OTTAWA LETTER.

Something Happening in Inner Government Circles.

A Bill of Much Interest to Seafaring Men.

Mr. Fielding's Period of Best Very Much Closer Than He Anticipated -A Pointer for Business Men-Mr. Tarte Quietly Working to Defeat Hr. Blair's Schemes Against the C. P. R.-Minister of Railways on

OTTAWA, April 6.-Sir Louis Da vies introduced a bill last week which will be of great interest to seafaring men, particularly those who hold certificates of competency from the British board of trade. It is entitled an act to amend the act respecting enquiries and investigations into shipping casualties. Under present laws it has been customary to hold an investigation in Canada in all cases. vestigation in Canada in all cases where a ship has been lost within Canadian waters. The court of enquiry was almost invariably presided over by Capt. W. H. Smith, R. N. R., and such gentlemen as he might select as associates. The court so constituted ses where officers holding British certificates of competency were at fault. It now turns out, however, that any decisions rendered by this court, unless concurred in by the British board of trade, were invalid and that they have really no force. Sir Louis Davies stated that he had consulted the British board of trade in the matter and that they had refused to recognize any interference by the Candian authorities in such matters. It was suggested by the British board of trade that the Canadian law should be ended as to bring the enquiries under conditions similar to those surrounding them in the old country, and the minister of marine and fisherles readily acquiesced and changed the dominion act in accordance with the

The procedure under the law, as amended, will be somewhat different from that of the past. Any government officer, or a county court judge, or a magistrate will take the evidence and try such cases as may be placed iperts will be associated with the judge to advise him on any points which might need explanation. The evidence so taken will then be sent to the Brit-ish board of trade, who will consider at and pass judgment on the defending wifeer or officers. Under the old law nister of marine and fisheries claimed power to reinstate any officer suspended for neglect of duty, gross ss or any other cause might be deemed sufficient to result in the suspension of his certificate. This power seems to have been taken upon the British authorities have in every certificate of competency from the British board of trade. The effect of this announcement will be to prac-tically reinstate any who may have been suspended by dominion courts of marine enquiry during the past unless

In cases of captains holding Cana lian certificates, however, the govern ment will still retain ats power to pend or cancel. It was suggested in connection with this court, that if, Canada was to refrain from interfering with certificates of British issue then the British authorities should b then the Enitish authorities should be prevented from taking any action in the cases of Canadian captains who may meet with disaster in the waters of the motherland. And this proposition does not seem to be an unreasonable one. If the British authorities are unwilling to consider a Canadian court a competent tribunal for the arraignment of an officer holding a British certificate, the Canadians should have the right to deal with certificates. sued by this country, in cases whe aptains may be at fault, in territo over which the British board of trace claims jurisdiction. But the govern-ment is inclined to think that Canaand so they are quite willing to yield this point. The result of the enforce-ment of the new law will probably be-that a county court judge will in future be selected to hold all enquiries in connection with marine disasters, and under such conditions it is expected that much greater satisfaction will be felt by those who are often placed in a trying position, through disaster, which may or may not be due to any mess on their part

Mr. Gourley, the member for Colchester, N. S., is making a good impression in the house. It is advisable that new members should in all cases, or nearly all cases, be seen and not heard during the first session. It often means that a man who talks too much will rapidly find himself a candidate for the back benches. Two gentlemen ber for Halifax, and Mr. Emmerson once Mr. Elair's pride. Both have sitions since their entrance into do minion politics. Mr. Gourley, unlike these gentlemen, has preserved a diserect silence, except in one or two in-stances in which he felt called upon to make an appeal on behalf of his constituents, and on the two occasions which he spoke he received most attentive hearing from a large house.

for recognition in the railway programme of Canada. He claims that to the fact that they have built 200,000 built 17,000 miles. When Canada ing with a rush. It will be rememberrow money at 21-2 per cent., bered that a falling off of revenue was

