

OTTAWA LETTER.

OTTAWA, May 14.—The opposition in parliament has not increased their numbers during the session, nor have they been able to carry any want of confidence vote. They have been headed off with some skill and strategy in the public accounts committee, where the policy of suppression is still supported by a comfortable majority. Nevertheless Mr. Borden and his supporters feel very well satisfied with the results of the session. They have been absolutely harmonious and have protested energetically against extravagance, corruption and mismanagement. They can leave Ottawa with a consciousness of having performed their duty in a session whose chief claim to remembrance will be the unprecedented amount of money which has been voted for the ordinary purposes of the country.

Small as the ministerial programme for the session was, it has not been carried through. Half a dozen government bills have been struck off the order paper and some others that were expected have not been introduced. Today's order paper being the one produced the sixty-third day of the session, contained 33 notices in the name of private members who have been obliged to abandon their enterprises. Only one public bill introduced by a private member has passed into law, and so far as I can remember no resolution by a private member which was opposed has been carried, whether it was brought forward by a government supporter or an opposition member. Two pages of motions are left hanging which were adjourned at the request of ministers. This includes such resolutions as Mr. Chaiton's concerning preferential trade, Mr. Logan for the increase of pay to railway employees, various resolutions about transportation and telephones, and alien labor. In fact, all the resolutions which were in any way disturbing or troublesome to the government have been strangled by the simple process of adjournment. Col. Hughes' motion relating to the pay of the contingents, Mr. Bennett's motion that the corporation contingent shall be composed of South Africa veterans, Mr. Leonard's motion regarding the solution, and Mr. Russell's resolution in favor of a unification of provincial laws are among the slaughtered. Dr. Roddick alone comes out of the session with a bill to his name, and that one has been so mutilated that it can hardly be recognized by its own author. Nineteen bills which stand for second reading will never be read again.

In a few days the ministers will be scattered over the world. Half a dozen of them, more or less, will be in Europe; the remainder, the venerable secretary of state and Sir Richard Cartwright will have charge of most of the departments. No one here takes seriously the report that Sir Wilfrid Laurier intends to retire. It is not likely that there will be any change in the ministers in the near future, but having accidents the first to leave office will probably be Mr. Scott or Sir Richard Cartwright. Sir Richard has long ceased to take an active part in the work of the ministry, and correctly describes himself as an onlooker.

Mr. Tarte is no doubt in a very bad state of health, but he is a plucky little man and has no present intention of giving up his job. On the contrary, if any minister has gained strength in the house and the country during the session it has been the minister of public works. While other members of the cabinet dodge and evade tariff questions, he has no hesitation in declaring himself to be a protectionist. He looks at questions in his department and out of it in a large way, and though there is no manner of doubt that his friends the contractors are getting rich out of his department, that favoritism prevails there almost as much as it does in the railway department, it is admitted that Mr. Tarte goes about a thing knowing pretty well what he intends to do and that he carries it through with boldness and persistence. He is not pulled hither and thither by contractors and by his local political advisors the way Mr. Blair appears to be. He is a man who gets his own way more than any other minister in the cabinet, and is reaching out in all directions for more power and influence. He is continually infringing upon Mr. Blair's domain by public declaration of railway policy and by actually assuming control of waterways that belong to the canal system. He dictates to the minister of railways concerning water routes in Mr. Blair's department. He heads off Mr. Mulock whenever he attempts to grasp the telegraph system, and in a general way fulfils his mission as master of the administration.

This he is enabled the more to do because, while he is probably the ablest man in the cabinet, he has the largest personal following. Mr. Prefontaine and the old line liberals in Quebec and Montreal dispute Mr. Tarte's ascendancy and make some split in certain constituencies. But the fact remains that Mr. Tarte through his almost absolute control of the premier and by means of La Patrie newspaper, which he controlled, which more than any other paper in Canada is the organ of the Laurier government, in the largest political power in Quebec province. It is Quebec province which gives the premier his majority, and with a solid block of fifty-seven or fifty-eight members out of sixty-five behind him, the man who holds Quebec for the government is the greatest power in the country.

Though Mr. Tarte is an invalid, he has no intention of giving up his control. In his speeches he looks forward to what he is going to do years hence, and there is no doubt that if he lives and Sir Wilfrid remains premier these things will be done. Some day Mr. Tarte may break down, and there would be among the conservatives in the house more personal sorrow for such an occurrence than there would for the physical collapse of almost any other minister. Mr. Tarte with all his faults, and notwithstanding the fact

that he has done more to promote misgovernment in Canada than any one else, has established a kind of comradeship with the fellow members of both parties which is more intimate than any other minister can claim. Besides that there is an admiration for his heroic fight against physical infirmity and equally strenuous conflict in favor of encouragement to Canadian industry and enterprise.

