OTTAWA LETTERS.

Omissions and Superfluities of the Budget Speech.

No Relief from Taxes in Mr. Field ing's Budget; no Attack on the Oil Combine :

No Promise of Cheaper Tobacco and Agricutural Impements; Nothing Which Affects for Good the Canadian Peope.

OTTAWA, March 23.—Senator Ferguson of Prince Edward Island has a fashion of historical research which is worthy of imitation. On the question of the gerrymander, which pends so much on precedent and upon the intention of the constitution, a study of the constitutional documents and of the previous discussions in par-liament is of great service. In his argument yesterday Semator Ferguson was able to bring the minister of justice to the witness stand to testify gainst the measure which the minister has now in charge. In 1892 Mr. Mills brought all his constitu-tional knowledge and ortical acumen to bear upon the question and decided that the parliament had no power to redistribute seats except by virtue of the clause 51 in the act of union. It was Mr. Mills' nurnose then to show that the general right of parliament to legislate on these matters was re-stricted by specific provision of the imperial statute. Mr. Ferguson says he has studied Mr. Mills' argument carefully, and finds that it stands the test of time and change

Now, Mr. Mills contended that there is no power to rearrange constituencies except as given by this clause, and the clause directs when and how the rearrangement shall take place. It is to be done directly after the census is taken and at no other time. Such is the conviction from the argument made by Mr. Mills eight years ago. Such is Mr. Ferguson's conviction now. Such has been the guiding principle of parliament from the time of union until last year, and it is the principle which, if Mr. Ferguson has his way, will guide it to the end.

As to the question of the technical night to legislate, Mr. Ferguson apnears to doubt that there is a powe in parliament to do so at this time Mr. Mills sets great store by the oninion obtained from Mr. Blake, Mr. Haldane, Lord Cecil and other jurists, consulted by the solicitor general last summer. But when the return stating that opinion is brought down it turns out to be very meagre. Mr. Fitzpatrick submits a half a page of typewriting containing his own question and the answer. There is nothing to indicate the date of the question or the time given to consideration. No argument was presented to the counsel consulted, who had not on which the constitutionality of the bill was questioned. It would appear that the judges in the case wrote their opinion on the other side of the sheet containing Mr. Fitzpatrick's question. They gave no indication that they had considered the case critically. It would appear that they gave Mr. Fitzpatrick an opinion while he waited.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson is not a lawyer but as a layman he does not attach much significance to impromptu opinions, even by able lawyers. This view he shares with Edward Blake, who once expressed the strongest contempt for the conclusions expressed by an English authority of the highest eminence on a question of jurisdiction. Mr. Blake declined to pay any attention to the statement of the learned judges, seeing they had not heard arguments and did not give their reasons. Sir John A. Macdonald took a similar view. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Charlton and others in 1889 criticised the late government for having taken the opinion of the law officers of the crown on the Jesuits' estate act without argument on both sides. Mr. Ferguson goes with Mr. Blake, Sir Wilfrid, Sir John A. Macdonald and other lawyers in their view that legal opinion so obtained cannot be a guide to the parliament of Canada.

Mr. Pineau, member of the Prince Edward Island Assembly, has gone to Paris. He is not going on his own charges, but is in the pay of the people of Canada, as a member of the staff to the Paris exhibition. Therefore he will not be present to vote against the Farquharson government in the coming session, as he was elected to do. It is not likely that Mr. Pineau would have been sent to Paris on his merits. Sir Louis Davies does not send conservatives when he can empley liberals, except in cases like these, when it is necessary to subvert the wishes of the people and deprive them of their representation in order to save a friend from loss of power. On general principles the gentleman whom Mr. Pincau defeated would have been chesen. But that would not have saved Mr. Faroubarson. It will be seen that Eir Louis, by the seduction of Mr. Pineau, accomplishes half as much as he would have obtained by successful bullying of the electors of Belfast, which was attempted and failed.

