OTTAWA LETTER.

Some Important Facts Regarding the West Huron Steal.

Father of Tarte's Son's Wife Given Chance to Salt Away Some Ten Thousand Dollars.

Charleson, Who Figured in the Mercier Carnival of Corruption, is Cutting a Big Swath in the Yukon.

OTTAW9, Aug. 8.-The despatch have already stated how the W Huron investigation terminated how ten or a dozen witnesses wh evidence might have been taken in an hour were sent off after the country had paid them for coming here, as the majority of the committee declined to allow any more witnesses to be examined. There was no reason for this hurry, for though an agree-ment had been made to close on Mon-day, it was made under the impresday, it was made under the impression that the business of the house will not be through for two or three days later, and another day could well have been spared, even if a whole day instead of an hour were needed. The exclusion of these witnesses may enable the machinists to even the two problems. the machinists to say that Mr. Borfailed to prove fully and com pletely the number of ballots which were stolen or stuffed at Farr's poll. He would have been able to prove that 55 voters had marked their were counted. As it is, he has brought in counted. As it is, he has brought in more than were counted and declarations have been made by a number of others. Besides this there is the proof of the excess of ballots in the box, and the evidence of the ballots themselves, which proves that they did not come from the pad and did not bel the stub from which they should have been torn. There is the fact that the fereign ballots were not all initialed and the statement made by Farr that he voted 22 times, while 21 ballots seemed to be misssing from the unused lot at another poll. The case is complete as to the ballot box stuffing and the ballot statistics. and the hallot stealing. But the number stolen might have been more definitely established if Mr. Russell had not insisted on heading off the inves-

One important point was established yesterday. Setting aside the statements which witnesses say that Farr made to them, we have certain independent testimony as to what occurred after the election. Farr told more than one witness that he had conversation with Mr. Holmes before and after the election, and that Mr. Holmes expressed his gratitude for the services rendered. Holmes denies that he made any such expr mes could bring Farr here if he wished, the fact that he has not done so establishes a suspicion of compli on his part. But suppose we ac the statement made by Holmes, w remains? It is proved that Farr went to Toronto and that he was ther when the enquiry began. It known that the officers who we to his residence to summon him con not find him, and that he told the man of this election trouble. Afterwards Mr. Farr disappeared from Toronto and witnesses testify that they saw him in other towns and that he told them he had been in Oshawa, Withby, Brooklyn and other places escaping

Now, who caused Mr. Farr to disappear in this way? Who paid his expenses and shaped his course? Mr. James Nelson, who boarded with Farr at 414 Church street, Toronto, describe Farr's movements so far as he knew them. He went to Farr's room and talked the whole matter over on two in trouble about the election, and would have to go away. Mr. Nelson saw one Mr. Vance, who came to visit Farr on two occasions. This fact does not rest on Nelson's testimony, but is one of these visits Vance did not find Farr at home and arranged with Nelson that Farr should go to Vance's to bed when Farr came in, but he got up and they two went to 95 Howard street, Toronto. It was after mid-night and Nelson was not allowed to go into the house. After the interview with Vance, Farr disappeared and was not seen for nearly a fortnight. When a long round to various towns and had a pretty hard time of it keeping clear of the officers of the house.

Passing from this direct evidence, we have certain hearsay testimony. Mr. Farr cannot be got and therefore it is admissable to hear evidence of his own statements. Nelson, who seems to be a very reliable man, says that Farr told him that Vance had arranged for him to escape service and had bought him tickets. Farr also plained why he was sending Farr out of town. It was because Vance had received a telegram from Ottawa saying, "keep your man low." Nelson says that he asked Farr if Holm could have been elected if the election had run straight, and Farr said "neve on your life." One other stateme made by Farr to Nelson implicat Holmes, but this statement Holm contradicts. Now, there is no doubt that Vance did make these visits to Farr; that he did cause him to be sent out of the place and kept him hiding; that he provided him with means to travel, and no doubt he was acting under instructions from Ottawa acting under instructions from Ottawa ordering him to keep his man low.