Mr. Sifton is another minister who is gathering in more than his share of control. He started out to be an abolitionist power in the west, and has managed to keep the other ministers out of his domain. But the west is a growing country, and the Yukon has been added to Mr. Sifton's kingdom. He has taken over the immigration department from Mr. Fisher, and may therefore be reckoned next to Mr. Tarte in control of the administration. Mr. Sifton makes the most of his patronage, which was large at the beginning and is now immense. He has it in his power to make men rich by concessions and patronage more than any other minister. The minister of the interior may also be congratulated upon the fact that while some ministers grow poor on account of the cost of living in their position, and others remain here at a considerable sacrifice, he has grown rich in office.

This session has been one of the shortest in recent years and the least sensational, but next year there are undertakings which if carried out will make a session equal in length to that of 1885 or 1891. We are promised a redistribution bill which is sure to be contentious and may cause a controversy as long as that of 1885. There is also the railway commission bill, which would make a complete change in the administration of all the railways and is sure to be a subject of long controversy. Mr. Mulock's bill for the compulsory arbitration of labor disputes on the railway system is another big measure. The government has postponed railway subsidies until next year, and many other subjects have been mentioned as laid over for discussion in the session of 1903. S. D. S.

I Will Cure You of RHEUMATISM

No Pay until you know it.

After 4,000 experiments, I have learned how to cure Rheumatism. Not to turn bony joints into flesh again; that is impossible. But I can cure the disease always, at any stage, and forever.

I ask for no money. Simply write me a postal and I will send you an order on your nearest druggist for six bottles of Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure, for every druggist keeps it. Use it for a month, and if it does what I claim pay your druggist \$3.00 for it. If it doesn't I will pay him myself.

I have no samples. Any medicine that can affect Rheumatism with but a few doses must be drugged to the verge of danger. I use no such drugs. It is folly to take them. You must get the disease out of the blood. My remedy does that, even in the most difficult, obstinate cases. No matter how impossible this seems to you, I know it and I take the risk. I have cured tens of thousands of cases in this way, and my records show that out of 40 who get these six bottles pay, and pay gladly. I have learned that people in general are honest with a physician who cures them. That is all I ask. If I fail I don't expect a penny from you.

Simply write me a postal card or letter. Let me send you an order for the medicine. Take it for a month, if it cures, pay \$5.00. I leave that entirely to you. I will mail you a book that tells how I do it.

Simply state name of your dealer, and address Dr. Shoop, Box 12, Racine, Wis.

ST. MARTENS. Rev. Mr. Townsend of London, England, who has accepted a call from St. Martins Baptist church to the pastorate, occupied the pulpit twice on Sunday most acceptably. He does not enter upon his full pastoral duties until June 1st.

Rev. Mr. Bynon of Moncton delivered a highly appreciated lecture Monday evening in the vestry of the Baptist church; subject, The Future Life. The proceeds were kindly donated to the support of an aged sister in the church.

LEPREAUX PERSONALS. Mr. Howe and B. H. Dean of St. John spent Sunday here. Mrs. D. A. Kennedy and Master Stafford Leonard have returned home from a visit to St. John. Mrs. L. Cameron was visiting in St. John last week. A. J. Gregory called on friends here this week.

HART'S RIVER BATTLE.

A Graphic Description of the Hot Fight

In Which the Canadians Covered Themselves With Glory.

(By Lieut. Ralph Markham.)

GENERAL HOSPITAL, ELANDER-FONTEIN, GERMISTON. Editor Sun:—I suppose by the time this reaches you the attack on Colonel Cookson's camp will have been pretty well forgotten, but I may be able to tell you some things about it which you have not heard. My squadron (D) and F were escorting the transport. We had left our camp at 3 a. m. and had been riding all day. At about 3.30 in the afternoon we halted and went into camp. I should have said that in the morning the advanced guard had been in action with what seemed to be the rear guard of the Boers, and ever since we were on the march one of our pom-poms was shelling Boers a short distance from camp. After my troop was unseated I laid down by my saddle and was sleeping.

I had not been asleep more than a few minutes when I was awakened by unusual running and shouting, and I woke up to hear a 15-pounder shell sailing over the camp from the Boers; then a second one came from another direction and then came the deadly pom-pom bursting in between the horse lines.

I stood up on the limber of one of our pom-poms and saw the Boers coming in a great black mass, firing towards the camp from their saddles. Gradually a large part of them swung off and rode around to attack the camp from the other side, and before long the bullets were coming in from three sides at once. There was no time to make entrenchments, so we simply ran out a few yards from the wagons and horses, laid down, and started firing at about 500 yards. At this time men were getting hit all around me from the Boers who were coming in on the other side. The man next me was shot in the hand. Corporal Howard of Montreal was being taken back and the doctors were busy.

