declare that it is in the public interest Mr. Clergue should be exposed to the competition of the American combine. It does not call for much perspicuity to see that under such circumstances a very short time would elapse before the great United States manufacturers would crush out the production of steel rails in Canada.

To say that the bargain was corrupt in any sense is sheer fiction. The approach of the elections has nothing to do with Mr. Clergue's undertaking, and the record shows that he made his proposition to the Government many months before the campaign. That the final order passed in October last does not in any way touch the merits of the case. That was a mere coincidence. Only a suspicious mind would see anything wrong in such a circumstance, and everyone knows that although the bargain had been made at any other time the Opposition would have been ready to impute a bad motive. As to secrecy, the matter was made public just as soon as it had assumed definite shape. Several of the Ministers boasted of it during the elections, although it could not be held to be the duty of the Government to make an announcement until at least the contract was actually signed. It has not been signed to this day.

After a hiatus of several weeks the Committee appointed to investigate the Cook charges sat again during the present week. A good many rumors were set afloat recently with respect to the nature of the evidence which was to be brought forward. It was said, for example, that the son of the late M. C. Cameron, and also his son-in-law, would produce correspondence from Sir Richard Cartwright of a compromising character. The correspondence was produced, and also Mr. Cameron's private letter book, but neither contained a syllable to show that Sir Richard had ever heard of any proposition to have Mr. Cook contribute \$10,000 to the funds of the party in consideration of a Senatorship.

Sir Richard himself was again called to the stand and submitted to a long cross-examination. He maintained with great earnestness that he was absolutely ignorant of the circumstances testified to by Mr. Cook. Mr. Preston was also recalled to the stand and gave evidence which rather tended to show that a letter he had written to Mr. Cook had been tampered with. The counsel in the case then summed up before the Committee. Mr. Cook's lawyer argued that a prima facie case had been made out sufficiently strong to show that Mr. Cameron had actually approached Mr. Cook on the subject of a money payment; but he frankly admitted that nothing had been brought forward to incriminate Sir Richard Cartwright or any member of the Government. Mr. Blake, acting for the Government, in a masterly address exposed Mr. Cook's position in the whole matter so as to place that gentleman in a very unenviable light. The Committee will probably report next week.

## MR. BLAKE'S ARGUMENT, RE. THE COOK CHARGES.

The committee listened, last evening, to argument by Mr. S. H. Blake on behalf of the defence, but had to adjourn over till ten o'clock this morning for argument by the committee's own counsel, Mr. Charles Ritchie, who was not ready to go on. Mr. Blake's address lasted well on to two hours and was voted a most admirable effort. He dealt with every phase of the whole matter and his words were followed with the closest attention throughout. Mr. Blake said that Mr. Cook's counsel, Mr. Marsh, had set out with the assumption that Sir Richard Cartwright was a guilty man, and then tried to support this unproven allegation by extracts from the evidence and sentences out of the letters, which was an unfair course to pursue.

Mr. Marsh, in the closing words of his address, had made a most regrettable attack upon the reputation of the Prime Minister and had held him guilty along with the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Mr. Blake regretted this course. If the Prime Minister was guilty of any wrong he should be punished, as surely as any other man in Canada; but the character and reputation of a person in his high position should not be lightly assailed. Mr. Cook himself said that he did not seek to charge anything against Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Again, Mr. Ritchie, counsel for the committee, had admitted the same

thing and had said when mention was made of the Premier's being examined, that he had heard nothing to justify Sir Wilfrid's being called and had, further on, said there was no need for calling Mr. Biggs and Mr. Preston to establish statements which Sir Richard Cartwright had flatly denied. Thus counsel for the enquiry had admitted that nothing was proven against either Sir Richard or Sir Wilfrid. What justification then was there for this attack on these gentlemen? The character of the Prime Minister was a part of the possession of every citizen of Canada and should be free from unproven attacks. Sir Wilfrid had sworn that he knew nothing of Mr. Cook's allegations till October of last year, when they were published to the world.

Right here Mr. Blake referred to the means which Mr. Cook himself acknowledged having used to get this Senate appointment. It was a humiliating thing and he owed it to the reputation of this august body to inform the public that it was no sample of the means by which senators had gained their seats. Mr. Cook had spoken and written of all his qualifications and his epistles showed a quality of mind which would not lead one to look to him for any honor or trust.

