

The Carleton Sentinel.

VOL. 53.—No. 9.

WOODSTOCK, FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1901.

WHOLE No. 2874.

OTTAWA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, 22nd February.—The session of Parliament has opened this year under singularly depressing circumstances. The death of Queen Victoria, and the necessity for the wearing of mourning, robbed the commencement proceedings of that gaiety which has heretofore characterized them. There was the same military display as in former years so far as the outside was concerned; but on the floor of the Senate Chamber there was not that brilliant gathering of ladies in court costume which we have grown accustomed to look for here at the Capital. The ladies, among whom are usually a number of charming debutantes, always make up the chief attraction. It is probable that a vastly greater number of people crowd themselves into the Senate Chamber to see the feminine display than to look upon the ancient customs which still cling to the opening ceremony.

For some time there was a great deal of confusion in the public mind as to the character of the mourning which would be worn for the Queen. In the end common sense prevailed and a good deal of latitude was allowed. Any form of black was accepted as coming within the regulations; for it had been officially announced that no one not wearing mourning would be allowed in the Senate Chamber. Court mourning, strictly speaking, consists either wholly of purple, or of purple and black; but there was no attempt made to enforce this rule. The public buildings were, of course, heavily draped, and everywhere the emblems of sorrow were displayed. It was only natural that amid such surroundings, and under such circumstances, there should be none of that pomp and stir which ordinarily mark these state functions.

The thing in which public interest chiefly centered was the choice of a leader for the Opposition, which had to be made at the very outset. The Conservatives met in caucus for three hours on the night of the opening day; but they failed within that time to make a choice. There was a good deal of wrangling among the various factions; but next day they agreed upon Mr. R. L. Borden. This meant that Mr. Clarke Wallace, Mr. W. F. Maclean and Sir Charles Herbert Tupper had to give way, although the first named did not do so with a very good grace. The secret of Mr. Borden's selection lies in the fact that Mr. Barker, the Conservative Organizer for Ontario, spent two or three weeks before the meeting of Parliament in personally visiting the Ontario Conservative members and urging them to refrain from supporting Mr. Wallace.

Mr. Borden is, of course, a man of considerable ability and judgment. He is cool-headed, moderate and presentable; but he is a comparatively inexperienced Parliamentarian, he is not an orator, he has never shown himself to be tactful, and while he is not a cold man he could not properly be described as possessing that urbanity of manner and off-hand geniality which is generally looked for in popular leaders. He has not the commanding ability of Sir John Thompson, and he has none of those qualities which made Sir John Macdonald the friend and confidante of his followers. He is not likely to inspire large hopes in the hearts of Conservatives generally.

Mr. Foster was suggested for the leadership by his late colleague Hon. John Haggart; but the proposition found no support. The vanquished ex-Minister has apparently dropped out of sight. This is all the more remarkable when it is remembered that there is not a man left on the Conservative side of the House who deserves to be mentioned in the same day of the week with Mr. Foster as a debater and a critic. He is evidently paying the penalty for that coldness of manner which he seems ever to have been unable to shake off. He will be very greatly missed. There is no one to take his place. No one in the ranks of the Opposition can take up the budget and deal with it as Mr. Foster can. His special strength is in that direction. Nevertheless, the Conservatives are apparently resolved to get along without him, and they are certainly not moving a finger to find a constituency for him.

Last year the debate on the Address was kept up for weeks. This year it was all over in two hours. This cursory treatment was not so much the evidence of a desire on the part of the Opposition to adopt business-like methods as it was to catch the Government napping. Immediately on the conclusion of the debate Mr. Clarke Wallace arose and in a complaining spirit called for the estimates. Other Opposition mem-

bers demanded to know why the departmental reports were not ready. "Here Parliament has been called together," said they, "and the Government is not ready to proceed with business." The Premier asked the House to be patient until certain formal and necessary motions had been passed. Then Mr. Fielding arose and laid the estimates on the table. One by one other ministers stood up and presented their printed reports. Mr. Clarke Wallace looked like a man who had been hit with a club, and nearly every member on the Opposition side sat staring with open eyes at the Government. Their little game had failed, and their discomfiture was only equalled by the satisfaction of the Liberals.

