

OTTAWA LETTER.

Casulist Enough to Approve of Violation of Liberal Pledges.

Discharged Colored Dining Car Porters Given Other Positions at Smaller Pay, Where There Are No Tips.

Government Supporters With Judgments in Their Pockets. Mr. Mulock in Sore Trouble—His Newspaper Postage Scheme May be Dropped Until Next Session.

OTTAWA, April 7.—Some of the newspapers are accustomed of late to speak of the senators as infirm people. It would be equally proper just now to speak in the same terms of the other house. Yesterday by reason of infirmity there were gaps in the front bench on both sides of the chamber. Mr. Foster has so bad a cold that he could not reply to the budget speech, and Sir Wilfrid has been shut up in his house for nearly a week. Mr. Davin is of the opinion that the premier, though abstemious in other matters, is suffering from over-consumption of pastry. He says Sir Wilfrid has had too much of Tart. Mr. Tarte himself is under the weather, but no explanation is given of the circumstances.

Some ill-natured people have been accusing Mr. Davin of saying an ungracious thing when he intimated that there was a significance in the fact that Laurier avenue in Hull leads to a graveyard. Of course Mr. Davin had no thought in his mind for the premier's physical ailments when he made the remark. The only point he was making was that of the morbid character of the administration, which he said had the pallor of death upon it. Mr. Richardson, who divided most of yesterday afternoon with Mr. Davin, says that Laurier avenue does not lead to the cemetery, but from it, which point of view is worth considering.

Mr. Davin resumed his discussion of his motion, setting forth that good faith on the part of the government with the western farmer demands free admission of agricultural implements. The discussion led up to some fine ethical considerations. There is no doubt that the minister has in power promised to remove the duty from farm machinery. There is no doubt that they obtained much support in the west on the strength of this promise. The member for Lisgar who supports the government is elected on this issue. The Rev. Dr. Douglas also holds his seat by virtue of these promises. The question to be settled is whether a promise ought to be kept when it is to the advantage to the country to break it. That is not a question for the ministerial members, for they maintain that there has been no violation of the promise. It is a question for the protectionist opposition.

Mr. Davin holds that every man ought to keep his pledges. He takes the plain position that when a party obtains power on a certain understanding, a binding contract has been made, from which there is no honorable escape. Mr. Davin not only shows that in this case the ministers now in power offered terms, but that these terms were accepted and that the people in some of these promises have performed their share of the contract. The government is in power, and owes to the people who placed it there the fulfillment of the contract on which it holds office. Dr. Douglas does not say anything in the house though he preaches in the city churches every Sunday. But it was shown that he had repeated to his constituency the pledges of his leaders, that he had obtained his seat in the house on these pledges, that he had repeated them in the name of the government after the present ministry came in power, and that he has since told the people of his constituency that the promises have not been kept.

Mr. Craig of East Durham is a conservative and a moral man, but he is casulist enough to approve of the violation of the liberal pledges. He takes the ground that it would be disastrous to the country to carry out the liberal platform. He would rather have all the ministers make themselves liars than that they should ruin the country. In fact, he would like them to add one more lie to their already voluminous record. They promised to make binder twine free, and are doing it, consequently a factory in his own town is closed and will not be open again unless the duty is restored. Mr. Craig takes an intelligible position when he pleads for at least a revenue tariff on binder twine, especially as there has been no reduction in the price by reason of the change. It is another question whether his ground is good, when he says that it is better to have a government of liars than a government of blunders. This suggestion of ethical weakness in the argument of Mr. Craig is made with deference, for he holds a degree from the University of Toronto, with all first class honors in moral philosophy and metaphysics.

There is no more aggressive and uncompromising conservative in the house than Mr. Taylor, the opposition whip. He is a protectionist in all things and at all times. Nevertheless, he refuses to justify a breach of faith on the part of the government. He maintains that it is the duty of the government to carry out the policy which it was elected. The policy was bad, and no doubt the ministers knew it. They should have stood by their pledges, however, and if protection was to be continued they should have allowed it to be resumed by a protectionist government. The liberal

declaration should stand so long as the ministers remained in power who came in on that declaration. If they found they could not carry out their policy they should have resigned their office or appealed to the people.