Mr. Cook had made charges in order to get this notoriety which his evidence had not borne out. The committee of enquiry had been granted him on false pretensions. Mr. Cook had not sworn that any minister authorized this offer he spoke of. There was nothing positive about Mr. Cook's evidence. Against it were the sworn denials of Sir Richard Cartwright and Sir Wilfrid Laurier that they had absolutely no knowledge of any request being made to Mr. Cook for a subscription in return for a Senate appointment.

Supposing, said Mr. Blake, Sir Richard Cartwright or any other public man had a proposition of this kind to make, supposing he wanted a money subscription for an office under the Crown would he be likely to bring in a third party, would Sir Richard have been likely to employ the services of a third party, would Sir Richard have been likely to employ the services of an agent. Though Mr. Cook had interviewed time and time again with Sir Richard no suggestion of any thing like a request for money had been made. Mr. Cook dare not say that Sir Richard had ever suggested a consideration of as much as one cent.

Remember, said Mr. Blake, the charge made by Mr. Cook was that the Premier, Sir Richard Cartwright and other ministers were all guilty of asking him for this subscription. By showing that there was nothing in it so far as one minister is concerned the whole charge was disproven and the allegations fell to the ground.

What kind of a man was this man Cook to promise, four years ago, his intimate friend, Mr. M. C. Cameron, a man who had worked faithfully in his (Cook's) behalf to send back these letters of Cameron's and then to produce copies four years after, and use them against the reputation of a dead man? 'Thank God,' said Mr. Blake, 'this man is not to-day in the Senate, and Laus Deo never will be.' What honor could one look for in such an individual? Honor he had none and truth he had none. He had cast both to the winds. What reliability could one expect in any statement he ever made?

What are the indications, inquired Mr. Blake. Why, that this man Cook wanted to be bought. He never spurned the man who, he says, made the offer, but kept right on with the negotiations, and never breathed a word of the thing for four long years. There was this consultation of the Criminal Code, too, for Mr. Cook to learn how far it would be safe for him to go. His solicitor, Biggs, had advised him to be careful.

The evidence of Biggs, who was present at Cook's second interview with Cameron, was at variance with Cook's story on all the cardinal points. It was very convenient for these gentlemen now to try to discredit Biggs, but the latter was Cook's confidential adviser for long years. Was it not a singular thing also for Cook to go to Biggs asking the latter's assistance in making out his case before this committee of inquiry? Did it not look like an invitation to perjury?

Counsel for Cook had been most unfair towards the witness Preston. There was no reason to believe that this gentleman was in any sense a discredited witness.

The story of the witness Frank Macdonald, Cook's son-in-law, looked very much like untruth. This witness had been to Goderich, and said Cameron discussed with him his proposition to Cook. But Macdonald

said he had not mentioned this conversation to his father-in-law for ten months, and was this reasonable or likely?

Of the testimony of Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. Blake had not much to say. Mr. Marsh had spoken of him as a wobbler, but the honorable minister's record was not of that kind, whatever other faults he might have. Sir Richard had denied as positively as any man could ever having written any proposition to Cameron that Cook must do something for his senatorship. Sir Richard did not believe any such letter ever existed. The minister had written and received many letters on this subject of Cook's claim. Was it reasonable that he could remember them all?

If Mr. Cook saw away back in 1896 that nothing would get him preferred but money, why did he keep on for four years looking for appointment? The thing was foolish. It was not money that stood in Cook's way. It was Sir Oliver Mowat, who for good reasons would not agree to his selection. And, moreover, Cook knew it all along.

Mr. Marsh made much of some passages in the private letters that had been produced, though it was only by twisting and torturing the contents. In one letter M. C. Cameron wrote Sir Richard Cartwright saying that when the latter came to Goderich they could together discuss a certain "private matter." Mr. Marsh, in spite of Sir Richard's denial, had told the committee that this referred to the senatorship. But how could it when the letter bore date after the Senate appointment which Cook sought had been filled?

Mr. Marsh had given a wrong tone to the letter sent by Mr. Cameron to Sir Richard Cartwright in November 1896, which said: "I had an interview with the person named in your letter for an hour in Toronto on my way home. I found the individual in question very indignant, threatening to smash up both the local and Dominion governments, stating that he was treated in a cavalier manner by the Premier, and that he could hardly get an interview with him, that when he did so Laurier was as cool as an iceberg. Mowat insulted him, and hinted he had not the brains for the position he sought. After talking to him he became calmer. If I were you I would do nothing at all in the matter. Later things may come all right."

