

OTTAWA LETTER.

A Step in the Direction of Legislative Union.

That is the Reason Quebec Members Headed by the Minister of Justice.

Jumped on Dr. Russell's Resolution Affirming the Desirability of the Adoption of a Uniform System of Common Law Procedure in the English Speaking Provinces.

OTTAWA, March 23.—Yesterday it was a question of the B. N. A. Act and the three Quebec members, of whom two are in the government, filed strong and energetic protests against encroachment of the federal power. Quebec ought to be safe under the present dispensation, since now, for the first time in the history of the country, both the minister of justice and the solicitor general come from that province. Having a Quebec premier and a Quebec master to the administration, it would appear that the province is reasonably safe from the terrible attacks which Mr. Russell is accused of preparing.

Dr. Russell disclaims any intention of bringing chains and slavery upon Quebec. He went out of his way to say that the federal system was safe from any attack of his. His resolution for uniformity of the law in regard to property and civil rights expressly excludes Quebec, which follows the French code and could not easily accept the common law system.

All that Mr. Russell proposed was the adoption of a uniform system by the common law provinces, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and other English provinces which have joined the Union since. The Confederation Act provides for this, as it contains a clause giving the dominion power to provide uniform legislation with the consent of the provinces concerned. Mr. Russell now asks that this clause go into operation. He says that Sir John Macdonald and the other Fathers foresaw the necessity of this agreement, but there were then great obstacles in the way, outside of Quebec. Nova Scotia had at the time of Union no municipal system, and the provinces had little acquaintance with the method of other provinces. But it was evidently the purpose of the founders to go about this organization of laws as soon as possible. Dr. Russell says it is a disgrace to the country that the matter has been delayed so long. Then he goes on to describe the inconveniences and losses occasioned by the present diversity, all of which matters are further expounded in an address which Dr. Russell delivered in Nova Scotia and published at the time. He goes in for a large codification of law, and points out the convenience that has followed the code about bills and notes prepared at Ottawa and the various codes in operation in England. Among the subjects in which uniformity is desired are partnership and domestic law, including laws of inheritance, insolvency, which is now divided between the federal and local jurisdiction, and various other matters. It was pointed out that the foreign business man who had to deal with Canada was involved in no end of trouble, and business men at home were obliged to be acquainted with all the law of all the provinces.

Dr. Russell presented his case in a scholarly and impressive way, with his usual rapid utterance, and his usual wealth of illustration and felicitous expression. He is something of a terror to reporters and fills up more columns of Hansard in the same length of time than any other man in the house. Towards the close he said he would wind up "in three words," and these three words covered three or four pages of Hansard. Some years ago I had occasion to refer to one of Mr. Russell's speeches here, in which he said he would give the whole thing in a nutshell. It was then remarked that only a coconut shell would contain it.

Mr. Flint supported the resolution in a careful speech. He often makes careful speeches, but somehow does not succeed usually in attracting much attention. Then Mr. Haggart deposited the fat in the fire. He supported Dr. Russell's motion a little too well, pointing out that it would be a step in the direction of the legislative union, which is undoubtedly true, but not a thing to be mentioned in this parliament if you want to forward the cause. Mr. Haggart stated what everybody knew, that Sir John Macdonald wanted one government for Canada, and did not favor the provincial system. Sir John could not have his way, and Mr. Haggart said that he hoped to get it eventually through the action of the Privy Council in assigning the dominion all the powers that were in doubt, so that gradually the powers of the province would be diminished. Mr. Haggart supports this idea himself and welcomes Dr. Russell's motion as a step in that direction.

Then came the avalanche. Mr. Fitzpatrick, the new minister of justice, opened fire not only upon Mr. Haggart and upon Mr. Maclean (Toronto), who supported Mr. Haggart and went a good deal further, but upon Mr. Russell, Mr. Flint and all that genus. He declared that this motion was a menace to Quebec, although of course it does not touch Quebec, which was particularly excluded. "If you take away," said Mr. Fitzpatrick, "from the provinces, the power to legislate on property and civil rights, you take away all they have left," and with this text he went on to declaim against the centralizers and in favor of provincial home rule. It was a rather fiery speech and very much ap-

proved by the Quebec supporters of the government.