That was not their only surprise. When the estimates came to be looked into it was discovered that they showed a very substantial reduction as compared with the estimates of last year. The difference amounts to several millions. Of course the supplementaries will make considerable inroads on this sum, and no one at this stage can tell what these will amount to; but there is a settled determination on the part of the administration to exercise severe prudence. There has been no falling off in the revenue, on the contrary there has been quite an increase, but the Government seem disposed to maintain the record of surpluses, so that continued reductions may be made in the public debt. Last year nearly a million was clipped off, and this year there ought to be something like the same result.

Those who talk about a large reduction in the annual expenditure have a feeble appreciation of what the Dominion has grown to be. We have made tremendous leaps forward during the past five years, and this progress carries with it a measure of responsibility which can only be met by the Government by an expenditure in keeping with the needs of the country. If the Government failed to do this it would fail in its duty and would properly be held accountable by the people therefor. Your correspondent does not know what the probable expenditure will be for the approaching fiscal year; but it would seem to be an indication of incapacity if the Government were to adopt a niggardly policy at this stage in our history.

The house has only had one night sitting thus far, and more progress was made in that one day than during the first two months of the session last year. Fifty-eight items of the estimates were passed, completely disposing of the appropriations for civil government. This may be taken as indicating that the Opposition have no fault to find with the provision being made in this regard, and that the Government is treating the civil service with fairness. For several years past the Conservatives have been raising a great hue and cry over alleged injustice to civil servants. A good deal of it was for campaign purposes, and very little of the criticism had a sound foundation.

The only question which has thus far been debated had reference to the government ownership of railways. There is unquestionably a good deal of discontent throughout Ontario and the Western Provinces over the matter of freight rates, and quite a number of well meaning people have jumped to the conclusion that a remedy is to be found in the Government taking possession of all the railways in the country. This problem is a much larger one than it seems to be on the surface. It would mean, in the first place, the assumption of something like \$700,000,000 of liabilities, which, on top of the existing public debt, would be a pretty large undertaking. It would also involve a revolution in the transportation situation throughout the Dominion. Even then, it might not wholly satisfy the people. If the control were vested in a Commission as free from political influence as a bench of judges it would still be a question as to how far popular judgment would consent to being deprived of a voice in the conduct of the railways.

Under our system of representative government it would be unsatisfactory to the people if they were bereft of a voice in the general management of the railways after having assumed such enormous liabilities as public control would involve. The Minister of Railways put forward the idea that it would be practically impossible to separate government control and political control. The leader of the Opposition took exception to this view; but those who have given careful thought to the matter will be inclined to support Mr. Blair's judgment. The question will probably come up again at an early day. All signs concur in pointing to a short session. There are no measures

of special importance to be dealt with, and if the Opposition are disposed to consent there is no reason in the world why Parliament should not be prorogued by Easter. There will be no incentive to the Conservatives to make campaign speeches, and these have been responsible in the past for the very long sessions which have taken place. Moreover, quite a number of the more garrulous members of the late Parliament are now at home.

ST. JOHN LETTER.

Feb. 23, 1901.

The advance of Christianity throughout the world, during the hundred years, has been accompanied by a greater advance in the cost of supporting it. Fifty years ago the world's annual outlay for church purposes was about \$500,000,000; now it is reckoned at \$1,000,000,000, or twenty times as much. A hundred years ago the United States had 2,340 churches valued at \$1,500,000; now that country has 187,481 churches which cost \$724,971,372. The cost of maintaining Christian interests in the United States last year was more than \$200,000,000, of which \$26,000,000 was paid by the Methodists, \$20,000,000 by the Presbyterians, \$14,000,000 by the Episcopalians, \$12,000,000 by the Baptists, \$750,000 by the Salvation Army and \$31,000,000 by the Roman Catholics. In addition to the above there was paid under church supervision \$37,000,000 for new buildings, \$28,000,000 for hospitals, \$21,000,000 for education and \$7,000,000 for Sunday Schools. All this was paid voluntarily and shows that skepticism is not increasing as is sometimes represented. Probably in no other country in the world has so much money been spent for religious purposes as in the United States, and yet when we think of the lynchings, bank defalcations and other crimes which are enacted there we are forced to confess that better results might be expected to follow the outlay.

A FEW DAYS.

It may be in the spring time—
May be 'neath summer's glow—
May be when Autumn's fruits are ripe—

May be when falls the snow—
I shall say good day, and go away,
Across the mystic sea,
And in a while, with patient smile,
You'll rise and follow me.