But the odd part of it is that nobody can be found who knows anything about the appointment of this new employe of the government. Mr. Fisher who, as numster of agriculture, has charge of the whole affair, gave a list of officials the other day and the name of Mr. Pineau was not in it. Mr. Mills in reply to Mr. Ferguson, yesterday, said he knew nothing about The secretary of state was equally without information. Mr. Fisher was sought for and either could not or would not tell arything. Even Sir Wilfrid appeared behind the throne in the senate room and was questioned without success. Sir Louis Davies discreetly kept in the background. though probably he could have given some information on the matter. Sen-Power ventured the suggestion that Mr. Tarte had personally em-

wise provided. Whether he went as private secretary or public secretary, or in any other capacity, he was engaged at Ottawa and arrangements were made for his pay. He was taken avey so that he would not be in a position to vote in the assembly to which he was elected. The facts are known by some members of the goverament and they are withheld from

This is not the first time in which Mr. Mukek has posed as a friend of the heary handed, and it is not fair to say that he is playing a new role. He claims the credit for causing sweating system to disappear from the contracts for military clothing. It came out in discussion last year that when tenders were called for in respect to a large order of clothing the lowest tender was rejected because the Montreal firm who made it would not undertake to do all the work in their shops, but admitted that it would be let out as piece work to be done by women at their homes. For this reason it did not get the work, but it went at a higher price to a competitor. It was shown last year that the competitor farmed the work out in villages all along the St. Lawrence, thus getting the benefit of outside labor as well as the higher price.

Mr. Mulock's other achievements in

the way of advancing the earnings of the people include the grinding down of mail contracts, some of which were analyzed by Clark Wallace in yesterdebate. A Woodbridge mail carrier with a seven mile beat is getting 21 cents a day, Mr. Mulock having cut the price down one-third and having spent a little more than he saved in printing the whole story of his savings in the proceedings of the house. Many other Illustrations of this process of grinding the faces of the poor were given to show how Mr. Mulock protects labor in his own department. One of his supporters, Mr. Richardson, put in a protest on behalf of the country postmaster who gets ten dollars and upwards for a year's services. The reply of Mr. Mulock and his friends is, that if the mail contractor and postmaster did not enjoy their job they could give it up and allow others to have it at the price. But the minister was shown that this is precisely the statement which a hard heanted contractor could make to the laborer whom Mr. Mulock is trying to protect, or rather whom he is trying to persuade that he is proteating.

Mr. Ingram, who has served in all the laborious departments of railway work, and came into parliament as a strong supporter of the labor interests, favors Mr. Mulock's project of requiring government contractors to pay the current wages in their works. But he does not see much force in a resolution that has no law behind it, and is of the opinion that the house should give some force to the resolution by requiring the principle to be stated in the contract and embodied in legislation. He and Mr. Davis pressed the government for a statement, and ascertained that there was no intention of legislating to force to this declaration of opinion. That is the reason why they tried to give it force by the amendment which the government voted down.

Sir Charles Tupper does not believe in academic motions which are not intended to be worked out in practice. His theory is that if a government wants to give labor better pay it should first of all deal fairly with the men in its own employ in the classes to be protected. If the government wents canal contractors to pay good wages and treat their men well, the department of railways and canals should cease from oppressing their own workmen. If the postmaster general wants the government contractors to pay a fair wage he should pay his own men a fair wage. This was the basis of Mr. Clark's amendment, which is not particularly intended to protect the better paid civil servants but the humbler officials, such as letter carriers and the ordinary laborers employed by the various departments.

It was claimed by Mr. Puttee that the government ought not to have contractors, but should carry on its own work and arrange the wages on a proper basis. Mr. Puttee is a thoughtful and well read man, who does not weste words and gives evidence of careful study of the labor problem. He showed his independence by voting against the government for the amendment that was intended to give legislative force to Mulock's statement. Mr. Ingram and some of the other members find that the government's immigration policy is not in a line with Mr. Mulock's "buncome" resolution. The Doukhobers are competing for railway work with Canadian laboring men, and it is charged that they have already cut down the rate of pay on Mackenzie and Mann's contracts by 25 cents a day. Mackenzie and Mann, whose railway operations call for some millions of dollars in government subsidies, are engaging these men at the contractors' prices, and the foreigners find even the smaller rate of pay a great advance on anything they chase. ever received in Russia. As they do not eat any meat, and can subsist on a little more than the allowance of a Chinamen, they are having a great influence on the labor market of the west. Mr. Puttee has also noticed this and thinks it has some bearing on the

Hughes and General Hutton is imper-fectly realized from the synopsis given in the despetches. If Col. Sam fights with the same reckless abandon with which he writes he will be a terror to the Boers. When Gen. Hutton says that the colonel has no idea of discipline he seems to be sustained by the documents, if discipline means an unquestioning obedience, absolute selfabasement, resistance of the temptation to answer back, and an implicit obedimoe to the ordinary routine. But if the business of a colonel is chiefly to write letters of the strictly ortho- | with spectacular declamation. He ardox military order, Col. Hughes is a very poor colonel. This part of the for distribution among the electors business, however, is not the whole who compose the audience addressed retary. Perhaps Mr. Pineau's friends duty of a soldier, and it may be that on this occasion.

