OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

OTTAWA, April 12 .- The chief feature of the session since last week has been the introduction of charges effecting the management of affairs in the Yukon country. They were brought forward by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper in the course of a speech six hours and a half in length. It would take up a great deal of space to go over all that he said, and it must suffice to say that his allegations had reference wholly to the conduct of officials on the gold fields. In substance it was declared that some of these men had used their positions for the purposes of personal gain; that they had been corrupt and unfair; also that there had been intemperance, waste and immorality among Government officers at Dawson City. For the most part Sir Charles Hibbert based his assertions on newspaper scraps and quotations from private letters. the names of the writers in all cases being withheld. His speech was characterized by the maximum of insinuation with the minimum of evidence. Proof there was

In fine Tupperian style, it was declared that the Minister "stands primarily charg. ed with all the rascality and all the nefarious conduct of these men." Growing bolder the fiery young ex-Minister asserted that Ministers on the Treasury benches were individually and collectively responsible for all the mal-administrations and disgraceful conduct of their minions in the Yukon country. These were almost literally his words, and in uttering them he betrayed the direct object of his tedious and violent address. He wished to fasten a scandal on the Government; but although he chose on occasion best calculated to create a sensation, his sweeping charges have since been effectively answered and to-day little stock whatever is taken in the matter, except by those who are governeed by prejudice and were quite prepared from the outset to declare the Government guilty regardless of the

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper has practically desrroyed any little reputation which he had for manliness and fair play by his conduct in connection with this Yukon matter. He knew, as everybody knew, that several of the men appointed to administer affairs at Dawson had turned out incapable. He knew there had been irregularities, and he also knew that the Government had taken prompt and effective steps to set matters right. The recreant officers had been dismissed and better men put in their places No Gov. erument could do more. Yet the ex Minister of Justice, with these facts clearly in mind, on the eve of the adjournment for Easter, when he knew that Mr. Sifton could not reply for five days, put forward a great mass of damaging statements, well calculated to inflame public feeling, and let the matter rest there without so much as moving that an inquiry be held. To complete the atrocious character of this conduct, he immediately took the train for Vancouver and may not return to Ottawa, except perhaps near the close of the Session.

The attack made by Sir Charles Hibbert gave Mr. Sifton an excellent opportunity of displaying his capacity as a Minister and his thorough grasp of all the intricate problems connected with the administration of affairs in the Yukon. He took up seriatim the insinuations and charges which had been made, and disposed of them in such a way as to leave room for but one opinion in the judgment of all fair minded men. His candid and straightforward speech was instriking contrast with the methods adopted by his accuser, and when he sat down the great Yukon scandal, which had been expected to produce so much damage, was a dead issue. He admitted errors and irregularities on the part of officials; but he absolutely vindicated the Government.

If Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper had really believed that he possessed inform tion which would inculpate the Government, he would have chosen another time and another way of bringing forward his statements. He would have waited until the Address has been disposed of, and then have put his charges in proper judical form and have asked for an investigation. Instead, he constituted himself accuser, witnesses, judge and jury all in one. His statements were characterized by the wildest possible recklessness, in which he displayed an animus that, under all the circumstances, was far from creditable to an ex-Minister of the crown. In the most unfair way he sought to besmirch the reputation of the Minister of the Interior, without having the decency to lay before the House a single jot of what might be regarded as proof Even in the judgment of his friends he was suffered a serious decline.

The debate on the address still contin ues. The opposition have somehow got it into their heads that the Government intends to rush the business of the Session through, pass a gerry mander measure, dis solve the House and go to the country before the meeting of the International Commission in August next. Of course, th s is a sheer nightmare; but they have laid themselves out to meet these imaginary tactics by keeping Parliament in session until August. Hence it is that they have kept up the present debate since the 16th March, and no one can say at the present moment just when it will end. The situation would be amusing if it were | corrected.

not for the cost of carrying out this plan of campaign. It requires about \$1,000 a day to keep Parliament in session, and if the Conservatives continue their present blockade methods it will readily be seen that a very large and unnecessary expenditure of public money will result. They are acting like a lot of children who have been frightened by a ghost story.

One might be disposed to feel sorry for the present disorganized and wrecked condition of the Conservative party if it were not for the knowledge that they are suffering from the inevitable consequences of wrong-doing; for they are in a pitiable plight. They have a leader; but he does not lead them in any direct way, nor has he their entire confidence. They are split up into fractions, pulling in diverse directions, and half a dozen would-be leaders are endeavoring to assert their particular notion of what the Conservative party ought to do under existing circumstrnces. They are weak in numbers; but they are weaker still in strong and clear headed men, having a claim on public confidence to take command. There is no particular satisfaction in crowing over a fallen foe; yet in this instance it is difficult to summon ordinary feelings of sympathy.

