

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

Civic Service Act to be Reformed as a Result of the Recent Investigation.

Col. Howard Vincent Lectures on Closer Trade Relations with the Mother Country.

Charlton's Sunday Observance Bill Effectually Sat Upon by the House.

(From our own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Aug. 1.—Another week has passed in Parliament, and the end is not yet in sight. It has been a week of hard work, both in the House and the committee. It was a great relief to members when the budget debate terminated. The Government, which, according to the wise-ness of the Grit press, is "tottering to its fall," had a substantial majority of 26 on the first square party vote which has taken place since Mr. Abbott assumed the reins of office. The loud talking which the Reformers have been doing has gone for naught, and the country may rest assured that the administration has a sufficiently strong backing behind it to withstand all their onslaughts. That the Grits will stop at nothing for the purpose of obtaining power, is evident from two or three little matters which have come to light within the past two or three days. Mr. Savard, the burly member for Chicoutimi and Saguenay, is, by instinct, a Conservative. He was, however, elected as an Independent, his opponent being Sir Adolph Caron. On every occasion in which Mr. Savard was present in the House, with one exception, when a division had taken place, he has voted against the Government. On the trade issue, however, he is a cordial supporter of the policy of the present administration. And the Grits, knowing this, in order to reduce the Government majority, made overtures to Mr. Savard, and induced him to accept the balance of his session's indemnity, and to leave Ottawa. Thereby the Government is deprived of his vote on certain important questions, in which it is understood he does not see eye to eye with the Opposition. The administration will have to be satisfied, but presumably it will not "totter," neither will "chaos" reign supreme, even if Mr. Savard be away. An incident of the week, however, one which shows the reform party in as bad a light as any political party can be, is the direct offer of a monetary consideration to one of the Conservative members, provided he would cast his lot with the reform party. The gentleman referred to is Dr. Leger, the youthful member for Kent, N.B. Dr. Leger is not a wealthy man, and \$1,000 spot cash would by no means be despised by him. He indignantly spurned the offer made to him, and the members of the Conservative party applaud his course. Some of your readers may be inclined to doubt the statement that a political organization could stoop so low as to manifest their greed for office so conspicuously, by adopting a policy of this kind, but there is the best evidence for making the assertion that the bribe was offered, and the country will be able to appreciate at their proper value the men who seek to subvert the Government in such a foul manner.

So far as Government business is concerned good progress has been made, particularly during the past three days. The Senate has resumed its daily sessions and in order to give the gentlemen of the Red Chamber something to do, the Lower House has completely ignored supply and devoted itself to Government bills. The result will be that next week the Senate will have plenty to do, while the Commons can turn its attention to the estimates.

The different committees have been sitting from day to day, the Privileges and Elections committee being the chief point of attraction, except when the Public Accounts Committee held a session, and then the session is divided. The evidence in the latter committee only goes to show that the Civil Service Act in its present shape is unworkable. It is contended, and with a good deal of force, that permanent clerks, expert at their books, are far more competent to discharge office duties than temporary clerks and as a number of permanent clerks are in receipt of very small salaries it is thought only fair that the "waiver" men, if they are qualified to do the work, should be allowed to do so, although on the permanent staff. The Government will not likely initiate any more measures this session, but as an outcome of the committee investigations amendments to the Civil Service Act may be expected next session.

HOWARD VINCENT'S VISIT.