Mr. Gourley sees no reason why the country should not have all the railways necessary for her to retain her own transportation business. If money borrowed for railway purposes is spent judiciously, and not handed over to boodiers, he thinks that the governnent can provide its system of railways at a cost which will not place any considerable burden on the country. He asked for the maritime provinces, that in any proposals the gov-ernment might adopt in regard to the solution of the transportation problem that the east should be considered. Mr. Gourley contended that the attention the government had been paying to canals and inland waters and St. Lawrence route was time wasted. His idea was that the government hould take steps to bring the produce Canada, and by doing so they will solve a question which seems to be greatly troubling them at the present time. What is needed most are railways to get the grain from the west and land it at St. John or Halifax or some Atlantic port, and he asked that

For the government railway men Mr. Gourley had a good word to say. He called the attention of the railway epartment to the fact that the m of the I. C. R. in many cases are work-ing for wages which were insufficient to support them and their families. In many cases raitway employes are compelled to work early and late in order to earn a bare existence for themselves and those depending upon them. As they are an unusually intelligent class of men, the member for Colchester thinks they should receive more remuneration from the I. C. R., and he suggested that Mr. Blair should make some provision to deal more generously with them

OTTAWA, April 8 .- The correspondence in connection with the Paris exposition was brought down the other day, and as a result, Hon. Sydney Fisher, minister af agriculture, was placed in the most humiliating position. Only a few days ago, Mr. Fisher occupied the attention of the house for some hours, telling them of the great things achieved by the dominion ere altogether irrelevant to the subunder discussion, an additional vote of \$30,000 to the exhibition pense fund, but irrelevancy does not trouble Mr. Fisher. He quoted from the leading newspapers of the country to show how successful had been the Canadian exhibit and the work of the staff in charge, and it was noticed during the reading of some of the paragraphs that Mr. Fisher was very nt in some of them. Somebody ested that he might have written ed that they were the work of out-siders, and to prove his contention, siders, and to prove his contention asked if the opposition would accur im of having supplied the Montreal Gazette and other conservative papers with matter for their news columns. But he was finally forced to admit that on the Canadian staff were a number of young ladies who were paid to supply readers to the Canadian press. Of course these writers were acting under instructions from Mr. Misher, and as they were largely deendent upon him for any favors they might receive, he came in for a lot of taffy which it now appears he did not bold man and utterly lacking of me esty, who would have failed to feel hurt in consequence of an exposure

But if Mr. Fisher were humiliated on the occasion referred to above, what must his feelings be today, in riew of the fact that Mr. Tarte en fit to make a clean breast of his colleague's utter incapability in conection with the Canadian exhibit aris? When Mr. Fisher told house of his successes and read notices of himself, which he paid marked that it almost seemed as Mr. Tarte had been once forced to o ister of public works, but the triumph of the Hon. Sydney was short and sweet ALUANAT TIEM OF THAM

With Mr. Tarte's arrival in Paris new condition of things was inauguated. The first thing the minister of mblic works did was to sweep the anadian section clean of British re-resentatives. Whether this was done eling towards France or not, the orrespondence does not set fouth. Ational Canadian representatives appointed, but inasmuch as he had no sen accredited as a Canadian com-dissioner, he found himself unable to rrange this. The difficulty, however, lain, who recognized Mr. Tarte, and then Canada succeeded in obtaining isher been left to himself, would probably never have been granted. But the minister of agriculture got a hange later on when Mr. Tarte, his pro-French orations, forced the and they were compelled to send over three ministers in search of the scalp of the minister of public works. But Mr. Tarte was not to be caught napping, and lost no time in moving for Canada, so that while his colleagues were looking for him in the French capital, he was squaring things up at Ottawa. So that with odds of four to one against him, Mr. Tarte was enabled to come out considerably ahead and to demonstrate pretty effectually that he was as he is now, the first minister in the government. It is pro-bable that the position of Mr. Fisher on that occasion will be further ven-tilated in the house when the esti-mates for the department of agriculture are again talked over. But it is hardly likely that he will again invite egation from the agricultural dis tricts to witness his degradation.