Vance. Who is he? Mr. Vance is the chief and permanent assistant to Alexander Smith, the liberal organizer for the province of Ontario. He is, therefore, a regular accredited and the controversy. Then he gathered in paid officer of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's all the threads of his discourse and party in this great province. According to the testimony of a witness called as it ought to be Mr. Ferguson by the government, no less than Mr. points out that there are large dis-

under Mr. Tarte, this Mr. Vance charge of the campaign in zer in all the other campaigns. So far as the government is responsible for the conduct of the party it leads, it

We have therefore this state of affairs. While the premier was pro-fessing his desire to have a full inves-tigation of the conduct of returning officers, and promising to punish all offenders, the chief offender was kept out of sight by the act of the government's own political agents, and on nstructions sent from Ottawa by persons directing the conduct of af-fairs. We have this further fact that occording to the testimony of the chief government organ the postmaschief government organ the postmas-ter general (Mulock) had the over-sight of the West Huron campaign. That Mr. Mulock knew of these ar-rargements by which the seat was stolen is not shown. We know that Mr. Mulock has permitted his assis-tants to get the culprits out of the way and to hide away the witnesses whose testimony was most important. Moreover all the ministers in the com-mittee and three or four of their egal supporters have lone everything that seven or eight men could do to prevent Mr. Berden from get-ting at the main facts of the case. Whatever has been established has been established in spite of every casible attempt that could be by ministers at Ottawa to burke the enquiry in the committee room, and by the servants of ministers who were ergaged in keeping the

"Keep your men low." This is the

latest motto of the great liberal par-ty. "Business is business" is an im-portant and useful watchword. "Wait till you see us next year" is a motto which deserves an honorable place on the banner. The theory of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the business of a government "is not to benefit but to satisfy" explains many things. But they all must stand under this last great declaration of policy and prac-"Keep your man low." Vance, the assistant organizer, is not here. He could tell a very good story if he were present, but he stays away in the interest of the great liberal party. They are keeping their man Cap Sullivan is in the United States. He was reported by a judge in connection with election frauds committed some months ago. After ville, in Elgin and in Huron. An officer of the Hardy government had him bailed out and he is now in foreign rarts. They are "keeping their man low." Mr. Dancey, who appeared at Cummings' poll in West Huron with a certificate of character from Mr. Holmes, alleged M. P., and who without authority assisted in the counting of the ballots with such extraordinary result, has not been seen at Ottawa. A certificate of illness was sent covery reached this town he was reported to be in Detroit. In accordance with the doctrine of the great liberal party he is kept low. Other of the machine are not available. They are ept low. Mr. Bole, who personated the returning officer in Elgin, and whose poll presented a singular instance of ballot box stuffirg, did not appear when he was wanted. Mr. Bole has been provided with a local government office and meanwhile they are keeping him low. Mr. Preston, the organizer of the whole equipment, the artificer of the mi chine, the discoverer of the gang, is said to be in Finland. It costs the country about \$5,000 a year in salary and expenses to keep him low, but it has to be done.

In a wider sense the doctrine is apolied to the whole party here at Otawa. It is rather a poor business one the privileges committee into a body of accomplices apparently engaged in enquiry into a crime against the rights of the people and the institutions of the country. But the necessity of the government party seems to have required this degradation on the part of some of the ablest men in their ranks. It is necessary to keep their men low. Then there is Mr. Mulock, and Mr. he Huron campaign, and who to vindicate themselves, ought to have been ager to bring any wrong doing to light. That would have been the course that ministers with a high sense of principle would have pursued, but they seemed to prefer to keep themselves fow. Mr. Holmes must now be conscious that he was not hon-estly elected. Even the organs of his own party have told him that he espect, continue to hold the seat. And igh-minded man would give it up at once, but Mr. Holmes has adopted the tto of his leaders and keeps him-

Mr. Mills, minister of justice, is quite leased with his Transvaal speech. The enate had only an hour and a half for the discussion of the resolution and the philosophical minister took up most of the time. His speech was five times as long as the whole discussion in the commons and ten times as ela-borate. When Mr. Mills spoke on redistribution he began with the reign of Edward III. When he speaks on the Drummond railway he begins with the discovery of the steam engine. When he deals with the criminal code he goes back to the Draconian code. When he discusses constitutional law he begins with the glacial period. When he speaks on iron bounties he goes back to the stone age. The Transvaal speech does not go so far back. It takes up the question at the comparatively recent time of Vasco di Gama, who was reported to have circumnavigated the Cape of Good Hope several centuries ago. Passing by easy and deliberate stages down to the Dutch colonization, the establishment of British power in South Africa, the establishment of the Transvaal state, Mr. Mills makes a slight digression to discovery of gold and diamonds and various other incidental elements in