The other law officer spoke. Mr. Carroll, solicitor general, proclaimed the home rule doctrine with fire and fervor. He was followed by Mr. Demers, who pointed out that Australia gave larger provincial powers than Canada to the states of the confederation.

The leader of the opposition had a word to say in a more judicial tone. He favors uniformity as much as Dr. Russell does, but he does not think it can begin at Ottawa. The clause in the constitution provides that such uniformity and such legislation here can only be obtained when the provinces severally agree to it. The first thing then is to get the provinces to act. If they take hold in the line directed by Dr. Russell, the dominion will be in a position to deal with the matter. In the meantime the agitation should be carried on through the local legislatures. Mr. Borden thinks that there is some wisdom in the idea of codifying and making consistent its own laws. He thinks that recent parliaments have been very careless in the drafting of laws and that many matters have been neglected that might well occupy attention. For instance, the railway committee and the house have to legislate over and over again on particular bills about matters that ought to be provided for in a general act. In the end the Russell resolution was "talked out." Probably it will be reached again before the end of the session, but the government is now in a position to head it off altogether.

Not much progress was made yesterday in public accounts. But in regard to railway purchases some things are clear. For the first time in the history of the railway payments were made for locomotives before they were delivered. The Kingston Locomotive Works received \$80,000 on account of locomotives then under construction. It may be remarked that these works were started up just on the eve of the election, by Mr. Hart, a prominent politician, who is now a member of the house of commons. He got \$80,000 and was thus enabled to build his locomotives without calling in his capital account. No doubt it would be a great convenience to Rhodes & Curry, or to the men who sell railway ties to the government, or to other contractors for plant and goods, if they could be paid some months before they delivered the goods. Now that a precedent has been established, there is no reason why they should not be heard from.

Here is the story of ties as revealed by the records. The year 1900-1901 was a great year for ties. It was also election year. The ordinary number of ties bought in a year is less than 500,000; the number bought in that year was over 1,200,000. The amount usually spent for ties in one year is from \$30,000 to \$100,000. The amount spent last year, exclusive of switch ties, was over \$300,000. The quantity of ties used in the year 1900-01 was less than half the quantity bought. The remainder were stored for future use.

The story of fuel is like unto the story of ties. The railway usually pays about \$500,000 for fuel. In 1900-1901, coal was high and the amount paid for fuel actually used seems to have been \$973,000. The quantity used was much larger than usual in proportion to the work done, but that is not the whole of it. While less than \$1,000,000 was paid for coal actually used, \$1,335,000 was paid for coal bought. Something like \$400,000 worth of coal was not the quantity needed was bought in that year, which as previously remarked, was election year. It was stored up for use at a time when coal should be cheap. So far as can be learned the Intercolonial railway is the only road which took advantage of the high prices to lay in an extraordinary supply of coal ahead. This may be due to the fact that coal was scarce in Nova Scotia and the extra quantity had to be imported. A great deal of coal was bought from Pennsylvania and Virginia, paid for at high prices there, and freighted at remarkable rates to St. John and Halifax. Not one ton of this coal was needed on the road. The quantity bought at home was far more than the quantity used.

OTTAWA, March 14.—Mr. Pottinger's story of the ties has been outlined in the despatches, but the story is worth telling in greater detail. Mr. Pottinger is not surcharged with definite information and is rather cautious and reticent in his answers. He does not tell any more than he is asked and does not answer until he is sure. However, it was made to appear that the usual quantity of ties required for the Intercolonial is 400,000 to 500,000. In one year only before 1891 the quantity purchased was as high as 600,000. Mr. Pottinger explained that in the fall of 1900 the track master reported that the road would need 650,000. As a matter of fact less than 500,000 were used, so that the track master was a little off in his calculations. But tenders were asked for 800,000, as the management always found the offers a little short, and were not bound to accept any more than they needed. Tenders came in for a little more than 300,000, and the prices were higher than had usually been given. Mr. Pottinger attributes this to the fact that more profitable employment than making ties was available, which sentiment was cheered by government supporters in the committee. When afterwards it was shown that nearly three times as many ties were sent in as the government wanted, the lesson was somewhat impaired.

