OTTAWA LETTER

Government Cooking Despatches for English Readers.

How Sir Wilfrid Welcomed Himself Home at Public Expense.

Mr. Fielding Cannot Explain the Maria Job, Nor Keep Tabs on Blair, Tarte and Sifton.

OTTAWA, July 21.—It was done very neatly and suddenly. Returning Officer Cumming did not see it coming. Mr. Powell had taken up the examination of the ballots in the West Huron election after Mr. Borden had got through with the examination on other matters. The members of the committee and Mr. Cumming himself did not quite see the use of asking the witness to identify his initials on the backs of each one of the 99 ballots, and to say whether it was written in each case with a pen or a pencil. But when he was through even Mr. Cumming began to see the point. As the ballots were taken back they were regrouped in three files. The 14 Mr. Cumming swore that he initialed with a pen were in one lot. The other lots were all in pencil. Mr. Cumming was allowed to examine the front side of the ballot. He then discovered, if he did not know it before, that the 14 ballots initialed in ink were all Holmes ballots, that the bunch of ballots marked for McLean were all initialed in pencil.

Mr. Powell showed Mr. Cumming some other things. He pointed out that in the ballot which he showed him the block of black in which the round disc is made met the white space where the candidate's name appeared in a straight line, with no printer's defects. Fourteen ballots he examined and found them like this; 84 others he looked at and found them somewhat jagged on the edge of the black line, while a white spot large enough to be perceptible half way across the room could be seen beyond the black line. There were also certain wavy lines partly across the disc. These little blemishes were not found in the 14.

The ballots were then grouped, and it was found that the 14 were perfect ballots, all of the same lot, initialed in ink and marked for Holmes. Then they were spread out on the table and the committee men stood around and saw at a glance that the 14 ballots were much heavier and much whiter than the other lot. When held up to the light one could easily see the disc through the larger group of ballots, while the other 14 were almost opaque. Then Mr. Powell made a sandwich of the 125 ballots, including those which had been returned unused, and were still attached to the pad. He held it up to view, showing an edge black at the top and bottom, with a white strip in the middle. He took out the white strip and spread out the ballots composing it, and they were found to be the identical 14. The original pad had been blackened on the side after it was made, so that each of the ballots had a black edge, but the ink initialed papers had been left white. Then the sandwich was made up again and handed to the witness, who stood it on the table and found the inevitable 14 ballots were misfits, protruding some distance on account of their extra width. By this time it was evident to everybody, including the witness himself, that these 14 ballots had never been torn off the pad or block which Mr. Cumming received from the returning officer. Once more they were spread out and examined as to their marking, and this time it was observed that whereas the other ballots were marked by the voters irregularly, some with acute crosses, some with right angled crosses, some with a heavy line, some with a light line, some on the side of the disc, and some in the middle, the 14 were marked with singular regularity and correctness.

This was the story. The evidence left no doubt that these 14 ballots were imported into the affair from some foreign source. It was not yet clear, who did it and how it was done. The theory of Mr. Cumming that he marked ballots with a pen in the morning did not hold water. At least it did not explain the set of coincidences. The witness himself was either mystified or professed to be. If he had conducted himself correctly and according to law in the poll there would have been more reason to assume that he was innocent, and that some "overzealous liberal" had put up a job on him. Yet it is hard to see how that could be done, seeing that he swears to his initials as made by himself. However, Mr. Cumming did those things which he ought not to have done. He put the counterfoils in his pocket, which he had no right to do, and did it before he put the ballot in the box. He failed to mark the counterfoil before he gave it to the elector and was unable to identify the ballot when it came back to him. He allowed Dancy to act as scrutineer, when, according to his own testimony, Dancy had produced no authority and was not sworn.

There is a queer story about this Dancy. He does not belong in the place, but is described by McManus as "a sort of a lawyer" from Goderich. Cumming swears that he produced no authority from Holmes, but in the envelope which Cumming sealed up at the close of the poll there is contained Dancy's certificate from Holmes. Cumming swears that he never saw it before, and it is almost as much of a mystery how this certificate crawled into the envelope as how the Holmes' ballots got into the box in the place of the McLean ballots. Mr. Cumming himself is the chairman of the liberal committee in his town and has frequently acted as scrutineer in his poll. He was asked yesterday if he remembered a time when two young men, farmers' sons, not living at home and not qualified to vote, appeared together at the polls, and when the witness and the scrutineer of the opposite party agreed that as the lads came from a great distance and were anxious to vote and belonged to different parties that they should be allowed to put in ballots and thus pair off, and that after the grit youngster had voted Mr. Cumming objected to the tory and excluded his vote. Mr. Cumming remembered all except the bargain, which he denied, though he admitted objecting to the tory farmer boy after the grit farmer boy had voted.

