

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.

In fine Tupperian style, it was declared that the Minister "stands primarily charged with all the rascality and all the nefarious conduct of these men."

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper has practically destroyed any little reputation which he had for manliness and fair play by his conduct in connection with this Yukon matter.

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.

If Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper had really believed that he possessed information which would inculpate the Government, he would have chosen another time and another way of bringing forward his statements.

The debate on the address still continues. The opposition have somehow got it into their heads that the Government intends to rush the business of the Session through, pass a gerrymander measure, dissolve the House and go to the country before the meeting of the International Commission in August next.

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.

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.

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.

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 Railways department.

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.

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.

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 the 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 decide on from time to time, and which 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, Sweden, 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 women-workers, 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 women-workers 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 meetings.

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 Hall.

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 Educators.

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 Politics, etc.

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 entertainments will be given. Those at Stafford House and Surrey House have already been noticed in the daily papers. In addition, the Bishop of London and Mrs. Creighton give a garden party on Saturday at Fulham Palace; and on the last day of congress Lady Rothschild entertains at Gunnerbury Park, near London.

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dy 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 ABOUT 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 25 1/2 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 trial, where good tests will be made. It may be used in the races, 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. Five carpenters are now in Chiwick 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 nonsense 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, extra gaff and extra spinaker 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 challenger will not be far off in her dimensions from the new defender, and this is shown by the few tons difference in the lead ballast which is in their respective keels. Two suits of sails are already made and these will be tried out on this side.

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 board one of our large pleasure steamers. While in Scotland last winter Sir Thomas extended a number of invitations to friends to be present at the launching. These have been recalled at the suggestion of "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 personal interest in the boat. The challenger will be launched about the middle of May, and if current report is true she will be blanketed like a Derby winner from keel to deck when she slides down the ways.

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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