That, however, is a matter of consequence so long as the an-

The able speech of Mr. Mills is be circulated by wholesale. The sen-ate has ordered a great many Han-sards to be printed and sent out for the general information of the public. It is a new departure to make a vote for the circulation of Hansard literature and Mr. Ferguson had so doubts whether the precedent mig not be inconvenient. The next ser tor who makes a historical speech of on an ignorant world at the exp of the treasury. On the other hand, Senator Primrose, Serator Clemow, Senator Gowan and other good con Mills and his Transvaal speech a good send off, regardless of ultimate conse-quences. Senator Ferguson did not press his objections to a division or it s said they might have prevailed. So if there is any person who wants to know what happened in the Transvaal pefore the beginning of previously recorded history, he has only to commu-ricate to the Hon. David Mills, the department of justice in Ottawa, without enclosing a stamp, and he will receive the desired information.

The railway subsidies were yes reading of the bill. A long debate took place over the Edmonton line, and the subsidy to the company whereof Mr. Pugsley is the solicitor. or Wilfrid Laurier meets all objection with the statement that the president. Mr. George McAvity, is a business man of very great wealth, who is sure to build any railway through he rocky mountains that he undertakes. Mr. Foster adheres to the opinion that Mr. McAvity and his olleagues have no intention of building transcontinental railways, but are ecuring the gateway through the Rocky Mountains and the subsidies with a view of transferring it to Mackenzie and Mann.

Mr. Blair was asked whether some nembers of parliament were not concerned in this subsidy, and it was suggested to him that his son, and perhaps he himself had some connec tion with it. The minister of rail ways declared that he had no concern in the matter at all. He did not know who was in it. He did not know whether his son was connected with the company, but did not believe he was. He thought it possible that Mr. Blair, junior, might have done some professional work for Mr. Mc-Avity in the matter. But really, the minister of railways has concerned nimself so little in the case that he could not speak positively on this question. Mr. Pugsley he knew as a perfectly honorable and scrupulous man, but the minister had never

There was an interesting discussion cerning the bill for the construction of the road from Charlottetown to Murray harbor. Mr. Martin strongly presented the claim of the province to better terms than the government was allowing. The hill provides that the York vellow journals. cost of the Hillsboro bridge, which is a part of the line. Mr. Martin showed that the provincial legislation provided for the contribution of the additional amount which had been required to provide that the bridge should be useful for a highway as well as a railway that this additional cost would be as much as \$400,000, and holds that \$12,000 is, therefore, too much to exact from the province.

Sir Louis Davies and Mr. Blair ar arranged to pay \$12,000 a year, and that it was not necessary to interfere fur-ther in the matter. He said that every body was satisfied and there was no

Mr. Bell of P. E. Island did not agree with that view. He strongly insisted that the dominion government was driving a hard bargain with the provnce. He agreed with Mr. Martin that even if the amount was not too large to pay the interest on the additional cost for a highway, the \$12,000 ought to be contributed by the dominion as a portion of what was due the province on other grounds. But he was strongly of the opinion that the bill before the house exacted more than the provincial legislature had intended province to pay. It was pointed out by Mr. Martin that the govern ment was paying a subsidy of 15 per cent on the cost of bridges elsewhere. He urged that at least this 15 per cent might be deducted from the charge imposed on the province. Sir Louis these suggestions. He appeared to be anxious that Mr. Bell and Mr. Martin hould allow the matter to drop. Mr. the united protests of himself and Mr Martin against the exaction of this \$12,000 a year from the province.

