OTTAWA LETTER.

The Facts of the West Huron Election Enquiry.

Sir. Wilfrid Laurier Was Slow to Act in the Transyaal Affair.

The Late Sir James Edgar - A Seed Grain Mystery in Mr. Sifton's Department.

OTTAWA, Aug. 1.—It was frequently remarked in the early part of the session that the speaker had not long to live. This view was forced upon members by his look of weariness, and by the extreme pallor of the speaker's face, and by the knowledge that he was performing his duties by the exercise of a great power of will and in considerable physical suffering. He bore up through it all as long as he had strength left to perform the duties, giving little signs of mental depression, and always deprecating any reference to his ill health. When finally he left for the west it was given ally he left for the west it was given in an authorized note that while a little rest. Then came the news also on authority that the speaker had undergone a surgical operation and was in a fair way to absolute recovery. This was about a week ago. Then suddenly during the dinner recess yesterday came the intelligence of his death. It came with something of a shock to those memsomething of a shock to those members who had been so elosely associated with him for four sessions officially and socially, for the speaker of the house of commons dispenses a liberal hospitality, and in the case of Sir James Edgar the speaker's chambers have been the speaker's chambers have bee sort of men and women of literary taste and culture. Sir James Edgar himself was something of a man of letters. He was a critic, a poet, and a writer on literary, historical, poli-tical and legal subjects. During his residence at Ottawa he published an interesting book historical and de-scriptive of this capital. Lady Edgar is also an author. Her book on Early Days in Canada is an authoritative work, and is marked by literary finish and a clear style. The young ladies of the family have a turn for letters, and the speaker's sons are

The late speaker came to his office with a determination to give the best that was in him to its duties. His dignified and courtly bearing, his regard for the amenities of public life and a certain nunctilious insistence upon the forms of procedure were characteristic of his habits of mind and rules of conduct. To say that he was always impartial, would be going too far. It is true, however, as Mr. Foster testified, that he tried to be impartial. If he had been strictly judicial probably there would still have been many members who would not so regard him. As it was, he was on good terms with all the members, and on terms of friendly comradeship with most of them, so far as a certain dignity and austerity of manner admitted of comradeship. Among the incidents of his career as speaker in which his fairness was called in question was the case of Mr. Bruneau, whose letter of resignation was sent to the speaker some hours before it was called for by Mr. Bruneau. This letter Sir James Edgar had discreetly left unopened. The case was one which may have admitted of the somewhat peculiar interpretation that the speaker gave of his duties, and on the whole nobody very much objected that Mr. Bruneau should remain in the house, since on second thought he felt that he could not tear himself away.

ore he came to the speakership Sir James Edgar was one of the best known of the liberal members of the house. When Mr. Chariton designated him "an unscrupulous machine politi-cian" he did not use the word "macian" he did not use the word "ma-chine" in the Prestonian sense. What was meant was that Mr. Edgar was an organizer of political forces with-out regard to moral principles. Mr. Chariton did not imply that he was an organizer of pallot box stuffers, perso-nators and campaign blackguards gen-erally. He probably had in mind the excursion which was made by Mr. Ed-excursion which was made by Mr. Ed-gar to Montreal imprediately after the gar to Montreal immediately after the execution of Riel, in which he was crethe Rielites of Quebec under Mr. Mercier. The result of that compact was that the liberal leaders in Ontario who had been demanding the execution of mediately followed the nationalists in condemning the execution, and this ar-rangement left the party now led by

While Sir James Edgar was skilful in effecting compacts like this and was always a strenuous combatant for his party, as was shown by his taking the lead in the charges against Sir Adolphe Caron, he also gave his mind to larger issues. One of his propagandas in parliament was in favor of internaparliament was in favor of international arbitration. He was a strenuous advocate of the Canadian Copyright law on an imperial basis, and took an interest in all the larger issues which appealed to the more generous minds of public men in his time. His literary abilities were recognized by his election to the Royal Society two years ago. Though he has been recognized as an able lawyer, he has given to politics the service that would have brought him financial success at the bar, and he died probably much poorer than he was when he entered politics a quarter of a century ago. It is true that he ran chesp elections, for since 1884 he has represented a "hive" in which no conservative has the smallest chance for his life. Previous to that time he had been a sort of a wanderer among the constituencies and that time he had been a sort of a wanderer among the constituencies and been five times defeated in nearly as many ridings. If the gerrymender bill of this session had become law Sir James Edgar's constituency would have disappeared, and its liberal majority would have been used to tem-

