

OTTAWA LETTER.

Sifton Abandoned by Several of His Western Followers.

Richardson Satisfied That Much Skulawagery Has Taken Place in the Yukon.

Senator Kerr Commends the Senate for Rejecting Blair's First Yukon Agreement. A Case Over Which Dr. Borden is Puzzled.

OTTAWA, June 30.—Those who have seen copies of the 54 Yukon charges made by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, may have thought in their innocence and ignorance that they contained serious and definite charges. This is a mistake. The minister accused says so. The premier of Canada endorses the proposition. We have it on the authority of the ministers of the crown and many of their supporters in the house, that these allegations are really charges of no particular consequence, too trivial, too general, too frivolous to require judicial enquiry. Therefore no judges will be appointed and no further investigation made than that which Mr. Sifton's uncle and appointee is holding with the assistance of Mr. Sifton's own appointees, and by the parties accused, all of whom are supported by the government to be an adequate court for trying charges against themselves and their associates, superiors and family connections.

Mr. Sifton may be called a smart man. His three hours' speech yesterday was a clever plea for the defence. It showed the devices which are known to the police court lawyer who has skill in getting criminals off. There are a dozen charges against Mr. Sifton himself in the list. Mr. Sifton chose to say that there were none which affected his character or position. They only referred, in his opinion, to matters of judgment and policy and to his business promptness and energy. He put in the plea that no judge should be appointed to try whether he has been negligent or not. That is a matter for the house. Questions of policy are also matters for the house. He holds that incompetence is a matter for the country to decide.

Mr. Sifton put on an air of defiance and told Sir Charles Hibbert that if he or anybody else would venture to make a charge reflecting on Mr. Sifton's honor, an investigation would be granted in fifteen minutes. The premier said the same. But these statements did not create a very strong impression. The house had heard something like it before. It is apparently a great deal easier to get challenges from this government than to get tribunals.

Mr. Sifton's treatment of the charge made against him may be best illustrated by three instances. One charge was that the Hon. Clifford Sifton, the minister of the interior, had been guilty of favoritism and partiality in the administration of the laws and regulations applicable to the district of the Yukon in the Northwest Territory. Mr. Sifton said in effect: "I am accused of favoritism and partiality. This is a very general charge. It may mean that I simply, when making appointments, prefer to give them to my friends and supporters rather than to my opponents. If that is the charge, I plead guilty; it is not a matter of policy." This is substantially the Sifton argument. But the charge itself was that the administration of the laws and regulations have been partial and unfair, favoring some persons against others. Nothing more serious can be said against the minister than this, and yet it was turned off in the light and trifling manner above mentioned.

Again, it was said in the charge that A. E. Philp and A. D. Cameron and others applied for mining leases in the Yukon district; that Philp had been a law partner with the minister of the interior, and a member of the firm of Sifton, Philp & Cameron; that Philp was engaged in a mining venture in the Yukon, and in endeavoring to induce another to join him, represented in writing that Mr. Sifton, the said minister, and Major Walsh were also interested with him, but their names could not appear as he wrote for obvious reasons.

Mr. Sifton met this charge by stating that he had nothing to do personally with the granting of leases, and by showing from a statement of his office that some of these gentlemen mentioned did not obtain leases. This was a fairly successful answer. Further discussion showed that Philp did secure some sort of concession, and there seems to be no doubt that he did write a letter trying to sell the grant and claiming that the minister was associated with him, and observing that "for obvious reasons" Mr. Sifton's name had to be withheld. Mr. Sifton asserts that he had no interest in any leases. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper withdrew that part of the charge which Mr. Sifton, on the authority of his office, pronounced to be incorrect. There was left the allegation that Mr. Sifton's late law partner was trafficking in claims obtained apparently under false pretences, and was using the minister's name to assist him in the transaction.

Again, it was charged "that insubstantial conditions have unnecessarily prevailed in the district; that in Dawson City 25,000 people had been maintained, roadway, drain or ditch, no water supply nor lighting, and the matter for the disposal of refuse had to be carried to April, 1898, being one of individ-

ual responsibility only, and that this condition of affairs resulted in an epidemic of typhoid fever in 1898."

