

OTTAWA LETTER.

OTTAWA, March 14.—The opening of a session of parliament, apart from the time and trouble, is a dreary function at all times, but more especially when it is drawn out over two days, as was the case last week, to enable the commons to elect a speaker.

It is the British way that the ruling monarch cannot communicate with the faithful commons except through its speaker, and Canada, as a loyal colony follows the British precedent in this as in some other things, respectively of the cost. Lord Minto the present governor general, whose early departure will be regretted by all classes, is not a stickler for pomp and circumstance, and would be one of the first to abolish this particular bit of formality, but his excellency is powerless in the matter. It is almost as dangerous to tackle precedent as it is in Ottawa as it is to attempt to amend the British North America Act.

The weather holds cold and local prophets say this storm will continue until the end of March. Some of the members from distant parts are regretting that they did not bring their mid-winter outfit thing to have just now, and speaking of fur coats, it is funny to notice the way in which they are worn. The other morning I counted only four of the wearers had on fur coats. Three wore silk hats and the balance mostly "bean bonneters."

Some time ago, not so very long ago, Hon. Mr. Blair, a visit by the Hon. Mr. Greenfield's model farm. After the usual tour luncheon was served, and Mr. Blair was asked to partake of the contents of a bottle of champagne. The ex-N. B. premier, ex-minister of railways, etc., is a total abstainer and looks not upon the wine when it is red. Declining the champagne, he neatly asked his host for a glass of milk. "What?" said Greenfield, "milk! My dear boy, the milk I get on my farm costs me more per gallon than the champagne I import."

The Rideau river is one of the things that the oldest inhabitant cannot understand. It sinks and swells at its own good pleasure. Just now people are speculating whether it will overflow its banks as soon as the snow melts and there is a terrific quantity of snow in Ottawa city, county and adjacent regions, or will run out to the river's erratic actions is anchor ice, in other words, freezing from the bottom. So long as all goes smoothly there is no food, but a surface ice float hit against submerged ice, and in two hours the flat lands along the banks of the river are submerged. A gentleman told me a correspondent that on one occasion he was walking to his home, a distance of about a quarter of a mile, he met a flood and had to make a detour of fully two miles to reach his premises. He is considering now what will happen to him when winter jumps out of the lap of spring, where she has been firmly planted for the past fortnight.

With respect to Lord Dundonald's proposition to put the Canadian militia on a war footing of 100,000 men, an old opinion is that it is not a big force for a country of Canada's territorial magnitude, but he is opposed to the proposition as calculated to increase the cost of the army. He is considering now what will happen to him when winter jumps out of the lap of spring, where she has been firmly planted for the past fortnight.

Carroll Ryan, a veteran of the press gallery, and its president in 1882, is here doing special work for the Montreal Witness. Mr. Ryan has just published, for the John Lovell press, Montreal, a volume of his poems, songs and ballads, some 200 pages, neatly bound in blue and gold covers, with illustrations by Alonzo Ryan. A song of Zion is perhaps the gem of the collection. Mr. Ryan is a gifted writer with a strong poetic vein. He had many friends in St. John, where he spent some time as manager of a liquor cure establishment. That, however, was only a digression from his newspaper life, and he is now back in the pencil pushing traces.

armed neighbor would obviously have prepared. It is very impossible the American people might say. "We want peace and security too. But we don't want armed peace and extensive security. A short war would be cheaper, and better, too, in the long run, for our foolish neighbors as well as ourselves."

In John Morley's Life of Gladstone are paraphrased some weighty observations of the great statesman, which Canadian readers will appreciate advantageously before their parliament takes up consideration of Lord Dundonald's projects. "With emphasis," says Morley, "he insists that we have no adequate idea of the predisposing power which an immense series of measures of preparation for war on our own part have in actually begetting them. Their familiar ideas which when familiar lose their horror, and they light an inward flame of excitement, of which, when it is habitually fed, we lose consciousness. This was Gladstone's position in 1860, when the hotel keepers and shop keepers of Ottawa did not object to the presence of all ancient and honorable procedure. It puts money in their purses."

The people's representatives in parliament assembled are not yet taking life strenuously, social functions being the order of the day. Reversing the rule of some ancient orders, the members turn from refreshments to labor and the labor will commence this week. The vice-regal reception in the senate chamber on Saturday night was of more than usual brilliancy, particularly by reason of the fact that it was the final drawing room of their excellencies Lord and Lady Minto. The chief feature was the unusual number of "buds" presented, the roll of debutantes being long drawn out, and representing pretty nearly every section of the dominion. The toilettes were rich and for the most part in good taste. Among the ladies from the maritime provinces were: Lady Borden—Exquisite gown of white moire trimmed with Irish crochet lace, laid on in Vandyses; ornaments, diamonds; bouquet of American Beauty roses.

Miss Maud Borden—White lace overdress over an underdress of white acetate, with a black sash mounted on white silk; shawl bouquet of pink tulips.