Twice vesterday the government and the opposition side joined in a hearty and unanimous declaration. Once was on the occasion of the announcement of the speaker's death, when the short and in pressive addresses of the premier and Mr. Foster expressed the feelings of their respective parties. feelings of their respective parties.
When the shadow of death falls upon the chamber it has a wonderful effect in stilling the tumult of conflicting sentiments and of destroying for the time he bitterness and anin public life. Perhaps after all there is very little bitterness, and the exhibi-tions of feeling are more superficial than one would suppose. Of course there are strong convictions on questions of policy and administration But the personal element in the strug-gle subsides in the face of the lessons which come home to the members when a comrade is taken away.

The other occasion was when both sides joined in what amounted to a denonstration in favor of the Uitlanders n the Transvaal. It is a long way from Kruger's territory to the banks of the Ottawa, but distance is nothing when members of the great British amily are moved by intelligence that an injury is done to their comrades in any part of the world. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was slow to act in this matter. It required a good deal of effort to the point. An influential represen-tative of the British subjects in the Transvual has been here, and his representation has had a strong effect upon all who have met him. But it was not until authoritative intelligence was received from England that Mr. Chamberlain would welcome this expression of opinion that Sir Wilfrid was moved to action. There was at this stage hardly anything else left for him to do, and if there is any credit in organizing the affair it is due to those whose cables flashing back and forth across the ocean gave Sir Wilproceed with perfect safety to hir

Between the morning and the even ing harmony there was a little period of storm. Several hours were spent in discussing an item of \$2,000 for providing seed g.ain to some half-breeds whom Father Lacombe has in charge somewhere to the far northeast of Edmonton. There is not so much objec-tion to the issue of grain as there is to the vagueness of the ministers' exlanations on the matter. Mr. Sifton oes not know how many half-breeds they have made of the seed grain in other years, or whether they are likely ever to grow enough for their own next year's seed. What he does know is that this issue of seed grain has been going on for some years; that Father Lacombe has the management of it, and that the missionary priest wants the issue of grain continu Father Lacombe is a most devoted servant of his church and a warm friend of the half civilized races, and those wholly uncivilized, who have been placed under his pastoral care. Colonel Hughes and Clarke Wallace would probably not object to a coninuance of the grant, but they have minister seems to be preserving in regard to the application and results of

pefore the public accounts committee wakened little or no interest. It was recessary for him to clear himself if he could before the session closed, and so he made his statement. The purport of it is that the caretaker of the 8th Hussars, Major Wedderburn, ad a claim for \$60 a year for rent of ind a claim for so a year for tent of tent of tent of tent of the colonel's story is that he arged the payment of this amount and that in jubilee year Major Wedderson told him that if he could collect. the money he would lend it to the colonel to assist him in disbursing his trip to England. Thereupon Colonel Domville made application for the money, received it in the form of a check, which he used and which he has since settled for with Major Wed-

The trouble with this explanation is hat it doesn't explain. Setting aside thogether the question of the claim of \$60 a year, the fact is that the department of militia did not pay \$300 on this basis. The armory belonged to Milton Barnes and the rent was paid to him by Major Wedderburn out of the care of arms allowance year by year. The payment to Col. Domville was not made as a refund to the carewas not made as a refund to the care-taker. On the contrary, a bill was presented as coming from Mr. Barnes, who appeared to have charged the de-partment his five years' rent. Nobody owed Mr. Barnes this money, and, as he testified himself, he merely allowed the account to be made out for the convenience of the others. The cheque as issued to Col. Domville for Mr. darnes, which was contrary to the sual proceedings. Col. Panet testied that it was irregular to order the sayment of money to any other person. than the one to whom it was due, and Col. Fanet supposed that this money was due to Mr. Barnes. In fact he was told so, but he said that he "was made to feel the influence of a member of parliament" in this matter, and admitted that his course was irregular.