Premier Robson made his first public appearance this week on the occasion of the address delivered by Colonel Howard Vincent on the subject of closer trade relations with the mother country. The interest which has been awakened in Ontario in the subject of preferential trade arrangements between Great Britain and the colonies during the past few weeks is surprising. It is considered that the time is most opportune for decisive action to be taken in this direction but it is hardly likely that the Government will be committed to the principle without strong pressure from the representatives of the people in Parliament. It is almost too late in the session for Parliamentary action, although this phase of the trade question was referred to more or less in the debate on the Budget speech. There is a strong feeling in the House that the Government might add a clause to the Customs Act somewhat on the lines of the statutory offer to the United States, but with this notable difference that it should provide for mutually preferential duties by any portion or portions of the British Empire with Canada against the rest of the world. The advocates of this policy are very active in the Mother Country just now, as the treaties with France and Germany, which at present prevent anything like reciprocal trade relations between the colonies and England, are just on the point of expiration. I understand that Colonel Vincent will make the round-the-world tour, so that your readers in Victoria will have an opportunity of seeing something of him, and I would suggest that the occasion be utilized, say by your Board of Trade, to procure an address from him on the subject which he has so much at heart.

THE SABBATH OBSERVANCE BILL.

John Charlton introduced his Sabbath Observance Bill referred to a special committee, and after several days sessions, it hatched out a measure which it thought the House would accept. The bill was but the skeleton of its former self, and applied solely to the cases of publication of newspapers and work on the railways and canals. Even after it had been shorn of its former

E. M. JOHNSON,

37 Government Street, Corner of Broughton.

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CONVEYANCES, Leases, Mortgages prepared and transactions of every nature in connection with Real Estate expeditiously carried out.
PROPERTY SALES effected strictly on Commission.

FOR SALE:

116-2
Large Lot, 88x167, and garden; 8-room house; basement; hot and cold water; encaustic tile hearths; bath-room; gas, etc.; beautiful locality \$7,500

114-3
Victoria Crescent; near business centre; building lot 900

112-3
Water front Lot, Lime Bay 1,400

Beautiful Building Lot, Hillside Ave., corner, 100x100 2,000

108-3
4 Lots, 2 Houses, garden, etc., Fernwood Road 3,500

107-1
Lot and new 2-story 8-room house, bath and hot and cold water, &c. 2,850

92-5
1 Acre, Esquimalt Road; good land; on car line. 2,650

88-5
2 Lots, Government St. North, and buildings.. 12,000

79-3
2 Lots, Johnson St. East; corner; good view.. 2,100

76-1
6 Acres, fronting the Arm; beautiful building site 12,000

Corner Lot, Douglas St., with buildings..... 50,000

66
160 Acres, new and modern house, improvements, garden, orchard and cultivated land, river front, good fishing, close to railway.. 12,000

1 Acre, Grass field, corner of Oak Bay Avenue and Richmond Road, on car line..... 3,000

112-1
2 Building Lots, part of Sub. Lot 54, Fernwood, each 650

117-1
BEAUTIFUL HOMESTEAD—Orchards and Garden of Flowers, Vegetables and small fruits.

11 1/2 Acres, 4 miles from city, all fenced; river running through the property.

Dwelling House, 6 rooms and pantry, shipyard and hard finish; never-failing spring close to house.

Stable, chicken house and yard, hay, wood and cow sheds.

116-4
HOTEL, 51 rooms, fully furnished, with bar and all modern conveniences; ready for immediate occupation; the best business locality in Victoria.

119
Garden and fruit trees, 6 peach, 4 apricot, 228 apple, 7 cherry, 16 plum, 5 pear, 80 rhubarb roots. Flowers, 83 standard roses and shrubs, 22 rose trees, 42 holly, 9 silver poplar, 2,300 strawberry plants, horse chestnuts, 600 celery roots. 5 Asparagus Beds, each 150 feet long. Sundries, etc.