You've been the world, and more to me,

For many and many a year:
The best of all I knew of good—
The dearest of the dear—
And, walking on this solemn shore,
It fills my heart with pain,
That one of us must go away,
And one of us remain.

A few days, and a few days,
Of memories sad and sweet—
A few days and a few days
That pass with flying feet—
A few days, and a few days,
And then for you and me,
An ended quest, a perfect rest,
Beyond the mystic sea.

H. L. Spencer.

P. L. Connor, representing the Canada Cordage Co. and a brother of John Connor, politician and government contractor, committed suicide last Monday by shooting himself through his head and heart in a loft near his mother's residence in this city. His body was not discovered until the following day. He was 36 years old and unmarried. He was a sufferer from insomnia and is supposed to have been temporarily deranged.

Joseph Kennedy who drives the mail between this city and St. Martins, as he was passing on Tuesday noticed that the house of Felix Sloane at Willow Grove was on fire. Proceeding to investigate he found Mr. Sloane, overcome by smoke and unconscious, with his clothing on fire, in one of the rooms. After rolling him in the snow he carried him to the house of a neighbor. He will recover.

The grocery store of Thomas Powers at North end was burglarized last Tuesday night.

A prisoner in the Britain Street lock-up was nearly suffocated by smoke escaping from the flue last Wednesday night.

Mrs. Charles Bragdon last Wednesday at the risk of her own life saved a child from drowning in the Long Wharf slip.

The cargoes of three steamers that sailed from here a few days ago are valued at \$300,000.

Five carloads of sheep from the United States are due here in a few days, for England.

Captain Mathew Bradley of the Schooner Sunbeam, aged 70 years, dropped dead on his vessel in Boston harbor last Wednesday from heart failure. His family live in the North End of the city.

Provisions are generally unchanged in price since the last of the month.

Some quotations follow:

Corn Meal	\$2 30	per bbl
H. P. Beans	1 80	" bus
Ex Fancy P. R. molasses	44	" gal
Fancy "	43	" "
Ex. Choice "	42	" "
Canned Tomatoes	95	" doz
" Corn	85	" "
" String Beans	90	" "
" Beets	90	" "
" Apples, gal	2 25	" "
" Peaches 2 lb	1 90	" "
" " 3 lb	3 00	" "
" Sliced Pine apple	2 25	" "
" Grated "	2 85	" "
" Corned beef 1st	1 50	" "
" " 2nd	2 65	" "
" Finnen Haddie	1 25	" "
" Spring Salmon	1 50	" "
" Cohoes "	1 40	" "
" Clams	1 00	" "
" Oysters 2 lb	2 35	" "
" " 1 lb	1 70	" "
" Eastport Sard	50	" "
" French Sard	1 35	" "
" Sard in glass	1 45	" "

Brooms have declined in price 10 cents per doz. during the week.

Two marriages, seven deaths, and twenty births were recorded in the city last week.

EDWARD EDWARDS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The Weekly Dispatch says it learns, on good authority that a cabinet council was summoned Saturday to consider a communication from Lord Kitchener to the effect that Gen. Botha had sent an emissary admitting that he was out-manoeuvred and asking for a meeting with a view of arranging a general surrender.

The position of De Wet as a free booter was a matter of consideration of Lord Kitchener, who wired for clear instructions respecting the terms of settlement. Lord Kitchener sent Gen. Botha's officer back, fixing 2 o'clock Wednesday for the meeting. Meanwhile the British commander is completing operations by which he is supposed to capture De Wet.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The war office has received the following despatch from Lord Kitchener:

"Middleburg, Transvaal, Feb. 24.—French reports from Piet Retief, Feb. 22, that the result of the columns sweeping the country east is that the Boers are retreating in scattered and disorganized parties to the number of some 5,000 in front of him.

"Amsterdam and Piet Retief have been occupied and troops are protecting the Swazi frontier. French will push on, but is much hampered by the continuous heavy rains.

"Summary of total losses inflicted upon the enemy up to Feb. 16:

"Two hundred and ninety-two Boers known to have been killed and wounded in action, 56 taken prisoners, 163 surrendered. One 15-pounder gun, 462 rifles, 100,000 rounds of ammunition, 3,500 horses, 70 mules, 3,530 trek-oxen, 18,709 cattle, 55,400 sheep, and 1,000 wagons and carts captured.