The story of the West Huron ballots comes on the same day that the Toronto Globe opens up a furious attack on the senate, beginning with the allegation that the tories are given to stuffing ballot boxes. The event recalls Mr. McGillicuddy and his poem published directly after the bye-election. It may be remarked that Mr. McGillicuddy was a kicker and strongly attacked Mr. Cameron, the late ministerial member for the riding. This was said to be because Mr. Cameron preferred his own relative to Mr. McGillicuddy for the office of postmaster. But the time came when Mr. McGillicuddy ceased from kicking. He even contributed to the literature of the campaign a poem commencing with these beautiful words:

"Hurrah for Tarte, so bright and smart,
Hurrah for Mulock, too,
Hurrah for McGillicuddy and everybody
Who fought the Tupper crew."

Mr. Tarte, it may be remarked, camped down in West Huron during this election and set about great dredging operations at the county town of Goderich. He went to Mr. McGillicuddy, the editor and poet, and negotiated with him to perform the work, though the editor had hitherto only been a dredger of local gossip and was quite new to the contracting business. Mr. Tarte, so bright and smart, however arranged the deal and left Mr. McGillicuddy in a mood to hurrah for everybody.

There is a disposition to rival McGillicuddy as the poet laureate of the machine campaign. The following additional verses are said to have been discovered in the tower room, where the forty-five voters for McLean are imprisoned:

"Oh hug the machine, which threshes so clean,
Hurrah for the Colborne poll,
For scrutineer Dancy and the ballots so fancy
That Cumming put in the hole.

Hurrah for Preston, who is now a'restin,'
Hurrah for Sullivan, too,
For government bluffers, and ballot box stuffers
And the whole piratical crew.

For ballots pilfered to help Sir Wilfrid,
For blunder and plunder and lies,
For government healers and dealers and stealers,
But keep up the purity cries.

The senators disposed neatly and swiftly of the gerrymander bill. It had after all not many warm friends in the chamber, and even the government supporters did not appear to be overwhelmed with grief over the sacrifice. The argument by Sir Mackenzie Bowell, followed by the energetic protest of Mr. Ferguson, left very little to be said on the opposition side. While they dealt to some extent with the details to show its hypocrisy and inconsistency, they confined themselves generally to the main question that this was not the proper time to redistribute the representation. They held to that issue, and on that issue the vote was taken. It was impossible for the secretary of state to make any progress with his protest that the senate had no business to interfere. He and Mr. Power were estopped from putting in any such plea by their own action in moving and voting for the hoist to previous redistribution bills. Mr. Mills was free from that difficulty, for he was in the commons at the time, but he was somewhat embarrassed by Mr. Ferguson's taunt that he was trying to abolish the ancient constituency of Bothwell, because Bothwell had not elected Mr. Mills. The minister of justice, who is usually a most amiable man, quite lost his temper when Mr. Ferguson read to him his own motion made in the house of commons, asking that the constituency of Bothwell be retained as a part of Lambton and a part of Kent. This seemed to be rather opposed to the Mills doctrine of the present day, that county boundaries should be maintained and that Bothwell should go.

The American working man, while he works shorter hours, works harder than the working man of any other nation. He works not only with his hands but with his head. He is an intelligent worker and produces more in a given length of time than the worker of any other nation. He not only exhausts himself physically, but mentally; not only muscularly, but nervously.

The consequence is that while he is better fed and better housed, he is not, as a rule, as healthy a man as his brother working-man of European countries. Moreover, like all Americans, the American working-man is prone to disregard his health and frequently even takes pride in abusing it. It rests with American wives to protect their husbands in this respect. A little watchfulness on the part of the wife will frequently save her husband from a long spell of ill-health and possibly from some fatal illness. When a man feels "out of sorts" it is because his digestion is disordered or his liver is torpid. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery will promptly correct these disorders. It is the great blood-maker and flesh-builder. It restores the appetite, makes digestion perfect and the liver active. It purifies the blood and tones the nerves. It cures 98 per cent. of all cases of consumption, bronchitis, asthma, weak lungs, lingering cough, spitting of blood and disease of the throat and nasal cavities. Thousands have told the story of its wonderful merits in letters to Dr. Pierce. It may be had at any medicine dealer's.