Col. Hughes makes up in intensity and ardor what he lacks in prudence and amenity to discipline. At all events, Gen. Hutton has recommen him for service in Africa, notwithsubordination to his own superior of been a sad blemish on the public ficer, the minister of nullitia. The as a campaign document. The

CTTAWA, March 24.— Lest there should be some mistake about it, let it first be said that Mr. Fielding's budget speech drew from his friends plenty of applause. He was cheered when he told of the increase of trade, of the increase of revenue, of the increase in the surplus, and of the progrees of the country. When he made his tariff announcement le was cheer-When he began he was cheered; opplause. So far as one could gather, he satisfied his friends that he had made as good a campaign speech as the circumstances admitted. The experierced parliamentarians would nevertheless agree that he did not make a grod budget speech.

supposed to convey information chiefly at the command of the finance deplated. To this end the minister usually performs the following duties:

He gives the results of last year's operations, comparing them with his estinates previously made and explaining the variations both as to re-

venue and expenditure. He states as far as he knows what the expenditure is likely to be in the year approaching its close, compares that with the estimate last made, and gives his statement of the prospective revenue of various sources, and especially of the taxation which is to be ocllected from the various methods curing the year.

If he proposes tariff changes he ex- raign document. plains what they are and what their effect will be upon the business of the country as near as an expert can ascertain it, and especially what the effect will be upon the revenue.

surplus he is expe the future.

If it is intended to borrow money, or if a lean has been effected, he is sup- of purchases. posed to deal with that question. These may be said to be the essen-

defending the policy of his govern- gods they did not want or to buy from ment, comparing conditions with those which prevailed under other adminis- had bought from the United States. trations, or other policies, or in other countries, and making any arguments party. In other words it is not out of place in this country at least, though it does not prevail in England, to attach a campaign speech of imports from Canada had increased, a dignified kind to the financial exposition. This is incidental and as a the cold fact is that the British imrule does not require the particular ports from the United States have inknowledge of the finance department.

What Mr. Fielding did was to fur-

nish the incidental campaign speech and omit the budget. He told the house that the expenditure of last year was larger than he had expected, but he avoided details and explanations. He said that the income for the current year would pass the fifty million mark, but omitted to show how this money was to be collected. what the customs taxes would be, how much excise was to be collected. or in any way what would be the added burden of taxation on the people. He gave the expected total expenditure without explaining the details of the large additions which are to be made. He claimed that the tariff in existence had increased our trade with Great Britain, both imports and exports, but beyond giving a comparison of the gross figures, which as will be shown below proved nothing, be gave no details. It would have been instructive if he had shown what additional purchases had been made by us in England, or by England in Canada, on account of the tariff. Not an article was mentioned in which the tariff had induced either the Canadians or Englishmen to change their habits of use or pur-

As to the future he gave no statement to show how much money would be required to carry out the present engagements of the country, or how much reveaue would be dropped by the only tariff change proposed. While claiming a surplus of seven and a half millions for the current year, and boasting that it is "vaster than has been," the only change he proposes will dispose of less than three quarters of a million, and the finance minister did not even suggest the expediency of further reducing the burdens of the people.

Such are among the of the budget speech. But the superfluities were all right. When campaigr came to the side Mr. Fielding rose to the occasion. He worked up his climaxes with elaboration. He made his statements ranged his campaign matter suitably

is an election speech. It will go franked to every elector in Canada and is expected to convince him that he is a happy man to live under such standing all the checky things that he a government. Had the speech con-wrote. Gen. Hutton himself has been tained the facts and explanations sent away on the alleged charge of in-that are usually given it would have that are usually given it would have The as a campaign document. The facts general's letters or actions which that are usually given in the budget justify this accusation have not yet speech must needs be elicited by subcome to light. Meanwhile there are sequent catechising. If the people grave doubts whether the offending and offensive party is not the government itself.

S. D. S. it in Mr. Fielding's speech. If they want to know how much their taxes. want to know how much their taxes have been expanded they will have to ation per head is not given in Mr. Fielding's budget, and the diligent reader who pursues the parable from cover to cover will fall to find a single comparison between the expenditure of this government and the expenditure of previous governments. That would have been an interesting table, but is omitted. In stead of it the diligent reader will discover what additions have been made in railway traffic. in bank circulation, in Doukhobor immigration, and in various other matters more or less connected with finance but not particularly under Mr. Fielding's control.