Mrs. A. G. Blair—Rich gown of violet satin, with bertha of real lace embroidered with sequins; ornaments, diamonds.

Miss Blair—Dainty gown of white shirred chiffon, with bertha of lace; the corsage gaudied with pink tea roses and ribbons; shawl bouquet of tea roses.

NEW LONDON, Conn., March 15.—Wm. E. Miller, who died at a residence at Balahava, in 1854, is dead at his residence in Groton. He was born in Scotland in 1823 and at the age of 24 enlisted in the 11th Hussars under the name of Robinson. He served through the Crimean war, became an aide camp at Balahava, and was awarded a Victoria Cross. Afterwards he came to this country and served in the navy during the Civil war. For a number of years he was foreman of the carriage factory in Bridport.

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TO HELP OLD ENGLAND.

The 30th Regt., Wellington Rifles Offers to Follow the Flag.

GUELPH, Ont., March 15.—At the annual meeting of the officers of the 30th Regiment, Wellington Rifles, Lieut. Martie, the commanding officer stated he would like to offer 500 men from Wellington Co. in case Great Britain became involved in the eastern trouble. Officers after discussing the subject, adopted a resolution authorizing Col. Martie to offer the services of the 30th regiment, 500 strong, for service wherever needed in the present war in the east. Every officer signified his willingness to go and the resolution carried with cheers.

DIED IN BOSTON. BOSTON, March 15.—The death is announced at Woburn of John A. Wellington, formerly of Dorchester and Moncton, N. B. Mr. Wellington was born in Dorchester 38 years ago. For a time he went to sea and later was a shareholder in shipping property. He came to Woburn in 1871. He is survived by a widow and five sons, James, Daniel T. and George of Woburn, William H. of Winchester, and Charles A. of Lowell; and a daughter, Mrs. Julia A. McGregor.

DRAMA AT MEMRAMOOC. His Honor Judge Carleton's play, "More Sinned Against Than Sinning," has been selected by the dramatic club at St. Joseph's College, Memramook, for their annual St. Patrick's presentation, which takes place Wednesday evening. A party has been made up to go to Memramook to witness the performance, and will leave this morning. Among those comprising the party are D. J. O'Neill, wife and daughter, J. J. Barry, Martin McGuire and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy, of the North End.

WOODSTOCK CITIZEN DEAD. WOODSTOCK, N. B., March 15.—William Corbett, a well known and respected citizen of Woodstock, died this morning, at the age of 62. He leaves a widow, who is a daughter of the late R. A. Hay; two sons, Robert and Percy, and one daughter, Alexa. There are also three sisters, Mrs. Francis Good, Mrs. Calvin Churchill and Mrs. Smith, all of Lakeville. Mr. Corbett was a prominent merchant in Woodstock at one time, but some years ago he retired from business. His health has been poor for some time, and for the last few months his lungs have been affected.

KENDALL'S SPRAIN CURE THE OLD RELIABLE. Splints and all Lameness. And Most Successful Remedy Ever Discovered for Sprains, Ringbones, etc.

COLUMBIA GRAPHOPHONE FREE. It plays itself. The lower branches forces the growth of the tree upwards and the fruit becomes more difficult to pick from year to year. Trees should be pruned back and opened up from the top and outside rather than from below and inside.

THE KIND THAT GROW. Steele, Briggs Seeds. THE STEELE, BRIGGS SEED CO., LIMITED. "CANADA'S GREATEST SEED HOUSE."

MILLIE GEE DEAD.

And George Gee Says He Is Ready to Swing.

The Father of the Murdered Girl Wished She Would Die—Post Mortem Held Last Night.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., March 15.—The latest report from the bedside of Millie Gee at Canaan is that she is alive and that is all. Dr. Cummins is there now and proposes to stay all night. Deputy Sheriff Foster is also out at Canaan. It looks as if it was not expected that the girl will live till morning.

BATH, N. B., March 15.—Millie Gee is dying. Doctors Brown, Ross and Cummins performed a surgical operation on her after the shooting, but could find no trace of the bullet having passed through the intestines. The patient suffers intense agony. The doctor says that there is no possible hope for recovery.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., March 15.—Millie Gee, who was shot with a rifle by her cousin, George Gee, at New Canaan, thirty miles from here, last Sunday morning, died as the result of her wounds this morning at six o'clock. The prisoner, who is in the house here on a charge of shooting with intent to kill, will now be charged with murder, following the coroner's inquest, which will be held at noon. The coroner will be Dr. Cummins of Bath.

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THE PRO PATRIA. HALIFAX, March 15.—Arrangements have been made to have the Harlow take the passengers and mails to St. Pierre tomorrow. The Harlow will endeavor to locate the str. Pro Patria.

ELECTRICITY BEATS STEAM. Kansas City Trolley Car Wins 2-12 Mile Race with Express Train. KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 11.—In a two-and-a-half-mile race between a Missouri Pacific express train and an electric car on the Leavenworth-Kansas City line last night, the railroad locomotive was beaten by two car lengths.

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