OTTAWA, Aug. 9 .- Sir Wilfrid Laurier met a stranger and the stranger took him in. That is the explanation of the little awarkwardness about the invitation to Chicago. The premier lines to answer questions on the subject, but he cannot conceal his annoyance when his attention is called to the statement made by Mr. Fitz-patrick as coming from Sir Wilfrid. The assistant architect of the United States treasury department declares that Sir Wilfrid did not accept the invitation to assist in laying the corner stone of the new post office at Chicago and did not consent to the attendance of Lord Minto. The premier is ac-cused of adding insult to injury by explaining that the relations between Canada and the United States were dignity at the hands of the Chicas citizens. This is an unfortunate story to set in circulation in the United States, as is shown by the numerous double leaded editorials which appear in the great newspapers of that country. Our premier is held up to ridicule in the most arrangement.

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nabit of Chicago folks to throw rotten eggs at visitors who go there to lay corner stones, and generally that we are as a nation making fools of our-

so far as the premier is concerned, if he had really given such an answer as is reported to an official invitation, but it is fair to the premier to acquit him of any such incivility. The fact is he had no official invitation either for himself or Lord Minto and therefore did not refuse one. In the quiet of his own home he talked perhaps a little more freely than would be wise except among intimate friends, and years are to be able to inform the very much too freely considering the house that steps had been taken to character of his audience.

The facts at the bottom of all the hubbub appear to be these. Mr. Fitzpatrick of the U.S. treasury departnent had a French-Canadian mother, and one of his near relatives was at one time a law partner of the premier. When, therefore, the official visitor arrived and called upon Sir Wilfrid, explaining his origin, the premier took him to his home and eart. Mr. Fitzpatrick accepted Sir Wilfrid's hospitality and remained some days under his roof. Doubtless they talked over many things, and Sir Wilfrid was apparently much more onfiding than he is in his communications to parliament. What Mr. Fitzpatrick says may not be a verbatim report of a breakfast table conversaion, but it is sufficiently accurate to make it impossible for the premier to give a contradiction. Why Sir Wilfrid should have thought it unwise for imself or the governor general to go could have had for supposing that Lord Minto would be treated uncivilly there, is a mystery. One would suppose that the time was quite opportune for the cultivation of social relations and the display of a neighborly feeling, which would be a most proper way of softening down any asperities there may be in the international relations.

But the premier certainly did not inend his remarks to the Washington risitor to be an answer to the Chicago invitation. If he thought it unwise to accept the invite, he would have esaped with a polite excuse framed in he neat style of which he is a master Certainly he never expected that the words spoken in the closet would be proclaimed from the house-top. But it appears that while the assistant architect has given vague ideas of the claims of a host on the reticence of his guest, he has also a habit of inspecting the wine when it is red. There a rumor that Mr. Fitzpatrick was not a strict prohibitionist while he was in Ottawa. Possibly the axiom "in vino veritas" explains the exceedingly interesting and lurid statement which he has made to the world. The premier was probably somewhat startled when he saw the remarks which emed to be innocent enough at the table appear in bald hideousness under the half column heading of the New

And now there is nothing for the premier to do but hold his tongue. He cannot plead that he did not talk for because then it would appear that while the premier publicly professes to have a great confidence in the United States, he privately expresses contrary views. He cannot deny that he talked in this strain because there is probably truth in what Mr.Fitzpatrick says, and Mr. Fitzpatrick may have serve. Again, it is not convenient in the midst of these diplomatic relations gued to the contrary. Sir Louis said for the premier of Canada to publicly that the provincial government had denounce a prominent United States denounce a prominent United States treasury official as a liar and a slanderer. If Mr. Fitzpatrick were that kind of a man it would not be wise to say so. If he is not, it is unsafe as well as unjust to say that he is.

One thing seems to be certain, and that is that Sir Wilfrid and Lord Minto will now have to go to Chicago They are certainly less willing to go than they would have been in the first stance, and the awkwardness and pleasantness will be very much intensified. There was no danger of rotten eggs and dead cats in the first place, and probably there is not yet, out the Fitzpatrick incident would very largely increase the possibilities of such Chicago eccentricities. But there is no escape for the prime minister. He must now square himself with the United States and the city of Chicago by taking the greatest possible interest in the post office, and especially in the corner stone. It will go hard with Sir Wilfrid if he annot find among his sunny ways some process of persuading everybody concerned that he has had from the day of his birth an intense and overoffice corner stone laying in the wes-tern metropolis. He will describe the event as the dream of his boyhood, the hope of his youth, the consum desire of his more mature years and the crowing felicity of his great career. No doubt he will come away leaving the people of Chicago under the imon that the silver trowel they gave him will be stored away in the most sacred place of his home, along with the Cobden Club medal and the askatchewan musket.