The period of rest, to which Mr. Fielding referred with so much hope, in his budget speech, seems to be com-

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pinted at when the estimated receipts Canadians. And in order that he may for the current year were given to the fully accomplish his object, he has ashouse and the statements made on that occasion seem to have been justified. The Canada Gazette of Saturday shows that the total net debt to March 31st, 1900, amounted to \$260,828,-449 55, while to March 31st, 1901, it amounted to \$262,403,760.09, or an increase of \$1,575,320.54. For the month March, 1901, as compared with March, 1900, there was a decrease in the revenue of \$273,438.15, while the expendi ture for the same periods shows an norease of \$939,255.92. The toatl exenditure for the past nine months has peen \$28,627,612.23, as compared with 26,051,556.83 for the correspon period of 1900, or an increase of In capital account, the \$2,576,055,39 ncrease for the nine months of 1901, as compared with the nine months e and for the month of March, 1901, there is an increase as compared with Mach railways and canals, the expenditure for March, 1901, was \$863,206.86, while in March, 1900, it was only \$128,809.95, or an increase for March, 1901, of \$634,396,91. Considering that a large part of this latter sum has been devot-ed to meeting I. C. R. accounts chargeable to consolidated fund, the forecast made by Mr. Fielding, if anything, seems to have been minimized. To find the debt of the country and expenditure increasing at the rate of gin, and every means will be used to millions and the revenue falling off, make Quebec show up to the best adwill not tend to reassure those who i vantage have placed so much trust in the policy of the government. The real situation is that the government is be-ginning to experience a period of de-pression, which will be more or less felt throughout the world during the deserve. Mr. Fisher's feelings on that felt throughout the world during the occasion may be better imagined than next few years. It must be rememthe Anglo-Boer wars did much for Canadian trade, but the markets opensecond direction, so that the country will now have to rely on ordinary outlets for her commerce. These features of Canadian trade seem to have been lost sight of in the hour of elation, when money was pouring into the must produce a sobering effect on the minds of those who now find them-selves face to face with a situation with before. Last month the govern-ment organs endeavored to hide the real situation by a great flourish of trumpets over an increase in the re-ceipts for February, but it was only a spurt and now we hear little from the same source, of the financial state-ment for the last thirty days preceding March 31st.

The house will resume its sittings tomorow, and it is expected that con-siderable attention will be devoted to railway matters during the next few days. On going into supply, Col. Sam Hughes will move that in the opinion of the house it is advisable to have the I. C. R. double tracked and the grades reduced at all points to one-half of ne per cent. This is a particularly ticipated, second only to that on the budget speech. Many of the maritime province men will have a chance to air their opinions, and an opportunity will be afforded for getting a line on some of the new eastern representa-tives. Mr. Blair's estimates are also to be discussed and it will not be sur-prising if the minister of railways will have to go on the penitent form for a minister of the crown should be allowed to expend the enormous sum of capital account, when he should have provided the cash from consolidated fund, is not in keeping with the views of the opposition, and some ight will be thrown on Mr. Blair's business methods. Business men, if they keep their eyes open, may ge some pointers from Mr. Blair, who seems to be in a position to spend more than he earns and at the same the advantages of doing business in this way, we all might be rich and even happy if riches can be taken as a basis of true happiness. Some star-tling facts are likely to be forthcoming and the period after Easter will

OTTAWA, April 9 .- If the French population of Canada is not fully recorded during the present census it will be the fault of Mr. Tarte or his associates. First in everything in which the government is connected, tor of the census in so far as it concerns the French speaking portion of and of the resources of the country, Mr. Blair. While Mr. Blair is bent on

sociated with him a former member of the staff of La Patrie, Thomas Cote, who perhaps knows as much of French Canadian life as any man in Canada. Mr. Cote is known as assistant census commisioner, and his duty is to see that every French speaking resident of Canada is placed on the records, which are to be filed at the census bureau, and to take such steps as may be necessary to make a favorable comparison between French and English speaking Canadians. When it is re imbered that no distinction will be made in the other nationalities, empraced in our population, where the term Canadian can be used, the significance of this move is apparent.