I had fired about 30 rounds when I felt as though some one had given me a severe kick in both legs. I tried to stand up, but could not. Some men carried me back a few yards and put me in a trench. A few minutes later a stretcher arrived and took me back to where the ambulances were, about 100 yards away. This place was even hotter than the firing line. After I had my wounds dressed I was put down between the ambulances near a wounded English officer. While we were here a hospital orderly and a Boer came towards us, and he was us, and the bullets were rattling through the spokes of the wheels, so we crawled away as best we could to a hollow place fifty yards away, where the bullets could not reach us. Here we stayed till the firing ceased, and the Boers were finally driven back.

The Boers' firing could not take the camp, stopped firing and retired out of range. The camp was an awful sight, dead and dying horses all over the place. There were 121 horses lost in our regiment alone, and a Boer team two hours away, as we expected the Boers to attack the camp again either that night or the next morning.

As soon as we were half a mile from camp we saw hundreds of Boers apparently retreating, and looking for wounded. We stopped and picked up one wounded Boer. A party of five or six Boers rode by our wagon until we reached the house. I remarked to one young Boer that it was a good fight. He replied that it was, but that they had not done it right in the morning. He asked me how many killed we had, and when I replied two or three, said: "No fear, you have more than that."

All the Boers I saw were well mounted and I did not see a poor horse among them. They all wore riding saddles. Many of them had on British great-coats, and several were wearing khaki. I asked one chap if he had heard of Kitchener's order about their wearing khaki, and he replied that he did not care. Kitchener would wear khaki as long as he could get it. One of them had a pair of lieutenant's stars fastened on the lapel of his coat. All this stuff they no doubt captured with Lord Methuen.

Among the ambulances we took out with us from camp was a Boer one that we had captured earlier in the day, and it seems funny that the Boer who was driving it was shot by his own people during the engagement.

When we reached the house I saw a Boer dressed much better than the others, sitting on a table eating, and surrounded by a number of Boers. One of the Boers told me this was Commandant Wolmarans. I heard him telling our doctor that we could use the house for a hospital. There were three men in the house and thirty-nine wounded, so there was barely room for everyone to lie down.

We had a pretty rough time of it during the two days we were there, as the camp had moved away 18 miles and left us with very little food. The C. M. R. It is strange that this man had two brothers killed in South Africa, one on the 1st C. M. R. and the other in Strathcona Horse. When he enlisted in Canada he told his friends he was coming out to avenge his two brothers. The Boers kept coming around all the time in small parties, also two or three Boer ambulances. One Boer doctor gave us three pumpkins, which were very acceptable. The next Boer doctor seemed very angry, and looked hard at our stretchers and blankets. He told us the "khaki" had taken two of our ambulances, and I believe that if we did happen to have lots of food he would have helped himself.

stomach and intestines and is still alive. One man had a bullet go in at his cheek through his tongue and throat, out at the side of his neck and in again on his shoulder, coming out at his back. He could not speak or swallow, but is still alive. There was the usual number of close shaves. Lieut. Carruthers of B squadron, who made such a good stand with some men of the rear guard who had not reached camp when the Boers attacked us, had his bullet holes in his clothing, but was never scratched. His haversack was simply riddled with holes. He had 23 men with him and 17 of them were either killed or wounded. When he saw it was no good fighting any longer he buried his revolver in the ground. One man found a bullet in the lining of his underclothes, but does not know how it got there.

The Kafir scouts, which are used a good deal now, fought splendidly at the beginning of the fight. I saw one with a rifle and two full bandoliers just after the doctors were brought with me. He hoisted the ambulance, shot in the foot. Both bandoliers were empty, and with a broad grin he was saying "Good fight, boss! Very good fight!"

One man, Corporal Wilkinson, who was out with me before 1st C. M. R. has lost an arm above the elbow. So far as I can learn the only New Brunswicker wounded is Pte. Darrah of Hartland, Carleton Co. He had a flesh wound in the thigh, but will be right in a week or two.

Lieut. Ryan was wounded in the left forearm, but not seriously. Lieut. Mackay was shot in the leg, arm and hand. He is today having his wounds photographed by the X rays to see if any small bones are hurt.

I think altogether the Boer loss was much heavier than ours. One Boer said that his people were shot down like sheep, and all the Boer houses were passed on our way to camp were filled with wounded. It is said that Gen. De La Rey wanted his men to attack again in the morning, but they refused, which is not to be wondered at considering what they would have to face, for during the night the men in camp dug trenches all around the camp and put out wire entanglements. We reached Klerksdorp after a fifty mile drive in ambulances.

RALPH MARKHAM. EASTERN SOUDAN REVIVING. Khartoum Again the Seat of Government—High Cost of Living.