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113
2 Building Lots, Spring Ridge..... \$1,000

112-5
Lot, Victoria West..... 600

110-2
House and Lot, Pembroke St..... 1,100

109-2
8 Houses, 8 lots, each 60x140; let to good tenants..... 9,500

104-3
153 Acres, good land, Quamichan Dist..... 650

105-1
Beautiful Garden and Grounds, one acre, house, stable, outbuildings, etc., James Bay 10,000

99-1
Farm plots near Ladner's Landing, sizes to suit, per acre..... 80

78 Acres Water Front on Burrard Inlet..... 8,500

96-1
1 Acre, Garden, House, etc., Russell's Station... 3,600

95-2
3,440 Acres, first-class timber and farming land, in one or more lots..... 100,000

95-1
1 Acre, South Road..... 900

93-3
176 Acres, Cobble Hill Station, per acre..... 15

68
100 Acres Farm Land, Salt Spring Island..... 2,100

An Island, about 30 acres, with house and improvements, 27 miles from town..... 2,000

Corner Lot and Buildings, Douglas Street..... 8,000

101-3
14 Acres, Good House, Well, Chicken Yards, 3 1/2 miles from town..... 3,000

116-1
Building Site, One Acre, Pemberton Estate, High Land, View of the Straits and Olympians \$2,500

114-2
McClure St., five minutes from Post Office Building Lot..... 1,200

115
Oak Bay Avenue, on Street Car Line, Four Lots, Two Corners, Long Frontage, per lot..... 375

112-4
160 Acres Shawigan; Log House 16x24, and outbuildings, 10 acres chopped, seeded and cleared; river through the land..... 1,700

111
One Acre Lot Facing the Straits, with Beach Frontage..... 1,500

110-4
4.1-7 Acres Edmonton Road; house, garden, orchard, water, outbuildings; first-class land; a pretty homestead..... 6,000

104-2
400 Acres; Beautiful Farm: 200 Cultivated; houses, barns, orchard, stables, all in good order; facing the sea; 8 hours' drive from town..... 80,000

Corner Lot and Buildings, Government Street. 45,000

8 New Houses and Two Lots: let to good tenants, producing steady income..... 8,500

Building Lot, Government St., business centre. 15,000

Business Block, Government Street..... 50,000

Two Building Lots, James Bay, Double Frontage, Street Cars, etc..... 3,000

101-3
Three Acres and House, with Sea Frontage; 15 minutes drive from Post Office..... 4,500

SPECIALS:

117-1
BEAUTIFUL HOMESTEAD—Orchards and Garden of Flowers, Vegetables and small fruits.

11 1/2 Acres, 4 miles from city, all fenced; river running through the property.

Dwelling House, 6 rooms and pantry, shipyard and hard finish; never-failing spring close to house.

Stable, chicken house and yard, hay, wood and cow sheds.

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sweeping provisions, it met with little favor in the House, leading lawyers on both sides, Sir John Thompson and Mr. Mills among them, contending that the bill would be an interference with Provincial rights of legislation, and a limitation rather than an extension of the provisions of existing Provincial laws. The measure has got its quietus by the peculiar process of the committee of the whole rising and reporting progress, which means no progress at all. For two or three years Mr. Charlton, as the guardian of public morality had endeavored to secure the passage of his bill, but it had been so effectually sat upon this year that it will hardly likely be heard of again.

THE HERCHMER CHARGES.

Sir John Thompson laid on the table of the House a day or two ago, a voluminous report from Mr. Fred White, comptroller of the North-West mounted police, on the charges made last session by Mr. F. N. Davin against Commissioner Herchmer. Mr. White commends Colonel Herchmer as an zealous and energetic officer with a constant determination to do all in his power to maintain and increase the efficiency of the force. His unpopularity, which the report says cannot be denied, is due almost exclusively to his hasty temper, his lack of tact and his harshness in dealing with offences. At Fort Macleod, Mr. Ward, editor of the Gazette, refused to bring a witness before Mr. White because the evidence was not taken under oath. At Calgary, Superintendent McIlrea said he had received unmerited censure, but would make no complaint. At Regina no complaints were made against the Commissioner by other officers or men. At Banff, Manager Matthews, of the Banff Hotel, said that the Commissioner's peremptory and arbitrary harsh conduct to the officers of the force in the diningroom of the hotel during the Governor-General's visit, placed the men in a humiliating position. The comptroller, however, reports that there is no evidence of any unfair discrimination having been exercised against the French-Canadian officers of the force in the way of passing them over, or giving them inferior duties in connection with the Governor-General's trip. Mr. White states that Colonel Herchmer is too much given to saying more than is necessary in passing judgment or calling attention to shortcomings, but, on the whole, he is to be commended for the management of the police.