It was mentioned above that Mr. If we take the best traditions of the Friding claimed considerable increase Canadian parliament, and examine the or trade with England by reason of budgets of Hincks and Rose, or those the preference. This question has of Tilley, Cartwright, Tupper and been examined before, but may be Foster, and if we study the like expo- referred to again, because Mr. Fieldsitions in the Erglish commons, we ing seems to have neglected an imshall find that the budget speech is portant element in his calculations. He was indeed easily able to show that our exports to Great Britain had partment and rot generally known to in three years increased four million the country. It explains the reasons dollars, or twelve per cent., and this and results of the financial proceedings he attributed to the Fielding tariff. of the past year, and exposes as far But he did not think it necessary to as possible the present situation and mention that this is the smallest inthe financial prospects of the immedi- crease in our purchases from any ate future, disclosing the intentions of country except the West Indies, Newthe government in regard to tariff and foundland and China and Japan. It taxation, if any changes are contem- did not occur to him to mention that while we bought four million dollars additional from Great Britain we bought thirty-four millions additional from the United States. The increase from the mother country was twelve per cent, while that from the foreign country is fifty-nine per cent. He might have gone on to show that we have increased our imports from France, Garmany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and South America proportionately caplains the discrepencies. He also two or three times as much as from England. He omitted to state that while our total imports had increased thirty-nine per cent. our imports from England increased less than a third of that, showing that instead of get-If there have been recent tariff ting her share of the gain Great Britchanges he explains in detail, so far ain only got one-third of her share. as he can, how they have affected the These matters Mr. Fielding did not particular trades connected with them, touch. They would have been suithow they have affected commerce, and able for an honest budget speech, but how they have influenced the revenue, they were not suitable for the cam-

Similarly Mr. Fielding was able to show that our sales of Canadian produce to Great Britain had increased twenty-two millions since 1896. This he attributed to the tariff preference. to defend it as necessary, or else to claiming that though Canada was not reduce the taxation so as to make ac- preferred by a British tariff our tariff counts balance. If he has a deficit policy had so wrought upon the Britit is his business to give the reason and ish sentiment, and so inspired the to explain the methods by which he people in that country with a sense of hopes to make accounts balance in gratitude that they had only to establish a preference in their hearts and homes and produce this large increase It would have been useful if Mr. Fielding had gone a little more into details and explained tials of the hudget speech. But the whether this sentimental preference minister has also been in the habit of had led the people of England to buy Canada goods which they previously

There were reasons, however, for which are useful to himself and his confining the discussion to generalities. If Mr. Fielding could have shown that British imports from the United States had fallen off as their he would not have failed to do it. But creased in the same years and in the same articles as their imports from Canada. Since the finance minister failed to touch that subject the figures may be given here. The following is the value of United States products sold to Great Britain in the years mentioned:

1895.....\$387,125,458 1896..... 405,741,339 1897..... 483,270,398 1898..... 540,940,605 1899..... 511,778,705

The United States have not given the British people any preference. But according to Mr. Fielding's reasoning they have established some sort of preference in the British heart. Even when relations were strained over Venzuela, the British beart was still touched with the sentimental desire to buy United States beef and other provisions in increasing volume. That sentimental desire has stood the test of the Dingley till and other hostile legislation. It produced an increase of sales down to 1898, and then a slight deercase, exactly as happened with the imports from Canada followed in the current year as in Canada by another increase. We can imagine some high tariff men in congress proclaiming it as one of the virtues of the present system which almost prohibits the import of goods from Britain that it is so gratefully received in the old country as to induce the people there to buy larger and larger quantities of American goods. This congressman could adopt the language of our finence minister and our minister of customs and declare that "by our Dingley bill we have touched the British heart and established a preference which is botter than any tariff preference in