If the auditor general had been a difbeen no more about it. No one would have seen the account but the officers, and they would have supposed that the money went straight through Col. Domville's hands to Mr. Milton Barnes. But this auditor general has curiosity, and when the cheque was returned he perceived that the money had not been drawn by Milton Barnes, but that the cheque had been cashed the same day, or the day after, by Col. Domville himself in Ottawa. Then he made the shrewd guess that the arade the shrewd guess that the ar-

ed Monday evening to be a fair chance lis would be the next speaker. In the evening the ministers met together in small caucuses and before they wen to bed, or very early in the morning to bed, or very early in the morning, the conclusion was reached. Mr. Bain is considered acceptable, but he would not be as good a speaker as Mr. Ellis, who is quicker and keener, equally fair and has more of the qualities that lend grace and dignity to the position. Mr. Ellis has in addition to other qualifications sobolarship, intellected er qualifications scholarship, intellectual polish and literary tastes. Mr. Bain is staid, solemn, slow-spoken, rather ungainly in appearance, and the social folk say that they do not know him, though he is perhaps nonthe worse on the last mentioned account. He is almost an ideal member in some respects, having a large knowledge of political detail and a cerexcellent language. As a local preach-er he has acquired a peculiar cadence in his tone which would lead a person with his eyes shut to suppose that he was about to open a religious service But while Mr. Bain's deliberate motions, slow speech, drawling tone and somewhat uncouth gestures have this effect on a stranger, those who have become acquainted with his work in the house know that he makes few mastakes, and in party matters dis-plays great sagacity. Moreover, Mr. sophisticated, large handed farmer hides the gifts of the practical organizer and politician, using the words in

Quite early yesterday forenoon Mr Ellis disappeared from Ottawa, taking the train for Western Ontario. He probably knew before he went away, that Mr. Bain was to be speaker, for it was impossible that he himself should be elected in his absence. When the governor general had signified his approval of the choice of Mr Bain the commons returned to their chamber and Mr. Bain read prayers The press gallery was occupied and so was the gallery of the people. This was a unique occasion. The custom is to keep the doors closed until after prayers, and during thirty years no re porter has ever before seen the hous of commons at its devotions.

There was an animated discu over contracts for militia clothf Mr. Borden called for tenders for ce tain articles. Two tenders came from Montreal, one from Shorey & Co. and Shorey firm is a large manufacture and tendered at \$6.29 for great coats and tendered at \$5.25 for great coats, with other clothing in proportion. Mr. Shorey did not get the contract. It was given to Mr. Workman, whose tender for great coats was \$6.74. Now Mr. Shorey is a conservative. Mr. Workman is a grit and a great friend workman is a gitt and a great triend of "the people's Jimmy MoShane," who, according to Mr. Bergeron, has a side interest in he contract. It is certain that Mr. McShane took a decided interest in seting the job for the

Mr. Borden explained that the contract was given to the highest tenderer because Mr. Shorry declined to accept the anti-sweating condition. This clause provides that in a plothing conclause provides that the war tract for the government the war shall be shall not be farmed out, but shall be done by the contractors on their own premises, under proper inspection as the shorey. to sanitary conditions. The Shoreys are in the habit of giving out their work to people who do it at home. It is chiefly done in the families of farmers at St. Theresa, Ste. Rose, and other villages and country districts some miles out of Montreal. When the Shoreys were asked to close their contract they said that they could not d the work on their own premises and desired to continue their usual cus tom. The Workman firm, on the contrary, signed the contract with the anti-sweating clause in it.

This explanation had a plausibility but Mr. Bergeron had certain facts bearing upon the question. He pro-duced a bundle of affidavits certifying that the signers had been making mil that the signers had been mading in-itary clothing for the Workman firm. One woman at Ste. Rose had made a great number of coats; another at large number of trousers, and altogether Mr. Bergeron was able to give the minister the names of cottagers who had made hundreds of his suits. Following this he produced a state mnt of express companies and cart-ers who certified that within a short time they had carried thousands of great coats to these country places to oe manufactured for the Workman the work exactly as it would have been done by the lowest tenderer.

Then Mr. Borden had another explanation. He said the work was required at once, and he had given leave to the contractor to depart slightly from the to depart slightly from the conditions. Mr. Fortin, a strong government supporter from Laval, in whose constituency much of this work is done, testified that there were no insanitary conditions, and that the families who did the work were exceedingly respectable. At this stage Mr. Mulock, who is the author of the anti-sweating clause, came forward as a friend of the working man, denouncing the opposition with great fury for supporting the system of farming out contracts at starvation fine. He was going to have it understood all over the country that the opposition leaders were enemies of the horny handed. No unsophisticated person could hear Mr. Mulock without supposing that he had been handling a shovel or some humble instrument of labor all his life, instead of manipulating elections in West Huron, residing over university convoca-tions and wrecking farmers' loan com-