The British are gradually introducing a better state of things in the former domain of the Mahdi. The city of Khartoum, which was nothing but a heap of ruins when Kitchener's forces arrived there, has been substantially rebuilt and now contains 30,000 inhabitants. Omdurman, the Mahdist capital, still has a population of 80,000, but smaller than when it was wrested from the Khalifa. A new town named Halfaya has been built on the other side of the Nile from Khartoum; it is the terminus of the railway from Wadi Halfa and has 8,000 inhabitants. It has been the intention ever since the reconquest of the Sudan to make Khartoum again the seat of government; but it was necessary first to rebuild the city, and it is only recently that the administration has been transferred from Omdurman to the old capital.

The cost of living is about 50 per cent. higher at Khartoum than at Alexandria. The journey from Alexandria to the capital of the Egyptian Sudan requires about six days by water and rail, the cost of passenger transportation being from 120 to 150 francs. The cost of transporting freight is from 320 to 400 francs a ton.

SURPRISE SOAP advertisement featuring an illustration of a woman in a long dress and apron, holding a basket. The text reads: 'SURPRISE IS THE KIND OF SOAP THAT WORKS WELL AND WEARS WELL. YOU MAKE THE BEST BARGAIN IN SOAP WHEN YOU BUY SURPRISE. THE ST. CROIX SOAP MFG. CO., ST. STEPHEN, N.B.'

It is largely due to these high freight rates that living is so expensive at Khartoum.

Both of the railroads that were built south from Wadi Halfa for military purposes are still in operation. One of them follows the course of the Nile and terminates at Kerma, below Dongola, its length being 227 kilometres. The other railroad crosses the Nubian desert from Wadi Halfa and then follows the Nile to Khartoum. Though there are wells at several points along this desert route, the greatest difficulty is to procure sufficient water. Every train to cross the desert carries five cars loaded with water for the engine and most of the stations along the route.

Dr. G. Linck, of Germany, has recently described his journey through Kordofan, the part of the old Mahdist territory lying west of Khartoum. This vast region has not yet recovered from the terrible distress in which the Mahdi involved it. The traveller found, for example, that Bara, formerly a thriving town of 10,000 inhabitants, is today only a miserable Arab village. Bara was a sanitarium for El Obeid, where the richer inhabitants spent their summers amid lovely gardens full of date and lemon trees, bananas and vines. The place was completely destroyed by the Mahdi and bushes and thorns now grow among the ruins. El Obeid is also merely a heap of ruins. The few inhabitants left there, Dr. Linck says, were about to depart with their herds to better grazing lands. It surrendered to the Mahdi eleven days after Bara fell into his power. The city was the supply depot for all the country for hundreds of miles around, had a population of about 100,000 souls, traded largely in ostrich feathers, Kordofan gum, and other commodities, and, next to Khartoum, was the most important and flourishing town in the Egyptian Sudan.

It may be expected that in the course of time the site of this once flourishing city will again be occupied by a large centre of population which will never meet the terrible fate that fanaticism inflicted upon El Obeid. It is scarcely possible that such a reign of terror will ever again afflict that region.

Such maladies as Nausea, Sick Stomach, Cramps and Colic, yield instantly to Poleon's Nervine, and if you suffer periodically from any of these complaints, just keep Nervine handy and take a few drops in water for quick relief. A large 25c. bottle of Nervine is a comfort and safeguard in any household, and will save great suffering and big doctors' bills every year. Do you use Nervine? Try it. Hamilton's Pills Don't Grip.

KNOWN IN NEW BRUNSWICK. Bishop William Taylor, who died at Palo Alto, California, a few days ago, aged 81 years, was one of the most forceful of all American Methodist bishops. Almost half a century before being appointed a bishop he was a missionary and visited pretty much all parts of the world, preaching in the streets when a church was not available.

Bishop Taylor has been more than once in Canada, and has spoken in St. John. During one visit to this country he spent some time at Mt. Allison College, and his addresses led many students to take up missionary work.

To cure Headache in ten minutes use KUMFORD Headache Powders.

Baby's Own Tablets advertisement. Text: 'Baby's Own Tablets MAKE HEALTHY, HAPPY CHILDREN. If you have a child that is sickly, fretful, nervous, restless at night, or suffers from stomach or bowel troubles of any sort, give it Baby's Own Tablets. Do not be afraid of this medicine—there is not a particle of opiate or other harmful drug in it. Give it to the sick child and watch the quick relief and rapid restoration to full health and strength. The Tablets are good for children of all ages, and are taken as readily as candy. For very young infants crush them to a powder, or dissolve in water.' Includes a testimonial from Mrs. Gaitskell Taylor and an illustration of a woman holding a child.