THE ELECTION LAW.

By the amendment to the Election Act, to which the royal assent was given, yesterday, it is declared that minor offences committed without the knowledge of the candidate shall not render him liable to be unseated. This is a provision eminently fair and just. There is no party politics involved in it, as it applies to the candidates of all parties. It is a long string of election petitions to be tried, and two months hence will see the Ontario judges hard at work on them. The change which has been effected in the Act will, it is thought, likely relieve a considerable number of members from the ordeal of facing their constituents at bye-elections.

DROWNED IN THE SURF.

Sad Bathing Accident to a Young Man and Woman at Long Beach Summer Resort.

ASTORIA, Aug. 5.—There is mourning tonight at the summer resort of Long Beach, on the Washington seashore. Miss Nellie Boies, daughter of Circuit Judge Boies, of Salem, and William Steele, step-son of Postmaster George L. Steele, of Portland, were drowned this afternoon, at 1:30 o'clock, while bathing in the surf. The accident happened in front of Stou's hotel, in view of 20 or 30 persons. A huge wave, attended by a fearful undertow, swept a party of bathers into deep water, and before the undertow subsided the unfortunate people had worn themselves out in struggling against it. There were about 20 of the party, among them being William Steele, Nellie Boies, H. Nichols, George Myers, E. Johnson, Ben Johnson, L. Shepard, Merle Johnson, Mrs. Hawthorn, Mrs. Myers and a few others well known in society in Portland and Salem. George Myers was further down the beach than the others, and was the first to feel the irresistible pressure of the undertow, and it swept him off his feet. He shouted to those further up, and motioned them to go into the shore. They all started, but the treacherous wave overtook them, and lifted them off their feet. Some of the young men were further out than the ladies, and when the undertow caught them it swept the ladies past them. All were very excited, and Miss Boies fainted in the arms of her escort, Ben Lombard. He was a good swimmer and made great efforts to reach a safe footing, and would undoubtedly have succeeded had not a second wave torn her from his grasp, and she sank off their feet. Lombard tried to reach her again, but could not, and, in an exhausted condition, was dragged on the beach. Steele, who was further out than Miss Boies, was seen on the crest of the wave after the undertow had subsided, but was apparently too weak to help himself, and before assistance could reach him, he, too, had perished. An effort is being made to find the bodies, but it is doubtful if they can be recovered to-night, as the tide does not run out within three feet of low water mark, and unless they are found within the next twenty-four hours, it is doubtful if they can ever be recovered. When the news of the drowning was spread along the beach it created intense excitement, and the wildest rumors were afloat. Every woman who was missed was thought to be drowned, and while it is still uncertain whether others were drowned or not, yet it is hardly probable. Miss Boies was the older of the two daughters of Judge Boies, was 23 years old, and was a leader of society in Salem. She went to the beach, last Saturday, and was staying at the cottage of Judge Stott, of Portland. Although unable to swim, she was always very cautious when bathing. William Steele was 18 years of age.

THE CHILLIAN WAR.

Balmaceda Wanted to Purchase the Cruiser Baltimore from the United States—The President Pinto Sails From Genoa.

CHICO, Aug. 7.—The Balmacedan cruiser President Pinto has left this port and shaped her course in a westerly direction. On the eve of sailing a number of sailors deserted from her. San Francisco, Aug. 7.—The Examiner states that Balmaceda, through Minister Egan, offered the United States \$4,000,000 for the cruiser Baltimore. The offer was refused. Admiral Brown has taken the Baltimore for his flagship and is now in sole command in the South Pacific. The damage done by the most important fire in the United States, during the week ending July 31st, is estimated at \$1,415,000.

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