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The minister accused Mr. Ferguson of misrepresentation, and was called rather sharply to order by Mr. Ferguson, who told him that if he would not speak with decency the speaker would be called upon to intervene.

The vote on the preferential trade resolution brought down the government majority to 33. There was some excellent speaking on the second day of the debate, particularly from Mr. Davin, who dealt with the Devonshire letter to Mr. Mulock. It seems that Mr. Mulock committed the grave impropriety of sending to Devonshire a copy of a report of Sir Charles Tupper's speech in Ontario, which report Sir Charles himself had publicly declared to be inaccurate. Sir Charles Tupper had never said that Devonshire offered Canada a preference in British markets, because he and everybody knew that nothing of the kind was ever done. Devonshire's letter to Mulock was quite in harmony with everything that Sir Charles Tupper or Mr. McNeill or any well informed Canadian advocate of preferential trade has ever said. It is moreover a delicate rebuff to Mr. Mulock and a sort of suggestion that it would be better for him to mind his own business.

In supply last evening the house ran up against some Ontario election estimates. Mr. Fielding, who has the awful responsibility of putting Mr. Tarte's estimates through committee, has adopted a non-committal policy. He doesn't know anything about it. He cannot promise anything. Mr. Tarte is away, and therefore Mr. Fielding thinks it would be out of place to say that contracts would be let by tender or that anything would be done as it ought to be. Mr. Foster, who has just returned from the west, vigorously attacked this new phase of government policy, which was to deny all responsibility and all control of an absent minister, though he is at the head of a great spending department. All that seems necessary to do now is to send the minister away and then ask parliament to shut its eyes and vote all the money that minister wants without any of the safeguards that are usually required.

But after all the difference is not serious. Mr. Fielding would not promise to call for tenders because he was afraid Mr. Tarte would not approve. But Mr. Tarte last year was quite ready to promise. Unfortunately when the session was over he was equally ready to break the promises that he made. By a party vote the $10,000 was voted, with $5,000 more to come for a wharf on Georgian Bay, near a decayed town of 400 people with a customs revenue of $350. Nobody petitioned for this wharf except the member for Algoma, whose lumber, it is said, will go to build it. S. D. S.

OTTAWA, July 22.— Notwithstanding the indifference which ministers have expressed in regard to the opinions of the London Times on Yukon matters, they seem to have been taking unusual steps to counteract that influence. It was a rather curious proceeding to which Mr. Davin yesterday called the attention of the house. We know now that the London Times was accurately informed from Ottawa as to what had happened when it condemned the action of the government in voting down Sir Hibbert Tupper's request for an investigation. The despatch sent to the Times was a perfectly correct and fair statement of what had occurred. But an accurate and fair statement is apparently not what the ministers want. So they sent for the correspondent of Reuter's news agency and told him what to send. The correspondent knew his business and knew perfectly well that his employers wanted the truth and nothing else. He sent the despatch with the information that it was sent by request and all the papers which published Reuter's telegram printed it in that way. Thus it became apparent that the despatch was an official production of the dominion government.

This despatch informed the British public that the editorial opinion expressed by the London Times had created a great surprise in Canada. It also stated that Sir Charles Tupper had been compelled to admit that his charges indicting the government were unfounded. Every Canadian knows that the last statement is distinctly untrue, and every Canadian can judge whether the London Times' opinion that an investigation ought to have been ordered, is not also the opinion of the people of Canada. But we have the Reuter despatch with these false statements published in England as having been cabled "by request."

It is interesting to know that the correspondents of the British papers refuse to cable inaccuracies on their own responsibility. It is interesting to know that the government finds it necessary to establish in England a partisan bureau of mis-information to counteract the effect of the damaging statements made in England by the greatest organ of public opinion in the world. Sir Charles Tupper gave the government a severe overhauling concerning this new device, exposed clearly the falsehood of the statement sent by ministerial instructions, and showed that this was one more event in a long line of cowardly acts.

After Sir Richard Cartwright had denounced the waste of time over these Yukon charges, and had lightly and cavalierly scouted the whole matter as unworthy of attention, Mr. Foster reviewed the case. Having done so he took a little excursion into the history of the Preston machine and the election frauds in Ontario. He wanted to know whether Preston, the author and operator of the machine which he wanted the West Elgin boys to hug, was still in the employ of the government. He charged that this ministry was itself a part of the machine, inasmuch as it paid the machinist out of the public money. Mr. Fielding went back to the Pacific scandal, and insisted that however rotten the present ministry might be the people would not turn it out and put the conservatives in. After the events of 1872, he has seen nothing at all to impugn Preston's honesty, and didn't know what was meant by his telegram about hugging the machine. In fact Mr. Fielding's want of knowledge almost equals his lack of information on Mr. Tarte's estimates, which he is trying to put through the house.