While Mr. Taylor was speaking in this way, Mr. Campbell of Kent interrupted with the demand whether the country was not prosperous, and again with a declaration that the factories were "running night and day." Mr. Campbell was paying a high tribute to the protective policy when he made this statement, for those industries which are running night and day are those whose protection has been continued. They include Mr. Campbell's four mills, and the violation of the liberal pledges is worth thousands of dollars a month to him. The only point in the interruption would be justification of Mr. Craig's argument. Mr. Campbell would maintain also that the loss of the ministry were the salvation of the four mill, and that this would justify them if they told as many lies as a czar. There is no contradiction of Mr. Craig's statement that those factories are closed in respect to which the demand whether the country was not prosperous was carried out by his pledges. "Splendid mendax" is a Horatian phrase which Mr. Campbell and Mr. Craig may agree to apply to this ministry. There is at least no doubt about the mendax.

Mr. Richardson, who tries to support the government and at the same time to stand well with the rural residents of Manitoba, thought the matter over and could not make up his mind how to vote on Mr. Davin's resolution. He did not want to condemn the government. He could not well vote against the proposition of Mr. Davin. So he compromised by moving an amendment that the duty on farm implements ought to be ten per cent, and by devoting a speech of half an hour to the abuse of the resolution. Mr. Richardson quoted a speech of his own, made last year, in which he examined the records of the votes given by Mr. Davin during the ten years he sat in the house as a supporter of the late government. The record shows that Mr. Davin moved a great many resolutions in favor of lower duty and of second homesteads and of many other things which he thought were necessary for the welfare of his constituents. Some of these he pressed to a vote, some he withdrew at the request of the government, some were avoided by amendments. Mr. Richardson voted against the resolutions of Mr. Mulock in favor of free binder twine before the binder twine agitation had begun, and afterwards took up the question himself and urged it forward. Mr. Richardson's review, followed by Mr. Davin's, was the substance of what went to show that Mr. Davin has been from the beginning an aggressive and independent promoter of western interests. Acquainted as he is with all parliamentary methods and devices, he has taken advantage of such opportunities as he could find and make. Before the last government resigned he had the satisfaction of seeing the homestead law changed in the direction he desired, the duty on farm machinery reduced from 35 per cent to 20 per cent, and that on binder twine cut down one half. In the west and in the east alike he is better known as the exponent of western ideas and the advocate of western interests than any supporter, or all of them together, that the ministers can boast among the western members.

Mr. Richardson as editor of the Winnipeg Daily Tribune is quite independent, though he seems to be slavish enough in the house. He makes great fun in his paper of the minister of justice and of his claim that the defeat of the Yukon bill is a blow at the protectionist. The Winnipeg Tribune holds up the attitude of the government to ridicule and derision, and scoffs at the idea that the senate should be punished for sinking the Yukon steel to the bottom of the sea. All this from a member of the commons who read for the Yukon deal is highly significant. Mr. Richardson is one of forty or fifty members supporting the government who are delighted with the fate of that great scheme. Mr. Davin spoke of Mr. Richardson as "that blower" which is improper. He should have spoken of him as the member for Lisgar, and the deputy speaker told him so. Mr. Davin was humble, and apologized to the house. He said that it was only in a moment of inattention that he applied the term. He would never be guilty of such a misnomer again. Usually he tried to be accurate in his references, and he regretted that he had strayed so far from the facts. Mr. Davin is thus under pledge never to call Mr. Richardson a man again.

Mr. Fielding did not want to embarrass his followers by causing them to vote on the record of the government. Accordingly he moved the adjournment, which throws the motion away down at the foot of the list, to be reached somewhere in the summer session. The motion was adopted, and the members went off for their Easter vacation. Earlier in the day a great race question arose. It was Campbell of Kent who brought it up. Kent is a long way from the maritime provinces, but it was near one terminus of the great underground railway by which in years gone by the slaves of the south made their escape to the free soil of Canada. Many descendants of these refugees are now on the voters' list, and Mr. Campbell has them in his eye. So when a Tory paper in his own county said that his leaders were dismissing the colored porters from the Intercolonial service, and called upon him to stand up for the interests of his constituents, he sprang to the fore. As a result of his enquiries he produced a letter from Mr. Archibald of the dining car service, who had explained the whole affair to Mr. Russell of Halifax. Mr. Russell, it appears, did not think the question called for a speech in the house, and so Mr. Campbell threw it into the gap. The latter was then retired from the dining car service and whose conduct was good had

received other positions. A man whose pay had been thirty-five dollars a month as a porter was re-engaged in some other position at twenty dollars and his board, which was said to be better pay. This might have opened up the question as to the cost of his board and the value of his tips, for though Mr. Blair defended the position of the department he did not enter into these details.