Sir Richard had admitted in his evidence that this probably referred to Cook, but what was there wrong about it? The whole world knew that Cook stood in his own way by his violence, by the way he talked about the government on the street corners. This was what was meant when Cameron told Cook he had had the cards in his own hands, and had refused to play the game. What could one do with such a man?

In drawing his remarks to a close, Mr. Blake ran over the points he had made. Cook's evidence was contradicted by two witnesses, Preston and Biggs, who were certainly entitled to rank as credible as Cook. Cook kept on interviewing the government after the alleged stipulation for money was made him by Cameron. In courts of law the evidence of an informer was not accepted unless it was corroborated by other testimony. Was not Cook in something of the position? He was a man by his own testimony lost to all sense of decency who invaded even the grave and sought to publish all that other men hold sacred.

Thank God such a man never gained admission to the Senate of Canada. Let us leave him, said Mr. Blake to the infamy to which he has consigned himself, and which he so richly deserves.

## MONTICELLO.

A very pleasant event took place at the home of Mr. John R. Nichols, on Wednesday, April 3d, at 5.30 p.m., when his daughter, Myrtle Fay, was united in marriage to Mr. Freeman Hotham, by Rev. G. F. Potter. The bride was very prettily dressed in white organdy richly trimmed with lace, while the bridesmaid, Miss Marie M. Hovey, of Centerville, was becomingly dressed in black velvet with yellow silk and black lace trimmings. The groom was gallantly supported by the bride's brother, Mr. James Nichols, who acted as best man. It was a large wedding, the guests numbering in all about eighty and they made a lively party as they were seated around the handsomely decorated supper table. Later in the evening a party of serenaders passed through receiving a treat of fruit, candy and cigars, and it was a late hour when the merry friends of the bride and groom wished them a pleasant good night and left for their several homes.

## Church History of New Brunswick.

Under the above heading, the St. John Freeman has been publishing a series of letters, in which special reference is made to the establishment and growth of St. Gertrude's Church this town. We take the following extracts which bear upon this church, dating from the time Rev. Thomas Connolly was appointed priest of this mission in September 1849:—

"From 1849 to 1867, with the exception of an interval of two years, from October 4, 1852, to October 8, 1854, during which time the Rev. Andrew Barron again served the mission, Father Connolly labored unceasingly to build up the Church of God in that region. The whole story of his labors during this pioneer period is told at length in the pamphlet in question. On August 13, 1868 he was succeeded at Woodstock by the Rev. Wm. J. Foley. Father Foley's labors were of the routine kind, yet we believe he finished the church at South Richmond. He remained in Woodstock until 1873, and in October 18th of that year was succeeded by Father Connolly who once more returned to his favorite field of labor. In November, 1876, Father Connolly severed for the last time his connection with Woodstock as pastor and was succeeded by Rev. John Murray.

The present stately residence which the priest occupies is a witness to the work which Father Murray did during his administration of Woodstock. The house which had been built by Father Vereker in the forties although enlarged by the addition of a basement story, was still too small and cramped for comfort. Father Murray therefore decided in the erection of a larger residence and in 1884 began the construction of the present presbytery. Father Murray also built the neat little church in Allandale, York County, that settlement being at the time served from Woodstock. During the period of his administration the present parish of Debec, or South Richmond, was given a separate existence and on February 10, 1881, the Rev. W. C. Gaynor was appointed to the charge of the new mission. In April 1891 the outside mission of Newburg was separated from Woodstock, and together with Williamstown, River de Chute, and Florenceville, which had hitherto been served from Johnville, was erected into a separate parish with the Rev. Francis Bradley as first pastor. At the same time the Rev. John Murray was transferred to Johnville and his place in Woodstock was filled by the appointment of the Rev. Wm. F. Chapman, the present parish priest.

In 1895 Father Chapman purchased 16 acres of land on the Meduxnakiac for a cemetery. It is noteworthy that the purchase money, \$1200, was given by the niece of the same Richard Kane who came so opportunely to the rescue of old St. Malachi's, as we have seen, when default was made in the payment of the instalments due on the original lot of land. This lady was Mrs. Rosanna McGonigle of the Irish settlement. In 1893 Father Chapman put hot-air furnaces into St. Gertrude's church; in 1897 he added a new roof; in 1900 he put in new windows and repaired the tower; and in the same year he purchased from the Ketchum estate the triangular piece of land which had been for fifty years under lease to the Church, and upon which a part of the priest's residence and one half of the old schoolhouse had been built. St. Gertrude's church now possesses in consequence of this purchase, one of the finest sites in Woodstock; and, situated as it is on an elevated plateau below the town, stands forth with its buildings a land-mark—fitter and more pretentious indeed than the primitive Indian chapel of St. John the Baptist but a temple of the same faith as it is a symbol and embodiment of the same eternal hope which unites the Indian and the white man in the bonds of the same Christian fellowship."