It was pointed out by Mr. Bennett in a lively speech that after all Sir Richard Cartwright's scorn of those members who demanded a Yukon investigation the fact remained that three members of Cartwright's own party joined the opposition on this question while other liberal members refused to vote at all. Not only liberals in the country but liberals in the house under the very eyes of the premier, and after every effort had been made to put them into line, refused to endorse their action. Mr. Fielding might be ignorant of the machine, but his colleagues were well acquainted with the mechanism, and their comrades at Toronto had sent their own crown prosecutor, paid by the people to enforce the law, to go down to St. Thomas and help the rascals to escape. He had secured bail for the personators and they had fled, and this government was only abetting the whose fraudulent business by rewarding the chief perpetrator.

The debate was continued with an erratic speech by Col. Domville, who seemed to be in a particularly happy frame of mind and succeded in making himself rather more ridiculous than usual. The colonel announced his intention of making it bad for anybody who interfered with him in Kings, and even intimated that he was going to drive all the conservatives out of New Brunswick. Dr. Sproule closed the discussion by assuring Mr. Fielding that Mr. Preston would not be on hand to press his libel suit, and reminded him that on the last occasion when Preston was in court a number of men testified that they would not believe him on oath.

We know now about those Japanese lanterns and rockets and sundries which, according to the public works report, were used to dredge the St. Lawrence. Mr. Fielding explains that they were consumed on the occasion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's return from the jubilee. Everybody was making illuminations and there was a general celebration and Mr. Fielding tearfully insisted that it was proper for the government dredges to join in the general festivities. So pathetic was his appeal that Mr. Foster assured him that if a five minute' notice had been given the opposition members would have been prepared to mingle their tears with those of the ministers. As it was, he could only assure them of profound sympathy. Other members expressed gratitude for this belated explanation on the "spontaneous enthusiasm" on the St. Lawrence. The enthusiasm was in part at least paid for by the dominion treasury and its spontaneity was assured by long and careful previous preparation and arrangement. It was a great day for theh premier, and the people of Canada ought to be willing to allow Sir Wilfrid Laurier to spend $186 of their money in giving himself an enthusiastic welcome to his native land.

It will be remembered that Mr. Guite, M. P. for Bonaventure, resigned his seat some months ago. Afterwards he withdrew his resignation. It was not clear then why he did it. But the estimates explain it. There is an item of $10,000 for a wharf at Maria. Last year Mr. Tarte said that the job might cost $15,000, but he hoped to do it for $12,000. Yesterday Mr. Fielding explained that this $10,000 was the beginning, and the whole work would cost $70,000. Mr. Bergeron explained, and the statement was corroborated by Mr. McAllister, that there was no water to speak of at Maria, and that the work would cost more than $70,000 before it was done. Hardly anybody lives at Maria, though Mr. Guite has a business there. The place is not even deemed worthy of an accounting post office. The wharf is so purely and simply a political job that Mr. Fielding after struggling with it a few minutes gave up the case and allowed it to stand over, admitting that the case required a better explanation than he could offer.

Senator Ferguson would like to see a better system of collecting agricultural statistics for the dominion than we have now. There is no certainty in the returns issued as to products, and the dominion statistician finds it impossible to answer questions as to the various farm products. Some of the provinces do the work pretty well, others neglect it altogether. But there is no concerted action and no measures taken to collate and publish the results.

The West Huron investigation is proceeding slowly. At last the ministers and their supporters have come to the conclusion that the secrecy of the ballot is not the main thing to be regarded. The case has been so far proved that it cannot be made any worse by the evidence of the voters, and they are now giving their testimony. That part might have been disposed of some days ago, and in the attempt to head it off altogether the government has accomplished nothing more than to keep these men here a week away from their farms at the expense of the country. One thing more was disclosed yesterday, namely that the "bogus" fourteen ballots are of the same kind as the official ballots used in another part of the county. This suggests the same origin and affords another link in the evidence pointing to official connivance in the frauds.

