

OTTAWA LETTER.

OTTAWA, Feb. 22.- The session of Par liament has opened this year under singularly depressing circumstances. The death of Queen Victoria, and the neces sity for the wearing of mourning, robbed the commencement proceedings of that gayety which has heretofore characterized them. There was the same military display as in former years so far as the out side 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 has 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 contered 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. Clark Wallace, Mr. W. F. McLean and Sir Charles Hibbert 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 McDonald 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 colleagae 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 ple have jumped to the conclusion that a of the week with Mr. Foster as a debater remedy is to be found in the Government one in the ranks of the Opposition can take up the budget and deal with it as that direction. Nevertheless, the Conservatives are apparently resolved to get along without him, and they are certainly 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 plaining spirit called for the estimates. Other Opposition members demanded to not ready. "Here Parliament has been called together," said they, "and the Government is not ready to proceed to business." The Premier asked the House to be patient until certain formal and necessary motions had been passed. Then Mr. Fielding arose end 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 of 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.

This 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 his-

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. Ffftyeight 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 critivism 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 peo-

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and a critic. He is evidently paying the taking possession of all the railways in penalty for that coldness of manner which | country. This problem is a much larger he seems ever to have been unable to one than it seems to be on the surface. shake off. He will be very greatly missed. It would mean, in the first place, the as-There is no one to take his place. No sur ption of something like \$700,000,000 of liabilities, which, on top of the existing public debt, would be a pretty large un-Mr. Foster can. His special strength is in dertaking. It would also involve a resolution in the transportation situation throughout the Dominion. Even then,

it might not wholly satisfy the people. not moving a finger to find a constituency If the centrol 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 to the people if they were bereft of a voice Mr. Clarke Wallace arose and in a com- ways after having assumed such enormous liabilities as public control would involve. The Minister of Railways put forward know why the Departmental reports were | 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 wili 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 rosponsible 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.

KINGSTON NOTES.

R. A. Christie and Walter Scovil of St. John, and J. F. Edgett of Moncton, were registered at the Kent Nothern Hotel last

Mr. Keady Lanigan is having his sawmill extensively repaired, having recently purchased a large boiler and a doubleedger which he expects to have in opera-

Mr. Martin Conway has enlisted for a period of three years with the Canadian regiment which is now being formed for service in South Africa.

Mrs. W. Dickinson entertained a number of friends last Monday evening in honor of Miss Doherty and Miss Flemm-

Mr. Macdougal, photographer, of Moncton, has returned and is now ready to do anything in the line of photography.

Mr. Wallingford is as enterprising as usual having purchased a fine horse which adds greatly to the necessaries of an expert agriculturist.

ITEMS FROM COCAGNE.

COCAGNE, Feb. 23-An epidemic of the measles struck the village a few weeks ago, and as a result a large number of school children and a few adults are confined to their hemes.

Mrs. C. A. Arseneau is dangerously ill at her home in Grand Digue.

Elmire, the seventh and youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bilodeau, died on Sunday, Feb. 17.

Miss Minnie St. Peter has returned home from Moncton.

Mr. Alfred Goguen has gone to Sydney,

THAT HACKING COUGH is a warning not to be lightly treated. Pyny-Balsam cares with absolute certainty all recent coughs and colds. Take it in time. Manufactured by the proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer.



McLean-McLean.-At St. Andrew's Manse, Kingston, Feb. 19, by Rev. D. Fraser, B. A., John C. McLean, of St. Nicholas River and Margaret McLean of East Galloway.



WASHINGTON .- At the Almshouse, Chatham, N. B., Feb. 20th, 1901, John Washington, a native of Richibucto, Kent County, N. B., aged 71 years.

A GIRL'S PERIL.

YOUNG WOMEN.

Pallor, Headaches, Dizziness and a Feeling of Constant Languor Overcome-Hope for Similar Sufferers.