Mr. Pottinger testified that the contracts were made by an exchange of letters, which was the usual method. The only wood specified in the call for tenders was hemlock, cedar, tamarac, and juniper and Princess pine. No spruce, fir, or poplar was asked for. Mr. Pottinger says he does not care for spruce ties and would not accept them if he could get others. When the tenders came in he went through them, marking some for acceptance and others for acceptance at a certain maximum rate, lower than the offer.

Then came the astonishing fact that the total number of ties bought was

nearly 1,300,000, or double the number required, and nearly three times the number actually used. Of these the number actually used. Of these the auditor general's report shows that over one million, or more than double the quantity required, were of acceptable wood. Yet somehow the authorities got in their heads that they were going to be short and arranged with one contractor to take spruce from him. This was Frank Curran of Bathurst, from whom the department bought altogether over 400,000 ties for \$117,248. He had tendered for and made contracts for 80,000. So that in spite of a more profitable employment the policy of this government claims to have found for everybody, one contractor was able to furnish seven times the quantity bargained for. In fact this one man sold the government practically as many ties as were used altogether.

Keeping in mind the fact that the Intercolonial used less than 500,000 ties, that more than a million of an acceptable kind were offered, it is difficult to see what the occasion was for ordering spruce. Mr. Curran was supplying at 28 cents, cedar ties of the same size as the spruce for which he was paid 26 cents, less one-tenth of a cent. The bargain for spruce was the only one which Mr. Pottinger admits that he submitted to Mr. Blair. This bargain was made on the 11th of August, 1899, giving Mr. Curran the monopoly of furnishing spruce ties in that Intercolonial district. Mr. Pottinger bought from him 185,519 spruce ties, which were practically the only ones purchased that year, or any other year, by the Intercolonial. About 2,000 or 3,000 more seem to have been bought, but these were odd sizes. Mr. Curran's spruce ties are still piled up somewhere along the road.

Mr. Pottinger, replying to one of the government members of the committee, said that he considered these transactions profitable, but he also stated to another questioner that he would not have bought the spruce if he had known all he knew afterwards. Though closely questioned, the manager refused to say what was the ordinary lifetime of a railway tie or how much shorter the life of a spruce tie would be than one of the kind preferred. He offered to get the information and produce it later. Eight hundred thousand ties were left in store, piled up along the line at the end of the year, but Mr. Pottinger does not consider this to be any disadvantage. Replying to one of Mr. Blair's friends, Mr. Pottinger said he thought the ties would probably be a little better after they were stored a year than before. Mr. Blair asked if it was the intention of the department to pursue this policy of buying ties a year in advance. The manager replied that it was not.

No tenders were called for spruce ties. Mr. Curran had them at his own price. In fact no tenders were called for any of the 1,000,000 ties used over the quantity originally contracted for. Tenders were simply allowed to furnish additional quantities at the contract prices, and in the case of Mr. Curran spruce was accepted at 28-10 cents without competition. It must have been a great surprise for Mr. Pottinger, after he had decided that there was so much profitable employment that it would be impossible to get the supply he wanted, to find one contractor ready to furnish 400,000 on a \$60,000 contract. The price paid generally was high, and in the case of Mr. Curran was 28-10 cents. Mr. Curran's report that the average price paid for cedar and tamarac in 1899-90 was 23 cents, and the year before it was 18 cents or less.