Another striking feature in the Fielding budget is the announcement of a surplus "larger than has been," with no corresponding announcement of a reduction of taxes. In this respect the budget speech of this year is absolutely without precedent either in this country or in the mother land. With a surplus which he places at seven and a half nullions, entirely obtained by customs and excise duties, paid by the people of Canada, he has no additions to make to the free list. He could have given the people four

given them relief on many articles necessary to their daily life. He has no done so. The only addition to the free hat is the machinery which the fin-ance ninister has some reason to believe may be imported for a best root sugar factory some where in Ontario. There was never before a budget announcing a surplus away up in the with an announcement of reduced tax-ation of some corresponding extent. In this case the only reduction is the difference between one quarter and one-third of the duty in the preferred goods. We import from Great Erit ain about ope-lifth of our total pur-chases, and about two-thirds of the importations from Great Britain are entitled to preference. The reduction as applied to the preferred imports from England brought in last year would amount to somewhere between \$600,000 and \$700,000, or less than one tenth of the surplus which Mr. Fielding claims. The remainder of the taxation he proposes to continue

Mr. Fielding probably agrees with

Mr. Tarte that we spend more money because we make more, and is preparing for an additional outlay in the immediate future. He will give additional force to the exclamation of the minister of public works when he said to a clamerous and expectant audience in his own province: "Wait till you see us next year." There is no relief from taxes in this budget and rothing which affects for good the Canadian consumer. There is no atfulfilment of the pledges made in the Ottawa platform. When Mr. Fielding three years ago brought down his tariff, he applogised for it as only the first step in the way of tariff reform. He still maintained that we were siming at free trade. Now he claims that the tariff has already been reformed, and he does not regard free trade as a thing even to be aimed at. Only the other day Mr. Siften, speaking at Brenden, assured the western reople that the good work of reform and reduction in taxation had only begun. Yesterday Mr. Fielding distinctly gave notice that in his opinion the tariff as new announced is a reasonable revenue tariff and must not be disturbed for a long time to come. This is a case where badly begun is wholly ended. S. D. S. OTTAWA, March 28 .- That astonish-

ing Pritchett affidavit explains several things. We may gather from it some reasons for the government's change of attitude in regard to the Huron and Breckville election enquiries. In the nature of things the enquiry should have gone on at the beginning of this session without formal notice, seeing that it was reported at the end of last session as incomplete, and that the committee separated with the full intention of resuming this year. Nothing else was thought of by the opposition members of the committee. Nothing else was mentioned by the government members. The statement of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the government was as anxious as the opposition to have an investigation, and that the offenders should be punished, was as strong a declaration as could be made that the enquiry would be pushed forward to the end. "The sanctity of the ballot," and the rights of the electors were dear to the premier nine months ago. How does it happen that they have row lost their value?

Well, in the first place, the committee touched the cutskirts of an area of crimicality which bade fair to expose the vihile operations of the machine. It was discovered that in two pells alone a majority of seventy was manufactured for the government in Huron, by the simple process of substituting grit ballets for the conservative ballots that were handed to the officers. How this was done may not have been fully established. That it was done is proved beyond a shadow of doubt. The matter is so important and throws such a lurid light upon the cheracter of the administration and of the organization upon which it depends that another reference may be made to the facts actually established. Take first poll, No. 4 Colburne.

Here 98 electors voted; 68 ballots

were marked for Holmes and 30 for McLean. It turned out that of the 63 marked for Holmes, 14 were bogus. This was proved by the fact that they were initialed with a pen, whereas the genuine ballots were initialed with a pered; that they were printed in different style from the others, and that the paper was of entirely different quality, thickness and color, from that of the other ballots, and from the stubs that remained to represent the ballets torn off. It was established beyond possibility of question by exact micrometer measurements that these 14 ballets were net taken from the stubs which were left to represent the 98 ballots used. Therefore 14 genuine ballots tern off by the returning officers were in some way disposed of, after they had been marked, and 14 logus ballots marked for McLean were put in the box in their place. The other link in the chain of evidence was that whereas only 30 ballots were found in the box marked for McLean, 43 men have sworn that they voted for him at the poll. Thus not only has it been established that 14 votes were stolen, but 13 of the 14 men have been found who marked them, and the fourteen ballots substituted have been discovered and identified. This steal accounts for 28 of Helmes' majority. In No. 3 polling sub-division in the

town of Goderich the poll books show hat 118 men voted. No less than 123 ballots came out of the box, of which ten bore no mark, and one was rejected. Of the ballots counted 72 were marked for Holmes and 40 for Mc-Lean. All the ballots found marked for McLean were genuine, agreeing in style and paper with the stubs, but 22 other ballots were different from the remainder, and from the stubs, and from the unused ballots. These were all marked for the government candidate and were obviously bogus. The enquiry into this poll was not completed when the majority of the committee struck work last year But 55 men either swore in the com mittee or have solemnly affirmed that they voted for McLean in this poll. though only 40 votes were counted for him. No doubt the whole 22 ballots were substituted for conservative balpounds more sugar for a dollar with lots, though as yet only 15 of the one-third of the surplus. He could have voters in addition to the 40 whose

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You must classify soap, or anything. T are many kinds, grades, lities. In soap, that v Surprise stamped every ca guarantees finest quality. A pure hard soap. When you buy Surprise you have the best.