"Our casualties: Five officers and 41 men killed and four officers and 108 men wounded. I regret to say that Major Howard, a very gallant officer of the Canadian scouts, was killed Feb. 17.

"Plumer reports that Col. Owen captured De Wet's 15-pounder and pom-pom Feb. 23, as well as 53 prisoners and a quantity of ammunition. We had no casualties. Enemy in full retreat and dispersing, being vigorously pursued.

"Gen. De Wet's attempt to invade Cape Colony has completely failed."

LONDON Feb. 25.—A correspondent of the Daily Mail with Hemiker's column, wiring Saturday says:

"Gen. De Wet was routed yesterday by Colonel Plumer, with whom were Colonels Hemiker, Craddock, Jeffreys and Grabbo. This success was succeeded by a series of desperate attempts on the part of the Boers to escape from the water belt of the Orange and Brak rivers.

"Gen. De Wet after unsuccessfully attempting to cross the Brak at Klip Drift, and the Orange at Reads Drift and Marks' Drift, moved along the bank of the Orange with one gun and one pom-pom and laagered opposite Kameel Drift. At dawn Col. Plumer left Welgerenden, 22 miles west of the Boer camp, and moved northeast.

"At Zuurgat he attacked the enemy taking 40 prisoners. The pursuit was continued during the afternoon, the Boers moving toward Hopetown. Toward evening the leading troops sighted the enemy, who had laagered beyond gun range. Col. Owen charged the spot where the Boer artillery was supposed to be and captured the whole of it. The enemy fled, leaving their horses ready saddled and their cooking pots full. According to the latest reports only

400 Boers recrossed to the north side of the river. The Orange is greatly swollen."

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 24.—Col. Plumer engaged General De Wet yesterday near Disselfontein, on the south bank of the Orange river, capturing a gun and a pom-pom and taking 50 prisoners. The Boers were scattered and are being pursued by Col. Plumer.

I is reported that Gen. De Wet escaped to the opposite side in a boat and is now fleeing with a handful of followers. It is reported from a Boer source at Zeerust that General Delerey has been captured.

What Would The Peerlesses Have Done?

LONDON, Feb. 23.—A considerable amount of quiet amusement has been caused by a paragraph which is going the round of the society papers, with a joke at the expense of the Lord Great Chamberlain, who had charge of printing the invitations for the opening of Parliament.

It appeared that these invitations to peers gave directions to appear in court dress, which of course, everybody knows means knee breeches, but as the King wore the uniform of a field marshal the peers were enjoined to wear trousers.

When the printed invitations came from the court printer it was discovered at the last moment, just before mailing, that the injunction about trousers had been added by mistake to the invitation to peeresses.

A messenger was despatched post haste to the printers to get new cards immediately.

Fortunately these arrived sufficiently early to reach their destination in ample time before the function, but the secret leaked out and the Lord Great Chamberlain was the recipient of many quiet jokes in the shape of queries as to what the ladies should have done if they had received the invitation, which amounted to a royal command to appear in court dress trousers.

Would they have complied or risked the charge of disloyalty by disregarding the first command of their new sovereign?

A Flourishing Firm.

The February number of *The Canadian Shoe and Leather Journal* says:—

In the manufacture of larrigans and shoe-packs Maritime people are away ahead of other localities. This branch of the trade is experiencing a great advance down east, and a number of new firms have opened up recently, and they all seem to have their hands full.

Charles D. Dickinson of Charles Dickinson & Co., Woodstock, N. B., was in Montreal a few days ago, on his return from Toronto, Ottawa and points west. The above firm is extending their upper province trade greatly. Their larrigans and shoe-packs are receiving unusual attention from dealers owing to the fine workmanship, durability and finish. The "Henderson Non-Rip Patent Larrigan" is a success and wearers report to dealers all over the country that they are especially water-tight and that the staying qualities of the seams are excellent. The vamp overlaps the quarter, and stubs do not tear the flaps as in some other makes, it is claimed. Mr. Dickinson claims that his larrigans can be guaranteed to wear out without ripping. He has had a life long experience in the leather trade, and his leathers should be reliable. Owing to the demand for his output of footwear he has recently lessened his output of upper leather, and will attend in future almost entirely to footwear manufacture. Last season he was unable to fill his orders in full and had to pass some very large ones. He looks for material increase this season. His samples are much admired by shoe dealers. He is bringing out a child's shoe-pack, very small, numbered 7 to 10, which is a very nobby looking little thing. It is beautifully made and takes well. His boy's shoe-pack has had a good run this season and has been a most pronounced success.