Mr. Blair asked Mr. Pottinger if the minister had intervened in these transactions. Mr. Pottinger stated that they were settled at Moncton with the exception of the spruce tie contract, in which case Mr. Blair was consulted and approved of the action of the management. Mr. Emmerson, who possibly may have intervened, took occasion to ask Mr. Pottinger a question. He wanted to know if Mr. Curran, the contractor for the spruce ties, was not a local manager for the government supporters in the committee. This shows the temper in which the minister's friends approach an enquiry of this sort, as if it made any difference whether the supplies that were not needed were bought from a liberal or a conservative. At the close of the enquiry Mr. Bell of Platon asked whether Mr. Summer was interested in Mr. Curran's contract. Mr. Pottinger stated that he did not know that he was. There was no point in Mr. Emmerson's enquiry after all.

There is another story about these contracts. Mr. Pottinger was asked who inspected the ties, and stated that Mr. McManus was the inspector. He was next asked whether any complaint had reached the management concerning the quality of the goods, and stated that a complaint had been made that some of them were under size. He could not remember any other complaints. Mr. Barker asked whether there had not been complaint that poplar and fir ties had been accepted by Mr. McManus. Thus refreshed as to his memory, Mr. Pottinger remembered that this also was charged. When this information was submitted last May Mr. McManus was removed from the inspectorship. Was he suspended? Mr. Pottinger would not say he was suspended. In fact he believed he remained in the pay of the department. Further enquiry elicited the fact that he was now inspector of lumber for the railway.

An enquiry into the charges was ordered and Mr. Price was instructed to carry it through. This was in May. In September Mr. Price was appointed to another position and nothing had been done. The enquiry then devolved upon Mr. Russell, and now, after nine months, the department had still no information as to whether the charges were true. Many of the ties are under the snow and cannot be examined. That is as far as Mr. Pottinger got with his testimony.

Mr. Barker, who is conducting this enquiry, would like to have some information which P. S. Archibald can furnish. He asked for a summons and it was refused. Mr. Haggart, who made the motion, says that this is the first time in 30 years, to his knowledge, that a member of the committee had been refused a witness by whom he proposed to prove anything. Mr. Blair stated that Mr. Archibald had been dismissed from the railway for partisanship and that Mr. Haggart only wanted him to give assistance and coaching in the enquiry. This would not be a reason for refusing him if it were true, for witnesses have often been summoned who gave their own testimony, and also gave assistance to persons prosecuting the enquiry. It happened in this same committee a few years ago when Mr. Sir John's friend, Mr. Howells, brought all the way from Winnipeg, remained for weeks coaching the minister in regard to the Manitoba election frauds enquiry. It happened in 1891, when witnesses summoned to testify in the charges against Mr. Cochrane, member for Northumberland, remained and coached the late Mr. Cameron and other prosecutors in that enquiry. It happened again when a captain was brought from Lake Winnipeg, to testify and give private information at the same time, in respect to charges against the late Governor Shultz. The great thing after all, one would suppose, is to get the facts of the case, and the presence of Mr. Archibald in the committee room will assist in that purpose. It is evidently because his presence would assist in bringing out the facts that Mr. Blair does not want him. Certainly there can be no question of expense in the matter, for the discussion in the house on the subject will probably cost the country ten times as much as Mr. Archibald would be paid.

Meanwhile the constitution of the country and the autonomy of Quebec has been again saved by some of the Quebec members. Practically all the doctors in the country are in favor of the establishment of a Dominion Medical Council. The purpose is to establish a uniform standard of examination and registration to make it possible for a qualified Canadian doctor to practice his medicine anywhere in Canada, and to give medical degrees from recognized medical colleges in Canada, validly all over the country. It is a large and generous measure entirely in the public interest, and supported by all medical men who are willing to take

EVERY DISCREET. (Philadelphia Press.) Jay—Yes, sir, when I was in New York a sharper robbed me of \$50. Jay—Why didn't you call a policeman? Jay—Well, I thought \$50 was enough. Frederick Proft, a P. E. Islander, was arrested at the depot last evening for being drunk and carrying a loaded revolver. Proft was otherwise armed, having two bottles of whiskey on his person.