The solemn topic was passed over to Mr. Fraser, who delivered an impassioned address, though brief, on the sin of raising a race issue in this otherwise peaceful country. Mr. Fraser went on to glorify the railway porter and to dilate on his high qualities and excellent moral character. The colored vote should be sold for Mr. Fraser when he calls for it. But he himself has been the centre of a race and sectional issue. Two Scotch friends of his from British Columbia are pressing for his appointment to the position of chief justice of that province. The other two members, who are not Scotch, they demand, are home rulers. They demand a native appointment. The St. John and Halifax papers, guided by their excellent Scottish correspondents here, have announced that the appointment is as good as made. In this connection Mr. Choquette has announced, though not with quite the same certainty, was made some weeks ago. There are yet, however, some possible elips between the western cup and the eastern lip. While we of the west offer our best wishes to the member for Gustown, we will not congratulate him until after the appointment is made.

Meanwhile Mr. Fraser votes right and expects the appointment. Mr. Yeo has voted right, and his appointment has already passed. He has also voted right, but has once opposed Mr. Blair, but has done so with moderate loyalty to Mr. Tarte. He will be a judge in Quebec before next session. Here are three members who seem to be provided for, and some six others already in possession of their rewards. Mr. Mulock has not reintroduced his bill prohibiting the acceptance of office by members of parliament. That measure might condemn half of the present parliament to a criminal process.

Mr. Mulock himself is in other straits. His offer of two hundred thousand dollars as a payment of his liability for neglect in the matter of the Farmers' Loan company is not likely to be accepted. The total liability of the company amounts up to a million or thereabouts. Mr. Mulock is the most solvent of them all. It is unfortunate that a man who knew nothing of the mismanagement of the business should be punished so severely, but what shall we say of the business, made up of the members of such administrators who are in possession of Toronto seems to be of the opinion that the postmaster general is carrying his bad business habits into the department. The representatives of eight of these papers have had a meeting, and have agreed to support a bill. Mr. Tarte's La Patrie also announces the postage policy. It is queer to see one minister denounce in his paper the policy of another minister, but the explanation is that Mr. Mulock does not abate his schemes without consulting his colleagues. He did it last year, and the end of the session when the opposition obstructed his measure the other ministers refused to come to his rescue. He did it again on the special postage programme, and had to take it back. The religious and the public need not be surprised if the great newspaper postage scheme is laid away in that cemetery where the innocents of each session are buried on prostration day.

OTTAWA, April 8.—Mr. Fielding now explains that last year he and his colleagues were in grave doubt as to the correctness of their position in respect to the Belgian and German resolutions. "We were well aware," he says, "that there were debatable subjects. . . . We knew there were doubts and difficulties surrounding them, but nevertheless felt that we were bound, as the advocates of Canada, to put forward every claim which could be put forward in its behalf." This Mr. Fielding now says, was the attitude of the minister of marine in discussing the matter last year. Mr. Fielding admits that Sir Charles Tupper emphatically and clearly affirmed that the Belgian and German resolutions in the way of last year's preferential arrangement, and that nothing could be done in the direction proposed until these treaties were abrogated. One would judge by Mr. Fielding's remarks that while the government, and especially Sir Louis Davies, were last year half inclined to think that Sir Charles was right, they nevertheless concluded to make the best they could of the doubtful position.

But taking up the speech of Sir Louis Davies last year, we find that he had a queer way of expressing his doubts. He spoke contemptuously of Sir Charles' view. This is the way Sir Louis spoke, following Sir Charles' Tupper: "Can he produce the opinion of a prominent lawyer, or even of a leading lawyer, who would defend the absurd and ridiculous statements made by him that this resolution is unconstitutional and illegal? . . . The gentlemen who are colleagues of the finance minister, some of them not altogether undistinguished as lawyers in the profession from which they come, hold the same opinions as he. Again, Sir Louis spoke of the "ridiculous absurdity of the position of the leader of the opposition." And in the same speech he said: "I do not entertain any reasonable doubt whatever that the conditions will not be held to violate the conditions of the solvency or Belgian treaty." It will be remembered that Sir Louis contended that the Belgian and German treaties did not apply to Canada at all, because Canada was not a party to them, and maintained with equal confidence that even if they did apply the preference offered by this treaty



Expert bicyclists have recently succeeded in riding a single wheel, or unicycle, for short distances, and in the habit of subjecting him to such insults. It is the healthy discipline inflicted on a departmental head who persists in launching ill-considered schemes without consulting his colleagues.