Mr. Sifton made a triumphant reply to this charge. The typewriter who copied the paper made a mistake and wrote "1896" for "1898." Mr. Sifton wanted to know how the epidemic of typhoid could have happened in 1896, before the place was occupied, and how his neglect in 1898 could have caused an epidemic two years before. He was cheered vigorously, as though he had made a successful answer to the charge, and Mr. Foster pointed out later, Mr. Sifton did not think it necessary at all to refer to this most serious allegation affecting the lives of 25,000 people whom Mr. Sifton had taken under his charge, and from whom he was drawing enormous revenues.

It will be seen that Mr. Sifton met the charges with evasion rather than answers. Some other charges which appear to be rather serious, he treats as matters of no consequence. It seems to be absurd that the case of Mrs. Koch, Major Walsh's cook, who got advance information and went out to Dominion Creek ahead of other people to locate claims, should be treated seriously. She got information by accident and got her claim, and that was all there was about it. Why should judges be appointed to look into the affairs of Major Walsh's Cook or Major Walsh's Indian, or of some other trivial case? All the crowd behind cheered when Mr. Sifton said it.

Yet the evidence proves that Major Walsh's cook learned from Major Walsh's household that a mining district was to be thrown open, used Major Walsh's name and influence to secure a permit before any one else could get one, and thus procured a claim which ought to have been obtained by some one who had been at work in the district. While devoting some attention to the case of Major Walsh's cook, Mr. Sifton hardly thought it worth while to mention the fact that another retainer named Carbone, who went in with Major Walsh, also got advance information and started out to locate. He was overtaken by "The Columbian boys," two of Major Walsh's Indians, who also got locations. Evidence taken in Dawson showed that Carbone had an arrangement with Major Walsh's brothers whereby they were to have three-quarters of his gains and were to pay his expenses into the country. Yet these expenses into the country were paid by the government, in whose behalf Carbone was engaged as cook by Major Walsh. It was also shown that Carbone did not want to sign this agreement, and Carbone swore that Major Walsh, the chief commissioner, told him to sign it. Mr. Sifton said the government employ and sent home if he did not sign it. Mr. Sifton did not think it worth while to enlarge on these matters.

Nor did he dwell upon the fact that Mr. Fawcett, the gold commissioner, contrary to his own ideas of propriety and against his own protests, was compelled by Major Walsh to sign orders and proclamations, which he never read, declaring mining districts open earlier than the miners had been led to expect, whereby all these advantages were obtained for members of the Walsh household. But Mr. Sifton did say that he did not know of Major Walsh having done anything wrong. He declared the resolutions to be "a farrow of rubbish," asserted that Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper had no political future to risk and no constituency to lose, announced that he had choked the charges down Sir Charles Hibbert's throat, and declared that the fair name of Canada could not possibly suffer under a liberal administration.

This was all very smart, and Mr. Sifton's friends told him he had made the speech of his life. But after all the charges were there. Clarke Walsh calmly took them up and went through them again to show that Mr. Sifton had ignored the strongest of them and raded a good many of the others. The question was asked whether these charges, made on the responsibility of Sir Hibbert, were to be tried or not. Mr. Wallace did not think that the sparing of Mr. Sifton, however smart it might be, met the case in the least. The people did not

The well known poem "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight," in which a young woman, by hanging to the curfew bell saves the life of her lover condemned to be executed at the turning of the curfew. It is only one of a thousand striking instances of how a woman will dare everything for love.

Women are reader to make heroic sacrifices than they are to take the common place of everyday precautions which insure their greatest happiness. Most women are careless about their health. They forget that physical weakness and disease will wreck the fairest chance in life and shut them out completely from happy womanhood and witchhood.

There is space to mention only one other argument of Sir Wilfrid's. That was an appeal to the members to stand by Mr. Sifton. "He has our confidence," said the premier; "we love him especially for the enemies he has made." Mr. Foster afterwards pointed out that this was not a good ground for passing over the misgovernment of the Yukon. A man might be hated and still be a good minister, besides it was not true that the opposition were enemies of Mr. Sifton. They had their opinion of his methods, but they did not honor him with an exaggerated amount of personal aversion. Mr. Sifton and Mr. Blair appeared to be hating themselves with the love that they manifested towards objects of personal animosity. Mr. Foster could assure them that they were regarded with only a mild personal interest, and that any opposition was due to the fact that they happened to be placed over very important departments which they had seriously mismanaged.