There are thousands of young girls throughout Canada who owe their good health, if not life itself, to the timely use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Among these is Miss Maud Patterson, whose home is in the vicinity of Strathroy, Ont. To a reporter who interviewed her, Miss Patterson said: "Several years ago I began to suffer from headaches, was easily tired out, and could see that my health was not what it had Government it would be unsatisfactory been. At first I did not think there was anything serious the matter, and thought in the general management of the rail- the trouble would pass away. In this, however, I was mistaken, for as time went on I became weaker. The headaches attacked me more frequently, my appetite failed; If I stooped I would growso dizzy that I would almost fall over. I became very pale, and always felt tired and worn out. I was advised to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I have reason to rejoice that I followed the advice, and as I continued their use, it seemed as though day by day they were imparting new life to me. My appetite improved, the headaches disappeared, the pallor left my face, the dizziness that bothered me so much also disappeared, and I felt altogether like a different person. I feel that I owe my renewed health entirely to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and as I know that there are many giris who suffer as I did I would urge them to lose no time in giving this medicine a fair trial."

The case of Miss Patterson certainly carries with it a lesson to others who may be pale, languid, easily tired, or subject to headaches, or the other distressing symptoms that mark the onward progress of anaemia. In cases of this kind Dr. Williams' Pink Pitls will give more certain and speedy results than any other medicine. They act promptly and directly, making new, rich red blood, and strengthen the nerves, and correct all the irregularities incident to this critical

Sold by all dealers or sent post paid at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

BRUTAL USAGE BY BOERS OF BRITISH OFFICERS.

DE AAR, Feb. 23. - Commandant Fronemans' force, about one thousand strong, has separated from DeWet and gone north. DeWet is moving westward to meet Commandant Hortzog who is coming with a fresh supply of horses. A British officer was taken prisoner by De-Wet at Eand Drift, but was subsequently released at Houtenkraal, from which point they made their way to De Aar and he asserts that he and his fellow prisoners were shamefully treated by the Boers. He says he saw DeWet personally sjam boking a British officer for expostulating in reference to his treatment.

Children Cry for CASTORIA.

Lawyer-What is your business? Bankrupt-Well, I suppose I might be called a bill collector.

Lawyer-A bill collector? Bankrupt-Yes. At least, I have a large collection of unpaid bills.

Nervous Dyspepsia.

In this age of nervous diseases, when people on all sides are falling victims to nervous prostration, paralysis, loco-motor ataxia and other dreadful maladies, it is a comfort to know that you can turn to Dr. Chase's Nerve Food (pills) with absolute assurance that it will thoroughly build up and revitalize the feeble, wasted nerve cells.

Mr. Joseph Geroux, 22 Metcalf street, Ottawa, Ont., writes: "I was nervous, had headache and brain fag. I was restless at night and could not sleep. My appetite was poor, and I suffered from nervous dyspepsia. Little business cares worried and irritated me. After having used Dr. Chase's Nerve Food for about two months, I can frankly say that I feel like a new man.

"My appetite is good, I rest and sleep well, and this treatment has streagthened me wonderfully. Dr. Chase's Nerve Food is certainly the best treatment I ever used, and I say so because I want to give full credit where it is due.' Dr. Chase's Nerve Food makes the blood rich, the nerves strong, and restores vigor to the whole system; 50 cents, at all dealers', or Edmanson, Bates & Company, Toronto.

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food.

BARGAINS! BARGAINS!

The subscriber has purchased the stock of and removed his business to the store lately occupied by Malcolm McKinnon. Every available spot in the said store is now filled with goods as follows:

> Ready=Made Clothing for Boys and Men. Gents' Furnishings. Ladies' Undersuits, Cottons by the pound, good values, General Dry Goods, Cloths and Groceries, Smallwares, Haberdashery, etc.

My clothing is made in the best establishments in the Domtnion. It is an easy matter to claim and sell at half price. What I do say is I pay cash. I buy bargains and I sell bargains, and if you call on me you WILL purchase. Some say good firms do not sell bargains; I say the only genuine bargains you get is from good reliable houses, and they only sell them very occasionally and you must be alive and ready with your cash to obtain them.

Call at the BARGAIN STORE of

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At Cost to Clear.

We are selling the balance of our OVERCOAT-INGS, REEFERS and ULSTERS at cost to make room for spring stock. A bargain from now till spring.

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HATS & CAPS--Men's and Women's, young and old.

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