Insane Woman's Awful Crime.

COLFAX, Wash., Feb. 25.—Mrs. Rose Wurzer, a widow, in a fit of insanity, yesterday, drowned her six children aged from four to twelve years, at Uniontown, Wash. Two were boys and four girls. She threw them into a well thirty feet deep, containing two feet of water, then jumped in herself and held the heads of her children beneath the surface until all were drowned. Mrs. Wurzer was found alive in the well with her six murdered children, by the neighbors, who pulled her out with a rope.

Wiped Out by Fire.

YARMOUTH, N. S., Feb. 26.—Four buildings, comprising all the places of business except one, in the village of Ohio, Yarmouth county, were destroyed by fire this morning. The fire broke out about 4.30 o'clock in Nathan C. Vickery's store, which was burned to the ground, before the flames were discovered. The fire then spread north and south and destroyed three other buildings, the post office and store occupied by Capt. Thomas Eldridge, goods partially insured; Champion Liniment factory, recently purchased by Capt. Eldridge, used for storehouse and containing flour and feed, no insurance. The post office building was owned by Ross Allen, now in Florida, and was insured. The Ohio and Trenton mails were destroyed, but \$25 worth of stamps were saved. Ohio is on the Western Counties branch of the D & A Railway, is seven miles from the town of Yarmouth, and has four or five hundred inhabitants.

Andrew Carnegie's Huge Enterprises.

The Carnegie industrial system, which now embraces the mining and transportation of ore by rail and water and the manufacturing of coke is the growth of years and represents the enterprise of the man who laid the foundation. In this respect it is unlike many contemporaneous organizations recently formed in the steel trade, comprising numerous small concerns originally competitive and created by many individuals. The iron and steel manufacturing plant of the company now include nineteen blast furnaces (two buildings), three steel works with eight Bessemer converters, and fifty-six open hearth furnaces (twelve buildings), five rolling plants with thirty-four mills an armor plate works, and a forge for the manufacture of locomotive and car axles. These are all Cyclops worthy of the Homeric archetype. The works enumerated, with the improvements underway and completed, will have to aggregate capacity of 3,430,000 tons of steel per annum, equal to 32.56 per cent. of the production of the United States, 12.65 per cent of the output of the world, and nearly 71 per cent of the output of Great Britain, measured by the production of 1899.

In recent years extensive mines of rich iron ore have been added to the company's possessions in the Lake Superior region, and it now mines about 25 per cent of the output of the district which amounted last year to more than 4,000,000 tons. From the docks at the lake shipping ports the ore is carried in vessels owned or chartered by the company to Conneaut harbor, Lake Erie, where it is trans-shipped by rail 153 miles to the furnaces via the Pittsburgh, Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroads. The magnitude of the steel manufacturing operations of the present day may be appreciated from the fact that during 1899 the receipts of raw material and shipment of finished product of the three largest Carnegie works aggregated 16,000,000 tons. In the mining transportation and manufacturing operations the company provides employment for about 50,000 persons, and disburses yearly 50,000,000 to its operative and administrative forces. The business transacted is exceeded by few, if any, commercial organizations in America or Europe.

Immunity From Crime.

Canada can claim a remarkable freedom from crime. While cases of murder in the United States reach the enormous number of 10,000 a year, Canada during the past year only had 25, and in these the parties were arrested and dealt with in all but two instances. In the whole vast territory of Canada, embracing more than half of the North American continent, with its almost inaccessible wildernesses, with its mining camps, pioneer towns and similar apparent temptations to the lawless, there has not been a single case of lynching. The New York Mail and Express attributes this to the fact that the large cities in Canada are few and do not attract the criminal classes as do the cities of the Republic. And it adds: "To a certain extent, therefore, the tardier growth of the Dominion in population and wealth has its compensation in the fact that her gain, small though it be, is solid, conservative safe and along lines which involve no peril to social or civic virtue." It is probably, however, to her vigilant, expeditious and unhampered enforcement of justice that Canada owes her immunity from crime, and the Mail and Express admits that the United States might profit by her example.