There is anger not well suppressed among the civil servants on account of the failure to secure the statutory increase. It is well known that a large number of the clerks were dissatisfied with their treatment by the late government. They thought that advances were not made in their salaries as fast as they ought to be, and some who were appointed by conservatives made no concealment of their anger when the party fell. They had assurances of better treatment by the other party. Since the change of government the statutory increases which had been made impartially have been withheld and the ministers have been made arbitrary increases where one out of a score is pleased, the great body of quiet and faithful men find no reward for continuous and loyal service. Loafers and laborers are alike left without advancement. There seems to be no necessary connection between the election and the election protest in Ottawa town. Nevertheless there is a subtle relation because an election protest may be followed by an election and an election may be accompanied by a supplementary estimate calculated to gratify the clerks who labor in the departmental buildings. They have votes in the Ontario election and the ministers at Ottawa take a remarkable interest in Ontario politics.

If there has been an apparent failure on the part of the maritime provinces members to secure positions on the house of commons sessional staff for their constituents, an explanation is given in Mr. Picaud's paper in Quebec. The Soleil, which has two members of parliament for its Ottawa constituency, says that at no time have so many French speaking people been employed in the parliament building. The advent of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government, so this organ declares, has brought justice to "our compatriots." It is of course impossible to fill all the buildings with Mr. Picaud's and Mr. Tarte's friends and yet leave room for people from other provinces. This explanation shows that the government members from the lower provinces are not to blame. They are quite helpless. Mr. Russell and Colton Tucker are trying to have the situation explained by a notice over the corridors, "ici on parle francais."

The director of the geological survey is arranging the expeditions for the coming season. Great attention is demanded by the gold fields and for the last few years a large part of the staff has been employed west of Lake Superior. Three explorers have been sent from the survey into other service on account of their knowledge of this part of the country. It is probable that the work in the east will be continued by the same surveyors as in other years.

Speaking of the survey, a pamphlet has been printed from the Ottawa Naturalist of this year. It is a paper by W. J. Wilson of the geological survey, on "The Pleistocene Geology of a few places in the Ottawa Valley." The paper was read in a scientific society here and indicates a careful survey and extended observations in a most interesting field. Mr. Wilson came to the survey from St. John some six years ago, having previously been engaged during the summer season with Mr. Chalmers or alone in exploring New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. He is a keen and accurate observer, who like most of the survey staff, is in the work for the love of it, and therefore does not render a mere perfunctory service. Mr. Wilson brought with him a fine collection of fossils from the Fern Ledges of St. John collected during several years of exploration. This collection has been examined by the geologists of the survey, who hope to add it to the fine collection exhibited in the museum.

A BEAUTIFUL OCCUPATION. Practical aid to the blind is given by a young lady of Gateshead, a correspondent of persons of the town, reads to them in her leisure time, and guides them to places of worship on Sundays and Wednesday nights. She has been engaged in this home missionary effort for five years.—Christian World.

TELEPHONE TYRANNY IN FRANCE. The following notice has been posted up in a telephone office at Versailles: "The use of the word 'Hello' is strictly prohibited. Central office of a subscriber, must say, 'What do you want?'—Le Signal (Paris)."

IT is time to speculate on the possible length of the session. When the house met it was assumed that the session might continue four months, which is about the average. We are now in the tenth week, and when that time has passed the house will have had forty-three sittings. If Saturdays are not used there can be thirty-five more days session by the end of May. It ought to be possible to get the business through in that time, but it cannot be done at the present rate of progress. The budget debate usually lasts from two weeks to three, but can hardly be got through before the last of the third week in April. Then there are the three sets of estimates, the plebiscite bill, and Mr. Mulock's postal reforms, together with a host of small government business. The industry bill would probably take a week or more, but the government has refused to touch it, and will probably not even give it a place in government days. Nearly all the days after next week will be government time, so that any measure passed over to private days is hopeless. Mr. Mulock's bill probably marked for slaughter, although the

provident parent seems yet to be unconvinced of the impending calamity. The postmaster general will be violent if this outrage is perpetrated, but the cabinet is accustomed to his violence and is in the habit of subjecting him to such insults. It is the healthy discipline inflicted on a departmental head who persists in launching ill-considered schemes without consulting his colleagues.

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PORK PACKING.

The Middleton, N. S., Establishment Appears to be Practically Assured.