Mr. Foster made some insidious re Mr. Foster made some insidious remarks at the expense of Mr. Mulock's de:nagogueism. He told the postmaster general that this humbug and bluster of his would not deceive anybody. It was hardly worth while for the ministers to stand up defending the anti-sweating law when they were themselves breaking it, in order that one of their own friends might improperly get a few thousands out of a contract. This was a clear case of giving the contract to the highest ten-

derer by imposing a swindling condi-tion made applicable to all the ten-derers except the favorite, who was exempt from it. The government which connived at this plunder of the people's money could hardly escape by claiming to be the friends of the work-

Then Mr. Blair came to the rescu with an affidavit of Mr. Workman dated January 11th. This affidavit stated that the contract to the government was signed January 9th. Now the goods farmed out were produced last autumn, and therefore, said Mr. Biair, they were not made under this contract. The minister of railways proceeded to lecture the opposition for failing to see that their criticism did not apply to the contract at all. A quarter of an hour after Mr. Blair was sorry he said it. When the affidavit was read in full it was shown that the contractor had discussed his work that he had done under the contract, and defended his whole course. Blair was asked whether all this work had been done in two days.

Then he was shown that the tenders were called for last August, that the ender was accepted the same month, the contract was entered into in Sep-tember, and thousands of dollars' worth of goods supplied under its terms. The formal signing took place in January, and before that the work had been going on under it and at led by a hasty glance at the first lines in the paper, and had burst in on the ouse with his argument without havng read the document which he was using. When the opposition members began to ridicule him for his unfortunate intervention he growled out some very ill-natured remarks and

Sir Wilfrid Laurier came in later and added his contribution to the embar-rassment of the minister of militia and the postmaster general. The premier did not know what Mr. Mulock had been saying. He did not know what Mr. Borden had struggled to ex-plain. He had not even read the antisweating clause of the contract which resulted in an advantage of \$2,000 a month to one of his political friends, but he took up the discussion with the remark that he thought he could exremark that he thought he could explain the position to the satisfaction of the whole country. He certainly did explain it to the satisfaction of the opposition members. They cheered him uproariously as he proceeded. Sir Wilfrid did not know that the contract was refused to Shorey because Shorey wanted to give out the work to the farmers' wives and daughters in the country. So he explained that while the law ought to provide that any contractor who did the work in the shops should be responsible for the condition of the premises and should not sub-let to other contractors, it was perfectly proper to give the work out to people to do in their own homes. Nothing could be better than that, provided the orices were right and the other conditions suitable. This is exactly what Sir Charles Tupper, Mr. Foster and some other members had said. It was exactly what Mr. Mulock had denounced. It was exactly what Mr. Shorey had not been allowed to do, doing, though he has not refrained. Finally Mr. Borden was requested to demand from the Workman firm a refund of the amount that was paid to him as a consideration for doing the work in his establishment when he did not do it there. Dr. Borden said if this were done he would have to pay it out of his own pocket, seeing that he had authorized the farming out. he had authorized the farming out. It is, however, not probable that Dr. Borden's pocket will suffer so long as the pockets of the tax payers hold out.

Speaking of military matters, Col. Domville last night took a fling at Gen. Hutton. The relations appear to be strained between the colonel and the general, at least on the colonel's side, and the colonel proceeded to in-form the house that the general was going to spend twenty million a year of he kept on. Col. Domville does not believe in galloping over the country in military manoeuvres. He does no elieve in the military spirit in sense that it is now developed. He denounces Gen. Hutton in all his ways and means, and particularly his "noisy militarism." He holds over the co mander the terrifying announce mander the terrifying announcement that henceforth he is going to be crid-cized every year by the member for Kings. Particularly Col. Domville protests against the retirement of officers after five years' service. This seems to be an especially sore point, and Col. Domville could not speak more strongly on the subject if he had a personal interest in the matter.