A glance at the supplementary estimates shows that Mr. Fielding has made a discovery since his budget speech. In that speech he admitted that the capital expenditure for the year would be over $8,500,000, but he rejoiced to know that the works requiring this outlay were nearly completed, and pointed out that the amount asked for next year was going to be very much less. Now that we have heard from him again it is found that the estimated capital expenditure is a good deal in excess of the amount contained in the two estimates brought down last year. Instead of a smaller expenditure on capital account in the year beginning the first of this month we are certain now to have a larger expenditure. This shows how much Mr. Fielding does not know about what Mr. Blair and Mr. Tarte and Mr. Sifton intend to do. Mr. Fielding proposes and they dispose, and they do their part more effectively than he does his. S. D. S.

OTTAWA, July 24.—As the principal points of the premier's speech in regard to the Alaska boundary question have been stated, some account should be given of the speech of Sir Charles Tupper, which led to that declaration. Sir Charles began by explaining a speech made by him in Toronto before the beginning of the session. In that speech he referred to the contention of the United States and their refusal to submit the boundary question to arbitration, except on terms which would leave the coast to the United States, even though the tribunal should decide that it belonged to Canada. Sir Charles at that time said that the Canadian government had done wrong in continuing negotiations in the face of this monstrous and insulting demand. Since the Toronto speech was delivered it had been made known that the Canadian government did actually break off negotiations and refuse to renew them unless the United States would consent to an arbitration of the Alaska boundary. Having learned this, Sir Charles Tupper now takes the opportunity to withdraw his reflections on the government and to say that he would not have so expressed himself if the condition of affairs had then been correctly stated.

Having made this frank acknowledgment and offered his support and that of the opposition to the maintenance of the Canadian position, Sir Charles refered to the attitude of the British government in matters in dispute between Canada and the United States. He points out that in the first place the English press, and chiefly the London Times, misled by correspondents in the United States, had misstated the position of Canada in this boundary question. The United States press and the United States generally had from the outset tried to make it understood that England was quite prepared to settle the boundary question in accord with United States contentions, but that Canada caused the whole difficulty. It had also been stated in the American papers that the premier himself was willing to make a fair and just settlement, but that he was restrained by Sir Charles Tupper and the conservative opposition who were hanging on the flank of the government and embarrassing it. Sir Charles offered to allow the premier to say whether he had not from the very beginning done everything he could to strengthen the position of the government in this matter. At a later stage Sir Wilfrid gave frank and free testimony that such was the case.

Sir Charles explained: "My principal object today is that at this critical moment it should be understood that my right hon. friend does not represent the government of Canada and the liberal party of Canada, but that he represents Canada with regard to this question, and that on whatever side of the house we may sit we are ready to do anything and everything in our power to strengthen the hands of the government in taking such a course as will secure the rights of Canada against the unfair position of the United States." The leader of the opposition thinks that when the British and Canadian commissioners offered to adopt a similar reference to that which was made in regard to the Venezuelan controversy they went to the very verge, perhaps even beyond the verge, of what they were justified in doing, in order to show the United States that they were willing to adopt the policy which the United States themselves urged in a similar case.

After stating the boundary case and the proposition that the whole matter should be referred to an international arbitration, with the reply of the United States that they would refuse even their own model of arbitration, and that in any case they would hold Skagway and Dyea and the Lynn Canal, even if the arbitrators should decide that they did not belong to the United States, Sir Charles continued: "I am satisfied that we can find no parallel in the world for such a course as the United States has taken, namely, that if the treaty be found to hold a meaning that would deprive them of the places that they have already taken possession of without right that belong to Canada, these places shall not belong to Canada but the United States. There was no possible course left for the British commissioners but to absolutely repudiate recognizing any such position or any such terms. I am glad to know that Great Britain has not been willing to overrule the just claims of Canada, and so far as my right hon. friend has been good enough to keep me as a privy councillor informed of the position of the government, I have assured him that the course his government were pursuing had my entire support, and that I believe they were taking the only course they could in justice to Canada."

