

THEY WANTED PETER

Opposition Attempt to
Provide the ex-Chief
Engineer of I C R

WITH A FREE TRIP TO OTTAWA.

No Effort Made to Summon
Employees of the Road

WHO KNOW HOW THE BOOKS ARE
KEPT.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, March 14.—The Opposition and their friends do not require much material out of which to make a scandal, even though it should only survive long enough to pass through the newspapers and then be exploded. On Wednesday last Mr. Haggart asked the Public Accounts committee to send for Mr. P. S. Archibald, and to this Mr. Blair objected. Mr. Haggart appealed to the committee, and the committee sustained the objection of the Minister of Railways. Mr. Haggart then made a dramatic threat to bring the matter before the House, apparently wishing innocent outsiders to believe that the cause of truth was being suppressed.

Within an hour afterward, it was announced on the bulletin board of the local Conservative paper that Mr. Blair had, in the most high handed manner, given orders that no employee of the Intercolonial should be allowed to give evidence about the accounts. The correspondents of Conservative papers embellished this story with other details drawn from their imagination, and the country was called upon to witness the way in which Mr. Blair desired to prevent the exposure of crooked book-keeping in connection with the Intercolonial. All sorts of strong terms were used in denouncing the alleged proceedings.

What are the facts? Mr. P. S. Archibald was the chief engineer of the Intercolonial up to 1897, when he was dismissed, after a judicial investigation, for active partisanship in issuing passes by the hundreds during the campaign of 1896. Since his removal Mr. Archibald has constituted himself the special coach of the Opposition in relation to Intercolonial affairs, and during each session he spends a good deal of time at Ottawa in this capacity. He has been brought here at public expense, and kept here day after day for the purpose of giving testimony against the Minister and those who are associated with him in the administration of the railway.

Mr. Archibald knows nothing about accounts. He has not been connected with the railway for five years, and could not possibly give any testimony of value in relation to the matters being inquired into by the committee. He has been here so many times that the committee could not see any defensible reason for bringing him up again at large expense to give evidence about things quite outside of his knowledge. It would no doubt be a very nice thing for Mr. Archibald to spend three or four weeks at Ottawa at public cost; but really anything he might have to say would be of no more service to the country than the testimony of any other sore-head.

The public accounts committee took up the question of the purchase of ties by the Intercolonial yesterday. The Conservatives have been suspecting that the large orders for ties last year and the year before had something to do with the elections, and they were particularly concerned about those bought from Mr. Frank Curran of Bathurst. Mr. Pottinger was put on the stand, and he declared in the most positive way that he and the Chief Engineer were wholly responsible for the purchase, and that the Minister had had nothing to do with the matter. He had given the orders because he believed it to be in the public interest to do so.

Mr. Pottinger's evidence was a great disappointment to the opposition. They had fully counted on making some thing out of these tie purchases; but the General Manager was so clear and positive in his statements that they were left with nothing to go upon. As a matter of fact, all this talk which is current in Conservative newspapers about the cooking of accounts at Moncton is in the last degree absurd. There has been no change in the system since 1896, and the same men are keeping the accounts today who kept them in Mr. Haggart's time. They are men who were appointed by the Conservatives, and who could easily be brought to Ottawa to prove the falsity of the stories which are being told about the book-keeping.

It is perhaps natural, however, that suspicion should be the chief stock-in-trade of the Opposition. In fact, it has long been accepted as a proverb that all Oppositions believe all Governments to be corrupt, and this view will be shared by the genuine partisan without any regard whatever to facts. If the Apostle Paul were in the Government today there is not a Conservative paper in the land but would be insinuating all sorts of crimes and misdemeanors against him. It seems to be an essential part of the game of politics that one side should slander the other; but the calm-minded and onlooking public take very little stock in such tactics.

Proceedings in the House have developed nothing of special interest during the week. A large number of private bills have been advanced through various stages, and probably enough of these will have been passed by next week to give the senators something to do when they resume work on Tuesday next. On Government days the time has been wholly taken up with the consideration of the public works estimates, and notwithstanding all the tricky schemes of the Conservatives they have not been able once to trip up Mr. Tarte. His ready wit and grasp of the matters under review have rendered all their attacks harmless.

The budget is announced for Monday. It may possibly indicate a somewhat larger addition to the public debt last year than at any time since 1896, but the average for the six years of Liberal rule will still be less than one third of what it was during the 18 years of Conservative administration. For the year beginning 1st July next the minister may possibly announce a curtailment of the expenditure, which, in view of the steady growth of the revenue, ought to enable him to predict a large surplus for 1902. It is not believed that any tariff changes will be made.

The trade of the country is keeping up in a really remarkable way. A year ago Mr. Fielding spoke of the crest of the wave having probably been reached; but the official figures indicate that he erred on the side of caution. For the eight months ending 28th February the aggregate trade of the country reached the large figure of \$275,247,856, or an increase of \$17,500,000 over the corresponding period last year. The larger increase was in imports, and this, of course has had a helpful effect upon the public revenue. For the eight months the excess of exports over imports was \$10,000,000, which may be regarded as a very encouraging result.