Great work was done in the privileges committee yesterday by Mr. Powell. The member for Westmorland has had in charge the examination of the ballots and the establishment of proof from this evidence. It was he who brought out in the ex-amination of Returning Officer Cum-mings the difference between the 14 "bogus ballots" and the others, and the fact that the spurious ones were initialed in ink while the others were marked in pencil. For several days Dr. Russell has been bending his en-ergies in the attempt to show that the discrepancy of the ballots can be pro-perly accounted for. Yesterday he had Dan. McGillicuddy of Goderich, politician, poet, journalist and con-tractor for Tarte, on the stand. This lots and that it was purely accidental that they were of different shapes. Also he explained how he used thin Also he explained how he used thin paper at first, but completed the job with thicker paper. It appears from his evidence that the counting of ballots in the printing office was done in a happy-go-lucky sort of way. He was asked to print 6,150, but printed 6,500. The overplus he produced in court. He did not think any others were made at his office for private were made at his office for private circulation, but an examination showed that the bunches which he made up and numbered contained anywhere from seven to twenty more ballots than the number written on the back of the bunch, so that the ballot box stuffers had ample material for their

Mr. Powell proved. Mr. Borden and he have long known that there were

least four different kinds of paper ployed in making these ballots, my knew that there had been an at-They knew that there had been an attempt to explain this, but all the explanation did not show how the ballot could be of one kind and the stub of another. Professor Russell had not thought of this possibility until it was established by evidence which cannot be shaken.

There is an instrument used by per makers called a micrometer. measures with delicacy and infallible accuracy the thickness of a sheet of paper. Mr. Powell summoned from Eddy's mills the expert who uses this instrument in his business and set him to work measuring. It is found that Mr. McGillicuddy printed ballots on at least three kinds of paper. One kind is two one thousandths of an inch, one kind is three one thousandths and one kind is four one thousandths of an inch in thickness. The kind sent to the poll at No. 4 Colborne was the thin-nest of all, two one thousandths of an inch. The unused ballots are all of that class: they remain attached to the pad from which the others are torn, and the stubs from which the ballots are torn are all of the thickness. Now it is found that the fourteen suspicious ballots are all of another thickness, showing that they were not torn off this pad but came from some other source. But 'he returning officer has sworn that all the ballots given out by him were torn from the pad, and the number torn of corresponds exactly with the number found in the box. It follows that these ourteen were smuggled in and that ourteen others were smuggled out. How it was done and by whom is not

Now we have this state of things: In this Colborne poll the usual mafority for the liberals is about 8. The conservative scrutineers had not thought it possible that the government should have a majority of 12. The grit scrutineers swear that they

ounted on a majority of eight. The actual vote recorded was 68 for Holmes and only 30 for McLean, a maority which astonished every voter at

Since then 43 voters have made statutory declaration that they voted for McLean. Two of these are ill, but forty-one have appeared before the committee and sworn positively that they so voted. Their testimony has emained unshaken in the face of the nost rigid cross-examination. These circumstances created the sus-picion that at least 13 ballots and per-haps more that had been cast for Mc-Lean were stolen and an equal number of Holmes' ballots put in their places.

Then it was found that fourteen pallots were initialed in ink, whereas all the others but two were initialed in pencil. It was shown that one or two were initialed in ink by the returning officer in the morning, but finding that the ink spread, he used a pencil in-stead. Therefore two ink initialed ballots may be genuine. The remaining fourteen differ in thickness of paper, in the pattern of the paper, in the size of the ballot, from all the

They differ in thickness from the stubs from which they are supposed to They are all marked for Holmes, the government candidate.

This is one poll. In this poll the deputy returning officer was not sworn. The scrutineers were not sworn. The poll clerk was not sworn. A grit scrutineer acted as poll clerk part of the day. A Goderich lawyer was allowed to appear as a scrutineer without authority, and the returning officer out the counterfoils in his

In another poll ballots marked for the conservative candidate were found on the floor. Cap. Sullivan and other machine heelers were present during the day, and the deputy returning offi-cer has fied from the country to escape service of a summors. Evidence was offered yesterday to show that he had received \$500 and a ticket for Dakota from the party manager. In another poll two ballots were discovered, marked of course for Holmes, in which the initialing is admitted to be a forgery.

Such are the operations of the ma-chine, and the chief machinist, who wants the machine hugged, has been appointed superintendent of agencies at \$3,000 a year, and is supposed to be

OTTAWA, Aug. 3.-There are two scandals now in connection with the West Huron election. One is the series of frauds connected with the election itself. The other is the scan-dalous way in which the government dalous way in which the government and its supporters are trying to hide the facts and prevent a successful investigation. From time to time an account has been given of the damaging evidence obtained. A little attention may now be devoted to the proof of complicity after the facts, which seems to exist here at Ottawa.