Up in the province of Quebec the census enumerators are making every effort to place on the records the name of every adult and infant resident o No stone is being left unturned to make the population of Que ec tell in the redistribution of seats opulation which has taken place in the last decade. If the population of Quebec counts up as Mr. Tarte intends in the commons. Ontario and the other English speaking provinces are to pay

Complaints are being made in this part of the country, that the census enumerators are not doing their duty as they should. Several instances is quite probable, that while not single resident of Quebec, nor Mr. Tarte's carefully laid plans, English speaking people will have to look after their own interests.

In connection with the enumeration

of the French speaking population of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Ontario, and the Northwest Territories, Mr. Cote will act as a special census com-1901, a/circular was sent out from the census bureau, Ottawa, marked "Confidential," franked by Mr. Tarte and signed by Mr. Cote, in which cen enumerators were urged to do their best in order that all persons of French origin might be properly classed in the census returns. For instance, Mr. census returns. For instance, Mr. Tarte will have no Mr. White's where Mr. Le Blancs can be found, and it is also proposed that where English names have been adopted by persons of French extraction, that the persons holding them will be included in the French speaking residents. Under French speaking residents. Under such a system Mr. Tarte and Mr. Cote hope that the French element in Can ada will show up to the best advantage and make the most favorable con ison with their English speaking low citizens. The circular which Mr. Tarte has been good enough to send around has been only sent to French speaking districts and it was expected that it would remain a confidential circulars have been placed in the hands of the opposition members, who were painfully surprised to find that carrying out the work of the cen That such underhand methods sho be employed is rather alarming, in th fact that this is a free country, that one set of regulations should be given to the English census enumerators working in English speaking districts and enother set sent confidentially to the officials employed in French settlements, wil require a lot of explanpublic that there is not something s ous beheath the surface in this newest dodge to secure power. A translation of the circular

broadcast makes interesting reading and is as follows:

CONFIDENTIAL. Census Bureau, Ottawa, 1st March, 1901. Dear Sir-I take the liberty of writ-

ing matters connected with the ennial census of Canada will begin on 1st April next and will continue dur-As you also know, the object of the census is to ascertain as exactly as

ing to you today for the purpose.

and thereby to give a true idea of its relative position among nations.

To attain this object, that is to say, to know as correctly as possible the number of the population and resources of the country, it is necessary that the citizens of the country in which the census is taken should contribute by their influence, by their words and by their example to the success of the

ommon work.

This leads me, sir, to ask you to aid us in making this census as exact as possible in your locality. You are probably aware that on the occasion of each former census many citizens of this country imagined that the census was for the purpose of imposing additional taxes and for the purpose of enrolling their children for foreign wars.

That was a complete mistake, the results which the census furnishes have not for their object the imposi-tion of new taxes, but are, on the contrary, directly connected with the administrative science which presup poses a general knowledge of the means, defects and advantages of the country in which the census is taken, all of which is to be presented in a numerical form. Neither is it reasonable to fear that the census has for its aim the enrollment of any citzen of the country for any war. The nilitary service which a certain num-er of Canadians recently performed in outh Africa was, as you know, purely voluntary, and there was no power in the world capable of forcing anyone to go there unless it was his own de-sire to do so. There is also another error into which a certain number of our compatriots have fallen; that is to imagine that the census tables, or rather the information furnished the enumerators, could either serve them as an advertisement or could be used in any way to their detriment. real truth, however, is that these tables are never seen except by the of-

These officers are bound by their oath of office not to divulge any information concerning individuals, and besides, as you may well believe, I am sure that not four-fifths of the enum-erators have any leisure to give atten-ed on every occasion, and when the tion to the personal information which they have obtained in going from a course he generally carries it to a house to house and interrogating the citizens

Some people have also in certain cases objected to give their names to the enumerators. Names are taken purely and simply as a guarantee of the truth of the information furnished in order to afford a check upon the information as written down.