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monumenton callots were counted for Holmes have been found. Naturally it would be difficult to find every man and get him to declare publicly for whom he voted. But we have the sworn testimony of 55 men that they voted for McLean, though only 40 were accounted for. In this poll James Farr was returning officer. He got a little the worse of liquor during the day, which may account for the fact that a few ballots got into the box more than was necessary to replace the stolen ones, and that ten blank ballots were thrust in by mistake.

Mr. Farr himself could not be got to come and testify. He left a good position when the investigation commenced, and went into hiding. Other evidence was produced to show that he had boasted of voting 22 times at the election, which boast corresponds beautifully with the number of bogus ballots. It was also shown that Mr. Farr after the investigation commenced, and just before he made his escape, was in consultation at midnight with the government organizer, Mr. Vance, and that Farr himself had told of having received money and free tickets for his trip, and told his employer that he had to go away because of the election trouble. Again it was proved that a number of ballots printed for another poll were not found with the unused ballots when the day was over, and that the surplus at Farr's poll was of the same stock.

It was also shown that the returning officers allowed persons at the counting who had no right to be there, that agents almitted to the polls were not sworn, that the returning officers in the place of destroying the counterfolls when they tore them off put them in their pockets, which gave an opportunity to change ballots; that the printer had printed an indefinite number of ballots, and a sufficient supply was left around the printing office of McGillicuddy in Goderich to make several hundred majority, and that the whole gang of machine electioneers camped out in the constituency during the campaign.

Among those who took part in the proceedings was Tom Lewis, who, by the testimony of other government campaigners, was very active in making the compaign arrangements. There were also Billy Malloy, Alexander Smith, who is now a chief government ergandzer for the Dominion, Dan Ferguson, and the famous "Cap" Sullivan, who was afterwards a fugitive from justice. Mr. Vance, who is now the Onterio organizer, was also there, and seems to have had charge of the campaign. He is the gentleman with whom Returning Officer Farr spent the meanight hour before his departure, to escape last year's enquiry.

Having recalled these matters connected with the Huron campaign which were brought out last session, we come to the new testimony offered by John Pritchett, whose sworn affidavits were read on Thursday last in the Ontario legislature. John Pritchett swears that he took part in the Huron election and in the Brockville election in April last, and that he went there with Thomas Lewis, John O'German, Alexander Smith and the rest of the mochine. He swears that afterwards Lewis came to him and offered him a hundred dollars to sign a statement that he had not been at Brockville in the campaign. The offer was refused. The affidavit does not go into particulars of the Brockville election and of Mr. Pritchett's performances there. But the fact that Pritchett is talking, and mhat he is one of a number of machine employes who cannot now be depended upon to keep silent or to lie in support of the seat stealing operations of the party, accounts perhaps for the new attitude of the government in re gard to the enquiry.

Mr. Britton knows something about the Brockville election, and all the con-trolling n.en on the government side have protested against the opening of the Brackville case. If they can head it off it will be done. The Prockville case is believed to be worse than the Huron case, and that the parties conorned are more afraid to have it inrestigated then they were of the other. Since the beginning of this session Organizer Alexander Smith has taken an office in Ottawa, and he may be seen in the corridors every day of the week, Sunday included. He is in close quarters with Mr. Sutherland, member of the cabinet without office, who is supposed to be directing the campaign mechinery and mechine. Last Thursday right end Friday Mr. Smith was exceedingly active and appeared to be somewhat excited. The party in the house of commons evidently heard about the Pritchett affidavit within fifteen mirutes after Mr. Whitney had read it in Torento.

The main features of Pritchett's statement refer to the provincial election in West Elgin, the Ontarlo legislature baving nothing to do with the federal elections. But the same machine operates in both. The same orgravizer was in both campaigns. Lewis especially fgured in them all. The only preminent operator in West Elgin who did not take part in West Huron and Breckville was W. T. R. Preston, who had charge of the operations in Elgin. Mr. Preston was not in the other elections, because immediately after the stealing of the West Elgin seat he was sent to Europe as inspec-

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One other

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