## BIRD NOTES.

NO. 11.

### The Economics of Bird Life.

In Europe birds are probably better known than in America. There, it is said, practically every bird is well known at least by a local name. This is partly because the leisurely habits of the people there give them more opportunity to see what is about them, but a better explanation is found in Chamberlain's Canadian Birds wherein he combats the recently arrived Englishman's statements that we have fewer songbirds in Canada than in the motherland. He explains that our birds sing only in early morning, when the Britisher is tucked in bed, and to a lesser extent in the evening, while during the heat of the day very few birds at

and concert practise. In the old country, however, many birds sing throughout the day. While this explains the Englishman's poor opinion of our birds, it also explains why their birds are better known. People who rise early in this country are generally those who are too busy to hunt out the cause of each song.

The great importance of bird-life to man cannot be overestimated. With us, too largely, every bird is considered either a foe or a trophy. This does not apply to songbirds, which, as a rule, are more respected in our land than in any other. Bird-nesting so common in some countries is almost unknown in our own. But woodpeckers and hawks for example have had for generations the hand of every farmer raised against them. Yet their habits have only to be better known and this cruel and ignorant practice will cease. The woodpecker, it is true, drills occasionally into the fruit trees, but a grub has been boring there before. The bird makes the hole larger but kills what will multiply and kill many trees. Again this bird does not bore into trees unless it is already on the road to decay. But its greatest good is its gleaming for insects in the crevices of the bark. They probably get scores of grubs in this way to every one obtained by drilling holes.

It is the same in the case of the hawks. There are a dozen kinds in our Province and all but two are of great service to man. These two, Cooper's Hawk and the Sharp-shinned Hawk, live to quite an extent on chickens and songbirds; all the others feed almost entirely on mice and insects. In early spring, when food is scarce, all hawks probably offend somewhat, but their chicken bill is easily offset a dozen times by their services in killing the farmers' enemies.

Insect life is nearly always directly or indirectly inimical to man. The earth undoubtedly would be rendered uninhabitable by man were it not for the birds coming to the rescue. This may seem like gross exaggeration, but it is the opinion of all careful observers.

Of course many birds are seed eaters, but few are bound to the one bill of fare all the year around. Seed-eating birds pick up many a grub and insect, and even the fly catchers are often seen in the fall devouring the driest of berries. But even the seed eaters are of great service to mankind.

Providence has ordained it that the seeds of our grain crops are generally large and hard, while seed eating birds are usually small and require small seeds. Now, weed seeds are almost invariably small, hence the birds cannot fail to render man a service at every meal.

Thus, it will be seen that nearly all birds, whether birds of prey, seed eaters or insectivorous, are of great benefit to us. Even such pests as crows, blackbirds and English sparrows have their uses as scavengers and grub killers, and, at least, partially pay their way.

## GRAND ORANGE LODGE.

The grand secretary's report to the Grand Orange Lodge at Campbellton, last week, showed that two new lodges were organized during the year, at Hibernia, Queens Co., and at Dundas, Kent, and that ten lodges were reconstituted. He had reports from 110 lodges and these showed that 400 members have been initiated, 74 had joined by certificate and 98 had been reinstated, 123 have withdrawn by certificate, two were expelled and three had died.

He especially congratulated the officers and members of the counties of York, Queens (east), Queens (west), Northumberland and Kent, on the splendid increase in membership for the last year.

Grand Treasurer Heine's report showed that the total receipts for the year were \$1,843.37 and the disbursements were \$1,093.49, leaving a balance on hand of \$590.88. A part of this large expenditure consisted of \$150 to the contingent fund, and \$50 to the Indian famine fund and nearly \$200 to propagation work.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Bros. Alward, Wallace and Palmer, acting as scrutineers: A. D. Thomas, grand master. Philip Palmer, senior deputy grand master.

Wm. Wyse, junior deputy grand master.

Rev. A. F. Brown, and chaplain. Neil J. Morrison, grand secretary. Philip Heine, grand treasurer.

G. A. Blair, grand lecturer.

Jas. W. Clark, grand director of ceremonies.

D. H. Charters, grand deputy grand secretary.

Revs. J. C. Blakeney, and J. E. Flewelling, deputy grand chaplains.