When Sir Leonard Tilley introduced the National Policy in 1879 he explained that the chief object in view was to lessen imports and increase exports, whereby a large balance of trade in favor of Canada would be brought about. In practice this result was not achieved. On the contrary, the balance of trade against us arose year by year, until it exceeded \$200,000,000 before the Conservatives were relieved from responsibility by the country. It is quite possible to exaggerate the value of the balance of trade; but whatever there may be in such a result the Dominion will now receive under the fiscal policy of the present administration.

At Wednesday's sitting of the House Dr. Russell, of Halifax, brought up the subject of securing uniformity of the laws relating to property and civil rights in Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and a very interesting instructive debate followed. The subject was regarded by both sides as one of great importance; but a majority of the speakers seemed to think that the initiative would have to be taken by the Provinces directly affected. The subject was discussed up to the dinner hour and was then dropped, but it will probably come up again.

A Tale of a Famous Marksman.

In a book published recently by T. F. Freemantle, who is an authority on rifle shooting, the following story is told of a man who is famous in the history of international rifle matches:

Sir Henry Halford on one occasion—it was not a very clear day—was about to begin shooting at 1,000 yards and, thinking that the marker must now be ready for him to begin, asked him through the telephone, "Are you all right?" The marker replied, "All right, sir, in a minute." But unluckily Sir Henry took "All right, sir," instead of the whole sentence and removed the telephone from his ear. He lay down and fired his shot and on looking through the telescope to see where it had hit was horrified to see the marker with a perfectly white face staggering away toward the shelter. He was intensely alarmed, and in a moment there came a ring at the telephone. "What has happened? Are you badly hurt?" "No, sir, I am not hurt, but I had a bucket of whitewash between my legs painting the target, and you put a bullet into it and splashed it all up in my face."

About 600,000 trees are annually planted by Swedish school children under the guidance of their teachers.

The Other Half.

Some one has said, "Half the world does not know how the other half lives," and some one else has retorted, "Half the world does not care how the other half lives."

Charitable.

Artist—I'd like to devote my last picture to a charitable purpose.

Critic—Why not give it to an institution for the blind?—New York Herald.

Monkey Brand Soap cleans kitchen utensils, steel, iron and tinware, knives and forks, and all kinds of cutlery.

Ice Cream Biscuit.

Fresh Water Ice, Imperial, Windsor and Graham Wafers, with other lines of fancy biscuit just opened at G. T. Whelpley's.—d.

To Let

TO LET.

That convenient house and barn situate on George street directly above residence of R. W. L. Tibbitts, Esq.

For terms apply to
R. W. McLELLAN,
Barrister, Carleton street.
Feb. 20—41f

TO LET.

And possession given immediately. The Store next above the one occupied by subscriber.

Also the premises known as the Royal Hotel, containing about thirty rooms, bath room, etc., fitted for hot and cold water;

Also from the first of May the premises known as the Albion Hotel, will be let for a Hotel or for offices for which it is desirably situated. Convenient to the Post Office and steam boat landing;

Also several Counters for sale.
Apply to
OWEN SHARKEY.

TO LET.

The upper part of the Inches' brick dwelling house corner King and Carleton streets, at present occupied by J. F. VanBuskirk. Possession given 1st of May.

Apply to
FRANK I. MORRISON.
Fredericton, Jan. 28—41f.

TO RENT.

Large tenement on Brunswick street, west end, furnace and water. Also an upper flat in same locality. Possession given immediately.

Apply to
A. R. TIBBITTS,
Peoples' Bank.
Feb. 8.—41f.

Carpets,
Linoleums,
Oilcloths, etc.



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If you are after unequalled values in Carpets, Oilcloths, Linoleums, Rugs, Mats and Mattings you should see our stock for spring 1902. You will be entirely pleased with them. Our assortment is replete with the latest designs and colorings. Tapestry Carpets, Brussels Carpets, Axminster Carpets, Wool Carpets, Hemp Carpets. Floor Oilcloths, Passage Oilcloths, Stair Oilcloths, Inlaid Linoleums, Linoleums. India Mats and Rugs, Axminster Mats and Rugs, Tecumseh Mats and Rugs. English Wool Art Squares, Canadian Wool Art Squares. Stair Pads, Stair Plates, Pole Trimmings and Poles, Lace Curtain, Window Blinds.

KID GLOVES!

Easter
Kid
Gloves
at . . .



Dever
Bros.

Our Easter sale of Kid Gloves begins on

SATURDAY, March 22

and continues until after Easter. These are the prices: 25c., 50c., 75c., \$1.00 and \$1.25 per pair.

Just received a large quantity

RUBBERS AND RUBBER BOOTS

of the celebrated Maple Leaf Rubber Company's make. We consider their goods the best Rubber Footwear in Canada to-day, both for wear, style and fit, as we have handled about all the different Canadian makes and the Maple Leaf Rubber Footwear has given us the best satisfaction of any make. We will sell them at

LOWEST PRICES FOR UP-TO-DATE GOODS

We will also continue to sell the balance still on hand of our bargain purchase, recently made of Rubber and Leather Footwear and also the balance of our Bankrupt Stock at the same great reductions as during the past month.

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Store closes at 6 p. m., every evening except Saturdays. [f]