SURPRISE is SOAP Pure Hard Soap. SURPRISE SURPRISE SURPRISE

their chance in the battle of life. But Mr. Demers, who two days ago headed off Dr. Russell's scheme for the unity of law and practice in the courts, took the lead yesterday in heading off Dr. Roddick's proposition for unity in the medical profession. He was supported by Mr. Lemieux, who also saw a great danger to the rights and powers of Quebec in this proposition, and the premier himself seemed to be a little panicky on the subject. Mr. Borden does not share these apprehensions and sees no reason in the world why the measure should not become law. But what the home rule members in Quebec say will probably go in this parliament, and Dr. Roddick must wait.

Every mother who does not, already know, should know the value of that safe, pleasant and effectual remedy, McLean's Vegetable Worm Syrup, the original and only genuine worm syrup. Any child will take McLean's Vegetable Worm Syrup. All dealers keep it.

VERY DISCREET. (Philadelphia Press.) Jay—Yes, sir, when I was in New York a sharper robbed me of \$50. Jay—Why didn't you call a policeman? Jay—Well, I thought \$50 was enough.

Frederick Proft, a P. E. Islander, was arrested at the depot last evening for being drunk and carrying a loaded revolver. Proft was otherwise armed, having two bottles of whiskey on his person.

BOER SYMPATHIZERS Threaten Life and Property of British Consul at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, La., March 19.—George Van Sittart, British consul at New Orleans, declares his life and property are in danger from the Boers and Boer sympathizers in the city, and has appealed to the mayor and police for protection. He says anonymous letters have grown much more numerous and threatening of late and suspicious men constantly stand around his consular office as well as his house, contemplating, he believes, an attack on him. He asked, therefore, that a police force be stationed at both places.

Chief of Police Journeay promised to investigate and, if there are any good grounds for Mr. Van Sittart's fears, the request for protection will be granted. Police protection has been recently granted the British mule stations here, at the request of the British officers and Secretary of State Hay.

USING MISS STONE'S RANSOM.

VIENNA, March 19.—The Nousse Weiser Abendblatt says serious troubles are anticipated in Macedonia, and that the Porte has ordered 30,000 men to be sent to Macedonia and Albania. There seems to be no doubt that the agitation is the work of Boris Sarakoff, the former president of the Macedonian committee, who is using Miss Stone's ransom in his efforts.

BLOOD TROUBLES Dr. Williams' Pink Pills For Pale People. These pills cure all diseases due to impurities in the blood by promptly cleansing and freeing the blood from all poisonous matter, and supplying the system with pure, rich, red blood. If your blood is thin, if you suffer from exhaustion at the least exertion, if you are pale and feel constantly languid and fagged out, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will promptly cure you. Be sure you get the genuine, and refuse all substitutes and other so-called tonics. You can tell the genuine because the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People" is on the wrapper around every box. Sold by all dealers or sent post paid at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

N. Bill R. En A Big E. to Eng. Sills FREDER house me Hazen, H penditure during th and the c lows: 18 cluding M During th came to of this ca not now ment, no governme sent, as I ment all and inform migrants agent ge penditure of \$1,175 station t settlement had come of means fil list of some of Beer's fa cliff for English \$75,000, he spent \$25,000, a gentle Richard Faens for a Scotch years' ex came out parts of dine farm the inter Forrester He has mand an farme very desi Gas, an Brunswick companie Duncan, and very province, the Perle bury Co. man, can 1901. He chased a opposite he propo dening, came out some me Currie fa Adams, ar arrived in chased or ton, F. E land in Ja Jago's fa therefor s man of July, 1861 Chapel G Grant, w has purch Maryland an exten several y some, in ing busin special a poultry Hon. Hazen, a Hand B ed by M ed. The in Sum bute the In ans Hon. M able to in the i committe to havin tender. commen caused sery, a the pape the gov ed tende and pu This no culare quired of fary pr dition g cepted, all the ception and the been ba In rep to an it len, the Kelly, for cert Sunbury the fact that out of revis of the s der to o having g council queste half of governm reasona lists. Tompkin Co., APR wrote m Mr. Bla for reviv eral to the app the mat Allen at to atten in Sunb ings fo