(Middleton Outlook.)

The movement for the establishment of a pork packing factory at Middleton is progressing satisfactorily. No enterprise was ever started here which received such general approval of farmers, business men and men of letters. Not one of the leading capitalists. Not one of the leading men to whom the matter has been explained but has approved the idea and many of those who at first took a small amount of stock have, on fuller investigation, increased the amount. The ready response from the people of Lunenburg county has given the movement a strong impetus. One advantage of a bacon making factory is that the hogs needed are lean ones, which can be raised without the purchase of feed from outside the farm. The farms will be kept up without the present large expenditures for artificial fertilizers, at the same time the farmer will be receiving ready money the year around. The market is assured from the fact that several different firms abroad are so anxious to get the bacon from the factory as to be willing to invest money to help start it. Our most experienced business men are promoting the enterprise, which gives a guarantee for its success. Enough stock to enable the company to be incorporated will soon be taken, after which there will be little trouble to dispose of the remainder. The best guarantee of the success, however, is for every farmer along the two lines of railway to take a few shares. This is done we shall by this time next year, and hogs with hogs coming to Middleton from the west, east and south and returning with the cash for the farmers.

The Bridgetown Monitor has the following to say in reference to the Nova Scotia Pork Packing Co.: "So there is every prospect that this enterprise will be readily established with local capital, and there is also an encouraging prospect for the hog raising industry of western Nova Scotia. There is money in pork if there is a ready market for it at hand, and a pork packing establishment will furnish a market sufficient to consume anywhere from 25,000 to 50,000 hogs per year. Middleton, as a railway centre, is advantageously situated for the location of such an enterprise, and we hope to see it carried to a successful establishment. So far local capital has responded readily to the needs of the occasion, and we think that the spirit of enterprise that has been awakened will not suffer the scheme to collapse."

The Most Prominent are Fashionable.

Dyspepsia or indigestion has become a fashionable disease. There are very few individuals who do not at various times experience the nervous feeling caused by defective digestion. No pen can describe the keen suffering of the body, and the agony and anguish of mind endured by the dyspeptic. Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, of 236 Pine Ave., Montreal, says that "I have run across chronic cases of dyspepsia. I always prescribe Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, and my patients generally have quick relief."

DRY DOCKS AND RECIPROACITY.

(Boston Herald.) The Boston Associated Board of Trade, Rufus A. Flanders president, held a business meeting in Young's Hotel Monday evening. It considered, among other matters, the subject of a dry dock for Boston, the question of reciprocity with Canada and Newfoundland, and the establishment of an independent agency to attract wholesale buyers to Boston and to foster and protect the general commercial interests of this section of the country. With regard to the dry dock, Secretary Hayward stated that six quarry owners had signed an agreement to build a stone dock for the same appropriation which it is proposed in congress to set apart for the wooden one. Chamber construction is expressly directed in the act before congress. Mr. Hayward added that quarry owners agree, in the event of war, to build the dock for less than a timber dock would cost. Alex. S. Porter said that Senator Chandler of New Hampshire held the situation in the palm of his hand, and he added, that if Senator Chandler were approached in the right way the suggestion for a stone dock could be carried out. Alden Speare stated that, from what he has learned, it would be impossible for Boston to get a dock unless Portsmouth also got one. The opinion was expressed by several members of the board that a timber dock would be better than nothing.

The special committee of the board on the question of reciprocity with Canada reported, through Hersey B. Goodwin, a report which the president is impressed with the importance to the business interests of New England and other parts of the United States of an equitable treaty of reciprocity, and the board respectfully requests that such a treaty be negotiated as speedily as possible. The board accepted the report.

THE WOLF FROM THE DOOR.

The Country Editor Explains How Blessed a Thing is Charity. (From the Philadelphia Record.) There is a real humorist living away from the turmoil of the busy world in the placid oblivion of Perry county. He is the editor of the Perry county Freeman, and here is a short note from the latest edition of his unique journal: "Donation Party.—It being reported in the neighborhood that the Widow Oscar, who with her two boys and a girl, lives in Mr. Archy's tenant house, was in need of help, word was sent through the neighborhood that there would be a donation party at her house on Saturday night, and in consequence the entire community turned out to help her. That the donation was a success was evidenced by the fact that her two boys sold enough dried apples to the huckster on Monday morning to get enough money to buy two new coats and a month organ, and thus, through the charity of the neighbors, the gaunt wolf of starvation be kept from the widow's door for a season."

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