Sir Henri Joly and Mr. Paterson had a fearful escape yesterday. While the minister of inland revenue was trying to work through the house a weights and measures bill with a particular clause providing that after the proclamation of the act no Canadian hen should lay eggs weighing less than eight to the pound, the other chamber was contemplating a proceeding which would have taken \$4,000 out of Sir Henri's pocket. Senator Miller had wed the six months hoist to the Paterson and Sir Henri and only the vote of the speaker saved the minister from losing money enough to buy at least 30,000 dozen of the biggest ggs that can be purchased in his riding of Portneuf.

of customs and of inland revenue shall be \$5,000 until such time as the num was asking the senate to sustain the decision then reached by the government and approved by both houses of the premier has changed his mind. He cannot get rid of the superfluous min isters. The three that have no work to do are as anxious to stay in the government as those who give value for their money. He has not been able to shelve Sir Richard Cartwright, and even if he could there are about a reduce the cost of government, now says that this was "a mistake." Mr. Mills, who used to insist that it was not necessary for all parts of the dominion to be geographically represent-ed in the cabinet, has changed his mind. He explained the change in a speech which began with the Heptarchy, but stopped short of the main point. The only reason given for the change of opinion is the discovery of the Yukon.

Some reflections have been made to the effect that a secretary of state has no work to do. Senator Ferguson comes to the rescue of Mr. Scott by showing that he has to be about eight ninisters in the course of the summer when the others are amusing them-selves on holiday tours. One day the secretary of state is minister of railways, then he is minister of finance, and minister of marine, minister of justice. He is everything that the law allows except premier and solicito general. Instead of cutting down Mr. Scott's calary it is suggested that each of the other ministers allow him \$1,000 a year out of their income and bring his salary up to about \$20,000.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell is willing to allow the number of ministers to remain and the salaries to be raised. He voted against the Miller amendment, as did several other conserva-tives. The conservative leader in the senate announced his willingness to support an additional salary for the premier, which concession Senator Landry attributes to the fact that Sir Mackenzie has been a premier himelf and stands by his own order. But Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Mr. Ferguson and all, or nearly all the senators who discussed the question object to the payment of an extra amount for last year. They say that the government hould have brought in a bill last year if it was intended to commence payment of salaries at once. If the ministers were afraid to do that, they should now be afraid to charge up the ack pay to the country. According to this reasoning there ie no more reason why Mr. Paterson and Sir Henri Joly should receive \$7,000 a year during the period when the law authorized the payment of only \$5,000, than that Clarke Wallace and Mr. Prior. or the heirs of the late Mr. Wood, should receive a similar present dis-

A queer feature of this case is that a large number of grit members of grab" have been besieging the sena tors to throw out the bill. It is rather underhand for a member of parliament to vote for a bill and then try But many underhand things are done on this hill, and in this case there is a motive. The government is not allowing an extra indemnity to the here and who think they have earned \$1.500 better than the ministers earn \$8,000 in a year. The members have very good care of themselves and not so much of their supporters, and that some of the dissatisfied seem to have had an idea that if the senate should throw out the bill the extra vote for ministers would be put in the supply hill, which the senators cannot amend. When the supply bill was once reopened it might be possible to work into it the extra indemnity for members. It was a nice little scheme and if it had worked the senators who voted for the hoist could still have attacked by the very members sought to influence them. The majority of one has protected the ministers from this embarrassment and now the session of parliament slides on to

an easy and normal close. The binder twine debate of last evening should be of interest to the vestern farmer. The facts are pretty put of the twine works in Kingston penitentiary, amounting to a million pounds, were sold at about 41-2 cents pound. It cost the government a twine, but the farmer paid from 13 to 15 cents a pound. Mr. Taylor figures out that the gentlemen who bought from the government and those who stood between the department of jus-tice and the farmer made \$120,000 clear out of the transaction. These same operators dealt with the Ontario gov ernment and bought the prison outps of that province. They also bo company, a concern established by the Patrons of Industry for the pur-rose of keeping down the price to the trolled the whole importation through a private arrangement with the Uni-ted States combine, and was therefore able to control the price.