Neither the Opposition in the House, nor their leading newspapers, are treating the Government with the least semblance of fair play. Perhaps it is too much to expect that opponents will give credit even where it has been honestly earned: but the Conservatives, who used to preach lofty ideals for the Opposition, ought to be ready, now that the opportunity has occurred for practising their principles, to abstain from the tactics which are inconsistent with common decency. For example, the leading tory organ always refers to Sir Wilfrid and Mr. Tarte as "Frenchmen," and they keep this national aspect steadily in view. This disposition to fan racial prejudice is simply despicable. By cunning innuendoes it is implied that these gentlemen, being Frenchmen. are not entitled to the same measure of trust that would be imposed in an Englishman; and so this miserable warfare goes on day by day, and the success which the Government is achieving seems only to intensify the malignant nature of this

The Minister of Railways also comes in for a share of this misrepresentation at the Hands of Conservatives When they are not denouncing him for what they still continue to call the Drummond County "deal", they are sneering at his efforts to solve some of the serious transportation problems which arise in connection with the administration of the Rail. ways department. Quite recently they have developed a new slander. They allege that he has cocked the Intercolonial accounts for the sake of improving the annual showing. It is, of course, almost impossible for them to admit that Mr. Blair's management of the Intercolonial can result in anything short of disaster and a huge yearly deficit, and accing in conformity with such views they are endeavouring to make out that the shortage of last year should have been much larger than the Blue Book shows. They hope to prejudice public opinion in advance of the Minister's statement to the House; but it would not be surprising if, when Mr. Blair obtains a suitable opportunity, he should be able to throw a little light on Conservative bookkeeping methods, by which a surplus was shown where a deficit really existed. The real cause of all this anticipatory criticism, however, is found in the fact that the Conservatives have learned that the new management will probably make an unprecedented showing for the year now current, and this would be a terrible failure of Tory prophecy.

Complaint is properly being made at the exceedingly long-winded and rambling speeches which have thus far been made. Two and three hour talks are quite the ordinary thing, and several Conservative orators have gone far beyond that limit. The two Tuppers, Mr. George Eulas Foster and Nicholas Flood Davin, together occupied exactly twenty-two hours of time, or an average of five hours and a half each. All this was on the Address, which in years past has frequently been disposed of in the course of two or three days and without any one Member speaking for more than an hour. This is both tiresome and unbusinesslike. It is also expensive, as was said before. Unless the Opposition recovers from its present rattled condition, and settles down to business, Parliamentary Sessions in Canada will get to be something like those in Australia, which continue practically the year round. The Government is prepared to submit a number of measures for imdiate consideration; but the Opposition practically controls the House, in so far as the length of the Session is concerned.

It was announced some days ago that the Opposition would move an amendment to the Address, having particular reference to the Yukon charges; but four or five days have gone by without any step in that direction being taken. It is not likely that the Government would oppose'a judical inquiry, as they have everything to gain and nothing to lose by investigation. In some quarters it is believed that a Commission will be appointed to make searching inquiries, quite ments will be given. Those at Stafford irrespective of what the Opposition may do. If irregularities are being committed the Government is just as anxious as anybody else to have them discovered and dition, the Bishop of London and Mrs.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN LONDON.

The corresponding secretary of the St. John Local Council of Women has recently received from Lady Aberdeen some interesting information about the International Congress which is to meet in London June 17th.

This congress has been summoned by Women's International Council formed at Washington about ten years ago, Mrs. Fawcett, of England, being then chosen the first president.

The main objects of this International Council were to be:

1. To promote unity, mutual understanding and trust between the women workers of all nations.

2. To provide a centre where women workers can meet every five years, and hear and see and know one another, and learn about one another's work; and also to provide a medium of communication between all such workers at all times.

3. To give opportunity for the women workers of all nations to unite on certain general lines of work such as they may they believe will further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom, and law all the world over.

And the most essential rule laid down was: "The council is formed in the interests of no one propaganda, and has no power over its members beyond that of

suggestion and sympathy." For five years not much progress was made. In 1893 the International Council accepted the invitation of the Women's Congress, meeting at Chicago during the World's Fair and held the first quinquennial meeting at that time. It was calculated that women workers belonging to over thirty different nationalities responded to this invitation, and the result was that a large number returned to their own countries pledged to form National Councils of Women, which in process of time should affiliate with the International Council. Lady Aberdeen was elected president.

Since then National Councils have been formed in Canada, Germany, Sweder, Great Britain and Ireland, New Zealand, New South Wales, Italy, and are in process of formation in other countries. These National Councils are doing good work in various directions, but chiefly in collecting information about womenworkers, in giving women-workers an opportunity of comparing notes as to modes of working, and also in suggesting needed reforms in laws relating to women and children.