But Sir Charles has one remark to make concerning the course which Great Britain has adopted in Canadian controversy. He has reached the conclusion from association with both governing parties in England during the period in which he has been high commissioner, and on previous occasions, that the imperial government has been extremely anxious to avoid a collision with the United States. He appreciates the reason for this caution, and recognizes the horror of a war between these two English speaking nations. At the same time he thinks that they do not understand the United States in England as well as we do here, and that the diplomacy of England has failed to some extent in not allowing the United States to understand that England must adopt the same course with them that they would with any other civilized country in the world. The United States ought to be given to understand that there is a limit to the extent to which the British government will go in surrendering rights that demand prompt settlement. Sir Charles' opinion is that the government of the United States and the commissioners representing that country have discovered that a fair interpretation of the treaty would be fatal to their claims and they feel compelled to resort to the unworthy means of adopting an attitude that will prevent any settlement at all. No British or Canadian government that had the slightest regard for its character should for a moment consent to the settlement of the question upon the only terms that the United States commissioners have declared they were prepared to settle upon. But knowing the intense solicitude of the government

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of Great Britain to avoid any controversy or collision with the United States, the representatives of that government are trading upon that sentiment and are simply taking their course that absolutely forbids any just settlement of the question, in order that there should be no settlement at all."

Moreover, the United States get all the advantage from the existing position. They hold the avenues into the gold conntry. They are in a position to claim the trade of the Yukon. At the same time United States subjects are allowed the same privileges as our own in mining in the Yukon country. This condition of affairs Sir Charles desired to have brought to an end. He asserts that the policy of delay which is allowed to go on would not be permitted by Great Britain in regard to any other country than the United States. If England had treated France as she is treating the United States, French interests would have prevailed on the Nile, and the Soudan would have been lost to England. Had England been treating with France in this matter the foreign country would not be allowed to secure and hold the position that is now held by the United States on the Alaska frontier. But it will not do to allow matters to rest as they are. "We are standing with our hands hanging helplessly at our side while the enormous gold regions of Canada are stripped by a foreign people, and while the trade of that country which belongs to Canada is monopolized by foreigners."

An interesting proceeding was recalled by the opposition leader. He himself some time ago propounded a policy of adopting in the Yukon the mining laws of the United States. Within a month after that proposition was made a bill was introduced in the American congress providing that British subjects and Canadians should have the same rights on the American side in Alaska that the people of the United States have. That seemed to be satisfactory, but when the application of the law came the American authorities fell back upon the miserable expedient that while their law conceded to British subjects all the rights that were given to Americans in Canada, the law could not be carried out because the American system gave a fee simple in the land and ours gave only a license. Of course regulations could have been made to meet that objection, but they have never been made and Canadians are still shut out from operating in Alaska, while the United States are sending in tens of thousands of people to strip the Canadian Yukon of its gold.

It is in view of these circumstances that Sir Charles proposed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the government should take power to construct an all Canadian line to the Yukon, and should obtain authority to proclaim that no license to mine in the Yukon should be granted to any but British subjects. Sir Wilfrid Laurier seems to be a little afraid of the proposition about alien miners. He is afraid that if it were proclaimed there would be reprisals, and is apparently alarmed lest if he had power to proclaim it he might do so to the injury of the country. Apparently Sir Wilfrid Laurier has not the same confidence in his own judgment that a premier of Canada ought to have, and is not so willing to trust himself as the leader of the opposition is to trust him.

S. D. S.

Children Cry for
CASTORIA.

CANADA'S GIFT TO SCOTLAND.

(New York Sun.)

Thousands of little apple trees, some already five inches high, have been found growing on the western shores of the islands of Mull and Iona, on the Scottish west coast, just above high water mark, and the crofters are transplanting them to their gardens. The seedings have grown from the apples cast ashore from the Dominion line steamer Labrador, wrecked last fall. The London Daily Chronicle calls this "a practical demonstration of the hardiness and vitality of apple pips," but whether the hardiness consists in resisting the sea water or in enduring the climate of Scotland it does not say.—(New York Sun.

THE ATLANTIC MAIL SERVICE.

The announcement of the Elder-Dempster mail contract with the dominion government is accepted in London as the government's admission of the final failure of the fast mail negotiations. The Outlook, in a leader entitled "Canada Limps," says: "It may be that the ministry did all they could, though in the city they say quite frankly that Mr. Dobell, with all his good points, is not the minister to carry to a successful issue delicate negotiations of this character. Now it is too late at this moment of government ship building pressure. There are no yards prepared to build new 22 knot steamers at once, and the enhanced price of labor and materials make a parliamentary vote and Mr. Chamberlain's promised contribution totally inadequate. The completion of arrangements with the Elder-Dempster line marks the acceptance by the ministry of this failure. Canada has lost a great opportunity of turning to account her natural position as the halfway house of the empire."

It is the opinion of the British consul at Barcelona that Spain will not for a long time lose her predominance in trade in either the Antilles or the Philippines.