At the beginning Sir Wilfrid, speaking in the house, assured the country that the government would assist in the enquiry and that all offenders would if possible be punished. From the day that this declaration was made until the present moment the government, by its ministers and its supporters, has used every method and artifice known to parliamentary practice to head off the enquiry and prevent the disclosure of the truth. The work of obstruction began the very first day that the committee met, and it has never stopped. When Mr. Borden presented declarations to show that more votes were cast for McLean that more votes were cast for McLean than were counted for him, it was objected that the voters themselves should be brought here. When 41 of them were brought to swear that they voted at a poll where only 30 of them were counted, Sir Louis Davies and Mr. Russell became suddenly convinced that the secrecy of the ballot must be maintained. No matter whether ballot boxes had been stuffed with horses votes, whether the votes whether ballot boxes had been stuned with bogus votes, whether the votes ctually cast had been stolen and estroyed, whether the rights of the oter had been taken from him at very turn by a gang of swindlers emiloyed as officials by the government, he respect for the secretary of the below



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allow a man to tell how he voted when he wanted to do so and when the man was complaining that his vote was stolen away from him. For very shame the ministers and their supporters were obliged to yield this point to some extent. They consented to this evidence in ase there should first be established a presumptive case by the evidence of the returning officers hemselves. That is to say, if the re-urning officers should convict them-elves, Sir Louis Davies and Mr. Russell would consider whether they would allow the electors to be called te confirm the conviction. Mr. Borden, who has conducted the case with singular ability and great moderation, who has never lost his temper and has made the most of the few opportunities which he has been able to wrest from a hostile majority, was obliged to allow the case to be taken out of his hands and to examine the accused officers first. He did not do it without an appeal to the committee, in which the ministers were sustained by a straight party vote.

Then a thing happened which the ministers did not expect. Under the clever examination of Mr. Powell the deputy returning officer from the Colborne poll did convict himself, with the help of the ballots which were pro-duced. A number of bogus ballots were found to be in his box with his initials on them, and a case of fraud vas made so strong that even supporters of the government could not ignore it. Then Mr. Borden was allowed to call his electors.

But here he was met with dilatory proceedings. Hour after hour was pent in questioning that could have no other purpose than to kill time. There was evident organized effort for this purpose. When after two or three days it was shown that Mr. Borden was going to make his case it was again taken out of his hands. grit majority in the con.mittee compelled him to stop and start in on an examination of a new lot of officials whom the government party had brought down from Huron without

Yet he did get in 41 of the electors and thus proved that at least 11 balnd an equal number smuggled in for folmes. All this was done while Mr. Borden had to fight for even a chance to carry on the enquiry at all.

The privileges committee includes over 40 members, and requires 23 for a quorum. Some of the original members are dead. Several are ill. Some are out of the country. Several are away from the capital. If every man within reach could be got every day probably not much over a quorum would be there. Among the members of the government who belong to this committee are the premier, Sir Louis Davies, Mr. Blair, Mr. Mulock, Mr. lifton and Mr. Fitzpatrick. Nearly all these ministers and a number of their supporters remain away, so that it has been found impossible to keep up the quorum, especially when another com-mittee and the house are in session. This being the case, Mr. Borden at an early stage asked that the quurum beduced to 10 in order that the hearing of evidence might go on. As the evidence is all printed officially, it would be an easy matter for 10 members, all lawyers, to carry on the examination, especially as it is mostly conducted by two or three. It is sufficient to say that Mr. Borden's application was refused, as was also the proposition 15 should be taken as a quorum

Sir Louis Duvies at that time comromised, with the assurance that the xamination would be allowed to go on without a quorum presnt. This would have been satisfactory if it had en carried out. But the chairman commence unless a minister was present, and no one could begin it without he chairman's consent in the absence of a quorum.

In the early part of the enquiry one hole day was lost for want of a uorum. At other times hours have ay a dozen members of the commit-ee waited from half-past ten till nearv twelve until some of the half dozen nisters on the committee would cend to put in an appearan sell was there and so itton and other eminent lawyers, to could well have protected the inerests of the grit party, and who were certainly quite capable of obstructing the investigation. The adjoining room contained a number of witnesses prought from Western Ontario and fields. The end of the sesion is approaching. Yet there the committee sat refusing to do business. After Mr. Sifton arrived Mr. Borden renewed his request that the quorum should be reduced to ten. The minister saw no objection, but Mr. Russell objected. Even the chairman was willing to put the motion, which would have been arried, as the absentees were mostly overnment supporters. But Mr. Rusell was equal to the occasion, and could not allow the quorum to be changed unless there was a quor

Other steps have been taken to burke

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