This same work, but in a much wider field, the International Council aims at accomplishing. It wishes to establish a bureau for information regarding women's work in all parts of the world, and it desires to provide a rallying point for women who in all countries are trying to live for others and to leave the world better than they found it.

This interesting congress of womenworkers from all parts of the world will consist of representatives of every National Council-two delegates and the president. Besides these, many speakers have been invited, in all about 300 persons from countries outside of Great Britain have promised to take part in the meet-

The headquarters of the council and congress will be in the Westminster Town Hall, where two sections of the congress will hold their sessions. Other sections will meet in the Convocation Hall of the Church House and in St. Martin's Town

There are five sections of the congress, each of which will hold two sessions daily. The programme is as follows:

1st Section-Educational -Convenor, Miss Emily Faithful. Papers and discussions will be on Child-life, on Schools, Universities, Co education, Training of Teachers, Examinations, Women as Edu-

2nd Section-Professional-Convenor Mrs. Bedford Fenwick: Women in Medicine, Art, Science, The Drama, Music, Nursing, Literature, Journalism, Horticulture, the Civil Service.

3rd Section - Industrial - Convenor, Mrs. J. B. Macdonald. The subjects taken up will be: Wages, Domestic Service, Trade Unions, Special Legislation as regards Women's and Children's Work.

4th Section-Political-Convenor, the Hon. Mrs. A. T. Lyttelton: Parliamentary Enfranchisement of Women, Responsibilities and Duties of Women in Poli-

5th Section-Social-Convenor, Mrs. Benson, widow of the late Archbishop of Canterbury. The papers at this section are on Reformatories, Prisons, Rescue Work, Social Settlements, Women's Clubs Emigration, Provident Schemes, Amusements, Social Necessity for an Equal Moral Standard for Men and Women.

The entrance to the congress will be by ticket. For members of councils \$1.25 admitting to all sessions; for others, \$1.75. Printed forms for signature can be obtained from the corresponding secretary of each Local Council.

During congress week several entertain-House and Surrey House have already wen noticed in the daily papers. In at Creighton give a garden party on Satur"Great Haste is Not

Always Good Speed."

Many people trust to luck to pull them through, and are often disappointed. Do not dilly-dally in matters of health. With it you can accomplish miracles. Without it you are "no good."

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decide on from time to time, and which day at Fulham Palace; and on the last day of congress Lady Rothschild entertains at Gunnerbury Park, near London.

No doubt a most delightful week will be spent by those who are so fortunate as to be present in London at the time.

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THE YACHS SHAMROCK.

GREAT SECRECY BROUT THE CHALLENGER FOR THE AMERICA CUP.

Boston, April 12.—A despatch to the Herald from Gurock, Scotland, says: The work on the Shamrock has advanced far enough to need the services of detectives. The challenger will have a steel boom 251 inches in the slings and 115 feet long. A steel mast is also made, and this will be tested on the Clyde in the preliminary trials, where good tests will be made. It may be used in the rases, though in case it proves too rigid and will not give and is liable to pull the chain plates, the wooden mast will be used. The challenger will have a very large sail plan. quite 13,000 square feet in working sails, with nearly eighty-five feet from deck to hounds . Fife's carpenters are now in Chi-wick making the hollow spars. Fife has given orders that even these workmen are not to be permitted to get a glance of her. Add to this secret nonsence the lead keel and under part of the yacht which is finished is now covered with matting, so that no sketch or view of her can be had. The carpenters have been working four weeks on the hollow spars, such as extra club poles, evtra gaf and extra spinnaker poles. There will be a duplicate set of steel spars also made. Sir Thomas Lipton has told the workmen in case no information leaks out he will make them substantial presents. The Shamrock is building in a corrugated iron shed, and for the last week has been guarded by detectives both day and night. The chal lenger will not be far off in her dimensions from the new defender, and this is shown by the few tons difference in the

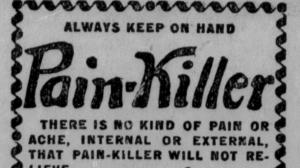
Sir Thomas Lipton intends making a big affair of the cup races, for besides the friends who will accompany him from this side hundreds of invitations will be sent out to American friends, who will be his guests on borrd one of our large pleasure steamers. While in Scotland last winter S.r Thomas extended a number of invita tions to friends to be present at the launching. These have been recalled at the suggestion os "Will" Fife, jr., who will have no one see her out of the water excepting the committee of the Royal Ulster Yacht Club and those having a perfonal interest in the boat. The challenger will be launched about the middle of May, add if current report is true she will be blanketed like a Derby winner from keel to deck when she slides down

lead ballast which is in their respective

keelt. Two suits of sails are already

made and these will be tried out on this

Sir Thomas is very confident of winning, and so is Fife. In fact the rumor here is that the big yacht which is designing for C. D. Rose is to be built at once, so as to be ready for an early American challenger.



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