Now the Kingston works were established in the penitentiary chiefly to provide competition so that the far-mer could escape the exactions of the combine. At least that is the statement made yesterday. Last year, when the price was doubled over the was no higher than usual, there was an excellent opportunity to use this check. Mr. Taylor, Clarke Wallace, the penitentiary product outside of the combine it could not only have After all, the ministers could have found very little fault with Senator Miller and those who voted with him.



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therefore have saved some half a million dollars on the ten million pounds of twine they used, all of which went in the shape of profits to the contractors with whom the government dealt, and to the United States combine, which supplied more than half of the twine used in Canada.

The other day a supporter of the overnment boasted that under the recent tariff the Farmers' Cordage mpany paid 60 per cent. dividend on ts capital. This is a fine thing for he company, which departed from its original intention and joined in the embine for high prices and big profits. But after all the farmer had to pay he bills. The government gets little profit, while other manufacturers gather in 60 per cent. The treasury oses the revenue that might have een collected. The twine imported displaces goods that ought to have peen produced in Canada. And after all, the price paid by the horny-handed farmer is twice as high as it would be if the goods were sold at a fair margin of profit. However, the majority of parliament has sustained the action of the government, and the sale of binder twine in one lot to one person, leavng him free to combine with other perators and squeeze the farmer to the last extreme, is endorsed by the great liberal party as represented at

We have a clause in the tariff of which Mr. Fielding has done some tall boasting. This clause professes to protect the consumer from combines inended to unduly enhance prices. The law has never been enforced in any particular, and it is a singular commentary thereon that the most injurious combine of last year was the product of the government industry at Kingston. If the government as a producer had got the benefit of the ligh prices, the gain would have come is given to the favorites to whom the product is sold, and who hold up the price at the expense of the consumer.

OTTAWA, Aug. 10 .- Some of Mr

Tarte's business is business expendi-tures were before the house yesterday. committee got pretty well through quite early in the day instead of at 3 o'clock this morning if Mr. Tarte had carried on his business in the regular way. But when a minister family connections, he is likely to establish conditions that require investigation, especially when that ministhat Mr. Tarte is seriously ill and a long way off, and therefore the house should not be severe on his manage-Fielding has charge of the department of public works, as acting minister, and is responsible to the house for all that has been done in it. If Mr. Tarte is not able to work his department, or to defend it, and if the acting minister has not been able to find out what the real minister has been doing, it is obvious that the premier is to blame for not having relieved Mr. Tarte of this department and given him something easy, such as the portfolio of inland revenue, or trade and comsible for more doubtful items of expenditure than any other and must necessarily require more examination in supply, it will hardly do for a government to leave the department with an absent minister and then evade criticism by having no one in the house to explain how money is

In the matter of the dredging at Coteau, the explanations are ample. The members understand it very well. The facts are these: Mr. Tarte's son married the daughter of Mr. Gauthier, a real estate agent and broker in Montreal. Father-in-law Gauthier is not a contractor, or a dredger. He had no dredging plant and never had anything to do with work of that kind. It was, therefore, a little startling when Mr. Tarte announced last year in the house that he had given the contract for dredging to this conon of his. Mr. Tarte explained that Mr. Gauthier had come to the department stating that he had an equipment for dredging and would take the contract at the regulation rate of eight dollars an hour. There is no such regulation rate; the proper and legal way of giving out dr is to do it by tender and contract. But Mr. Tarte explained that eight dollars en hour was cheap, and that Mr. Gauthier's dredge would take out a thousand yards a day, so that the cost would be only eight cents a yard. Sirce then additional light has been brought down shows that Mr. Tarte nade the first advances. He ordered a etter to be written to Mr. Gauthier dge at Coteau. Mr. Gauthier reled stating that he would accept the rice and was provided with an equip-

What Mr. Gauthier did was to go to what Mr. Gauthier did was to go to a certain Mr. McDonald who is a contractor and owns dredges. Mr. Gauthier made a contract with him at a much lower price than the government paid and then closed with the government, he himself pocketing the rake off. did the The mar

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