There is another thing to which particularly desire to draw your at- als is that the kind feelings manifestention, and that is the peculiar situation of the groups of French familes in your district. In the census of 1891 the people of French origin in the maritime provinces, in Manitoba, and Northwest Territories, and in Ontario did not receive justice. A large numher of citizens of French origin have French domination. Some very pointbeen enumerated in the census of 1891 as being of English origin.

The true cause of this injustice has Quebec, and it was asserted by some never been thoroughly known. Per-that the government was quite inde-haps it was owing to the fact that a pendent of the French vote, inasmuch issue number of our compatriots in as there were other provinces in which the provinces above named, and especially majorities might be had. Only a few clally in your locality, do not now days ago the Hon. William Patterson speak French, and even in some cases almost wept over the crusade which have changed their name. When the enumerator went to their houses in the people of Quebec. But that is all enumerator went to their houses in 1891, they answered, no doubt without over now, since Mr. Tarte and Mr. reflection, that speaking only English Blair have fallen out. It may be conwhere members of families have not they should be enumerated as forming tended that the gossip of a five o'clock origin. This is no reason, however, dence that there is anything to cause why citizens who are really of French trouble in the ranks of the cabinet. origin should not be enumerated as

> will be fewer errors this year than in thing really is wrong, its importance, the past on account of the changes

to exercise your influence on all cit-izens of French origin whom you know, in order that they many answer acucrately and correctly the censu officials. See that they do not forge French origin, although they may not example, in the case of those named Potrier, who now call themselves

to give these instructions and the explanations to all citizens of Frence origin whom you know? Will you l good enough to advise your peop answer correctly the questions will be put to them by the enun tors, assuring them that they n fear no increase of taxes, since known the real value of their prope ties. But above all insist, I beg you, that the true origin of all ou

THOMAS COTE

OTTAWA, April 10.—Something appening in inner government circles used days. During the Easter holicays only one cabinet minister was usent from the city, the others having the requested to remain in town until the house re-opened. The single exception was Hon. Sydney Fisher but as he apparently has little weight with the government, his absence was not a matter of any great moment. Just what the trouble is cannot be gathered on the outside, but it is cer tein that things are not going along in that calm and peaceful way that is said to have characterized the earlier days of the Laurier administration. It is hinted that the ministers are dis greeing as to several important matters, and therefore, the absence Ottawa of any of the more important members of the cabinet might result in one side or the other getting an ad-

Down at the bottom of the trouble is said to lie Mr. Blair's determination to oust the Canadian Pacific in his fight against them. In his efforts to humble Mr. Shaughnessy, the minister of railways has the assistance of the western members of parliament, but opposed to him is that giant of the government, Hon. J. Israel Tarte, who possible the number of the population has once before succeeded in humbling

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carrying his point in his contest against the Canadian Pacific, Mr. Tarte is quietly working to effect the defeat of the railway department's policy. Behind Mr. Tarte are some members from Quebec and a number of strong men in the ranks of the Engficers whose duty it is to make the lish speaking liberals. By antagonizing the C. P. R. to such an extent as Mr. Blair proposes, the minister of public works considers that Canada's interests will not be served to the best advantage. He sees no reason why ed on every occasion, and when the minister of public works decides upon successful conclusion. Into this fight he has entered heart and soul and it looks as if Mr. Blair would have to give way and that the C. P. R. will be conceded anything they may ask for within reason.

