

as unobjectionable and proper? Do they see no impropriety in it? May a Minister of the Crown in Canada, without impropriety, as a member of a private company, contract with a business man to do a certain work for a speculative price, the amount of which is made to depend upon the success of that company in obtaining subsidies from the Government of which he is a member? May such a Minister, without impropriety, ask and receive for the purposes of the political party with which he is identified, a large money subscription from a person whom he knows to be deeply interested, financially, in obtaining further large subsidies from the Government of which said Minister is a member? Is the Minister, in such circumstances, in the position most favourable to his considering without bias and solely in the interests of the country, the application of the friend in question for further subsidies in aid of the railway enterprise with which the latter is identified? Is it, to put it bluntly, even decent that a Minister of the Crown, sworn to act as a faithful and impartial steward, should put himself in such a position, and that his colleagues should sustain him in it? Are not the principle thus affirmed and the precedent thus established full of danger for the future of the country which tacitly approves them?

This is the way in which we understand the recent episode at Ottawa in one of its aspects. If we have misunderstood or misstated the facts in any way, we shall be glad to stand corrected. If not, what ought an independent journal to say of the affair? What ought the independent people of Canada to say of it?

OTTAWA LETTER.

The question that has been raised by General Herbert's action in suspending Colonel Powell has brought out the injustice that the officials of the Militia Department rest under. Because they are soldiers they have no superannuation or retiring allowance, as the officials of other departments have. Colonel Powell is the father of the militia service, and as such has been the trusted servant in all matters connected with the militia force for many years, and General Herbert could not have been aware of the traditional respect in which he was held, when he suspended him for a departure from the routine that he believed military discipline demanded. The Minister of Militia had no other course open but to promptly re-instate an officer who has rendered such faithful service to the country.

General Herbert has been brought up in a military school that recognises the difference between the War Office and the Horse Guards, the former being controlled by the Secretary for War, the latter by the senior military officer, and seldom do the two branches clash. In Canada the relations of the two branches have been somewhat more intimate and interdependent, with perhaps a little too much politics overshadowing all.

As the country grows and the nation expands, greater interest must be taken in our defensive force and the force that gives power to our laws, so that while General Herbert's action may have been inconsiderate, there may have been behind it an honest desire to keep the matters under his

control strictly in the line of duty. However, "all's well that ends well."

The Conference has closed its labors. Their result have not yet been made public, so that it is impossible to comment with any degree of accuracy upon the proceedings. No doubt everything has been conducted in a very non-committal style, although the Hon. Mr. Bowell's appearance would indicate that his tea-party will be very likely to develop into a wedding. He himself is thoroughly up to date in his personal appearance and he looks as if he was at peace with all men.

Sir John Pender of the Eastern Cable, had a doughty champion in the Hon. Mr. Playford, of South Australia. South Australia maintains a telegraph line across the Australian continent from which she derives a considerable revenue; this is the telegraph line that connects the Eastern Commercial Cable with all the Australian centres, and according to Mr. Geo. Parkin's pamphlet the receipts of the cable between Australia and England are \$5,000 a day. The result of the Conference of 1887 was to effect a reduction in cable messages from \$2.50 per word to \$1.10 per word to stave off prospective competition. How far Mr. Sandford Fleming has been headed off it is impossible to say. That there are great possibilities in a Western Commercial Cable there is no doubt, but it will require the strength of all the Governments interested to launch it in the face of the powerful opposition of the Eastern Cable Company.

The proceedings of the Conference are to be made public at once so that in all probability before the end of the week Parliament will be in possession of the result of its deliberations.

Ottawa has done her duty well from a social standpoint in entertaining our guests from the Antipodes; it has been Queen's weather all the time. The lawn tennis tournament helped to create additional interest for the ladies of the party, and Sir Adolphe and Lady Caron, the vice Patron and Patroness of the tennis club, wound up the proceedings of the tennis tournament by an At Home on the grounds and a ball in the drill shed. The evening on Parliament Hill was exceedingly pretty and a great number were initiated into the mysteries of the Lover's Walk, of wide renown. A trip on the Ottawa added to the diversity of interest, and altogether the people of Ottawa parted with their new found friends with a cordial hope that the mail service we may one day see established, as a result of the conference between Australia, Canada and Great Britain will give the opportunity of a renewal of friendship and a lasting combination of interests.

Whether the House will prorogue on Saturday is the question at present; the members are tired, and it is to be hoped the Government will not find it necessary again to postpone the meeting to so late a date, and that the next time the tariff is on the boards the number of items will be greatly reduced.

The meeting of the Conference has, no doubt, shown the difficulty that exists in developing intercolonial trade with the bars up. If the French treaty passes, which is now being debated, the peculiar anomaly will exist that French wines will be admitted on a minimum tariff, while the Australian wines will be subject to a maximum tariff; that is developing intercolonial trade with a vengeance. Australia is increasing her vineyards very largely and is anxious to develop her wine trade, but the French

treaty will shut her out. Opposition to the treaty is likely to be developed in the Senate, where it has already been under discussion.

The great railroad strike has been the feature of the week. The United States are passing through an experience as violent as that of passing through fire and water. They have, fortunately, a statesman at the head of the country in their President at the present crisis. He recognizes that law must be uppermost, and that his whole energies must be bent to establish it. His dignified reply to the Governor of Illinois, who wanted to stop and argue a constitutional question in the midst of a conflagration, was worthy of all praise. When the law is enforced, he will then be able to listen to the dispute between the Pullman Company and its employees and enforce arbitration.

The organization of labour is one of the signs of the times, and it is a good sign. It has, however, to recognize its grave responsibility in exercising power. The organization of the labouring men may be a power for good or a power for evil, and it should be the interest of the labouring classes to develop the highest aims for the good of the world and the improvement of the masses. There are certain principles of political economy that must govern and beyond which they cannot go, and to learn these principles is an essential part of their duty.

Complaints are heard of their being a little too much rain for the haying season, otherwise the weather has been perfect, but the rain has been polite enough to confine its showers to the night season.

The ladies of the Conference party left this morning, the delegates leave this evening; they will no doubt have a warm welcome in Toronto and a most hospitable entertainment.

VIVANDIER.

Ottawa, July 10th, 1894.

THE OTTAWA CONFERENCE.

The paramount problem to be worked out is the consolidation of the Empire, by drawing and binding together its geographically separate portions. So said the President of the Conference at the opening of its first business session. It does not need much discernment to see that this is simply an old friend under another name. Consolidation, too, is a better word than federation and a conference of accredited delegates from the Mother Country and self-governing colonies is a great advance upon a league of private gentlemen who did a graceful act when they agreed to unite themselves into an association and a still more graceful act when they agreed to dissolve. A world-wide Empire is feeling its way unconsciously or semi-consciously towards unity and solidarity, and a good many tentative efforts will have to be made before the end is accomplished. It will never be accomplished, cry out the critics, the sceptics, the dogmatists and the cocksure race, generally, by whatsoever name called. Perhaps not, but we intend to go on trying, is our reply. The creature is dead, they cry out again, as the baby collapses in its first effort to reach a chair. Not quite, we take the liberty of saying, as baby picks himself up and victoriously reaches his destination. But what a rickety thing it is, they snarl! Yes, but give him a little time, we plead, for he comes of a good stock and the heart of a king is in him. And the great silent peo-