> A significant feature of the battle between the minister of public works ed heretofore for the province of Quebec and its representatives is not so apparent on this occasion. has it that at a fashionable five o'clock tea, held here a few days ago, attended by several of the wives of the ministers, a discussion arese as to ed remarks were made in regard to the balance of power being held in circumstance adds considerably to the strength of the evidence that some coming, as it does, from the wives of cabinet ministers, is increased

tercolonial railway were considered for the first time. Mr. Blair, who is unwell, spent the afternoon in exunwell, spent the afternoon in explaining to the house his system of book-keeping and part of his programme for the coming year. An item of \$500,000 for steel rails was considered and was allowed to stand until the minister of railways can furnish the opposition with some particulars with regard to the contracts he has made this season. Mr. Haggart and Mr. Barker took the cross-examination of the minister of railways in hand, and they succeeded in showing that the system of book-keeping on the Intercolonial is far from satisfactory. Under such conditions it is not the Intercolonial is far from satisfac-tory. Under such conditions it is not hard for Mr. Blair to show surpluses, capital account for the purposes of maintenance was partly laid bare. Mr. Blair told the house that he had been replacing the 59 lb. rails of the Intercolonial with 80 lb. steet rails. In order to do this, he pays from caplaid down and fails to charge any por tion of them to maintenance

tion of them to maintenance account.

Mr. Barker contends that on any properly managed road the cost of maintaining the roadbed is always charged to running expenses. That is to say, that if a 59 lb. rail is to be replaced by a 59 lb. rail, the company considers that by so doing it is only maintaining the efficiency of its road. So, when an 80 lb. rail displaces the 59 lb. rail, Mr. Barker claims that only the difference between the 59 lb. rail and the 80 lb. rail should be charged to capital occount, or 58 lbs. of the heavy rails should be paid for out of maintenance account, while 21 lbs. count. Unless this is done, Mr. Blair is actually paying from capital account for the repairs to the roadbed. To keep the Intercolonial in good order, without any expenditure at all. Mr. Blair would only have to replace the old rails on the road, from time to time, by a rail of a little heavier weight, and by charging the cost to weight, and by charging the cost to apital account he would be able to seep the road in thorough repair without the outlay of a single dollar from

Mr. Blair says that such a policy would be madness under the present conditions existing on the Intercolonial. With the increase in the weight of the rolling stock and the growth of business, he claims that it is actually necessary to re-track the Intercolonial Therefore, he argues, it is only

(Continued on Page Seven.)

NO EXHIBI Exhibition A City and Over It

> Provincial Grant and This the Settling

A meeting of members of the was held purpose of c closing up its McLaughlin v there were ore M. Shaw, R. B. Jas. Reynolds, Markham, Lt. vis, R. R. Pat W. F. Burditt, S Walker.

D. J. McLau meeting to ord other members seen some of th ernment and would be useles tions to Frederi government this committed to h tions throughou judged from th different arrang year. He then the directors in three months, a get the govern sociation's liabil tem as is used ing this, an atte cure a grant o was found imp tion decided upo solution asking ment and city off the debts an W. L. Jarvis

present condition about \$3,200, carry on an ex he would like wm. Shaw the tempting to ho year, an attem pay off the ind association losis Mr. Jarvis th resolution:

of the association, of the city and co to hold another e aid from the proextent of at least And whereas, the not prepared to g the present time.

And whereas, a the control of the present time. that, upon such them, the assets provincial governments.

And further resource the Exhibition Ass

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never proved of which went zens of St. Jo expenditure was this benefitted the governme the association be to struggle etaining the holding an e This was very he course pr Speaking of their full value use except for sets, among and boiler, These could be the liabilities, a heavy loss. approached m hold exhibition run by a joint bility the pre-remain intact. ditions he th by the resoluti

difficult to ge ment to act over the liab asked to assi bilities and tha be made to s only hope for i

Mr. Shaw op said if it were exhibitions in