care about Mr. Sifton's exhibitions of skill. What they did want to know is whether government officers have been stealing in the Yukon. This information it appeared to be the determination of the government to keep from them.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier rose with an air of great dignity and announced that he wanted to elevate the tone of the debate. It would have been perhaps more to the point if he had held out some hope that the Yukon affair would be cleared up, not a much more important matter than the tone of the debate. But as a matter of fact Sir Wilfrid left the tone of the debate a little lower than he found it. He opened to the galleries against Sir Charles Hibbert for making, as upon women, which is the interpretation Sir Wilfrid places upon the charge of immorality made against Commissioner Walsh. The premier is of the opinion that the charge is contained should not be made, no matter how true it is, against a man who has a wife and children. There have been other men in Canadian public life who had wives and children, and whose future has been darkened and home made sad through charges true or false that have been made against them. Sir Wilfrid knows of them, but he will not have his wife's name in his life been impressed upon him. Apart from this appeal, Sir Wilfrid had chiefly three things to say. In the first place he protested against the whole way in that Judge Dugas was not only a judge but an executive councillor, and is particularly interested in mining claims in the district.

Mr. Sifton has got his vindication if he likes that kind of a victory. Yet the charges against his administration and his strong partiality towards Mr. Bate, and so have some other members of the cabinet. So Mr. Bate got the contract for the whole business of furnishing provisions for the soldiers, and they were carried across the continent to the Pacific coast.

OTTAWA, July 1.—Two of the government supporters in the house who voted against their leader on the Yukon gave reasons. Mr. Oliver of Alberta explained that the amendment was taken on the amendment to the address he agreed with the government that the Ogilvie enquiry should be allowed to proceed, and would bring about good results. He thinks now that this action was justifiable. But he considers that the Ogilvie enquiry only emphasizes the necessity of a fuller investigation. Mr. Oliver says he said at the time that he had voted against the amendment because the Yukon officials which some other gentlemen on this side had. I consider that the evidence substantiates the position I then took and the report we have had concerning the action of officials. Mr. Ogilvie says that it has been proved that door-keepers did take money, the officials did work for pay, that on Dominion Creek two discovery claims were made, one of which resulted in a confusion of claims. These were the principal allegations made against the administration of the Yukon, and these have been proved by Ogilvie's investigation. But I consider something more than an investigation is needed. A great wrong has been done to many people who went out as pioneers to that country, and while it may not be impossible to redress these wrongs, it is not possible to punish those who perpetrated them. I will vote for the motion, not because I support all that it contains, but because I wish to place before the country in the most emphatic manner possible, my desire that the offences which have been committed by certain officials of the government should be punished as severely as possible. It is desirable for the good name of those who did no wrong and the punishment of those who did wrong that the right should be sifted from the wrong.

Mr. Richardson gave a similar explanation. He said that he had been following the doings in the Yukon very closely, and was satisfied that the charges were true, and that he had taken place there. Mr. Richardson did not blame the government for everything that was done, and did not say that the government was to blame for it. He wanted an investigation and never believed that Ogilvie was the proper person to hold it. He asks: "Supposing I refuse to vote for this resolution, how am I to appear before my constituents at the fullest possible investigation into what I am satisfied is wrong doing?" The answer Mr. Richardson gives is that after studying a great deal of the evidence, he has concluded the enquiry into the Yukon. And therefore he voted for the motion.

In both of these speeches there is a tacit condemnation of the government and the implied charge that it is preventing an investigation. Both members say that they have no confidence in the Ogilvie tribunal, and affirm that a judicial investigation ought to be held, and believe that in accepting the advice of the government they were run up to hundreds of dollars and preventing the Yukon inquiries from coming to life. The fervent appeal of the four ministers in that view was simply an appeal to the party to hold and cover up the record of crime and skulawagery in the Yukon.

After this condemnation of the government by three of its supporters comes the commendation of Senator Kerr to the senate for condemning Mr. Blair's first Yukon agreement. We have had Mr. Tarte and his organs assailing the senators in all the moods and tenes and threatening to abolish them because they did not vote the first Drummond contract through. We have had the premier of Canada denouncing the action of the senate in this matter, and insisting that some change must be made in the constitution to keep the senators from doing it over again. We have had Mr. Blair insisting that the senate had no right to reject the old contract, and arguing that the new one is no better. And now comes Mr. Kerr, the newest of all the senators, fresh from a long career of campaigning in the grit ranks, bearing the scars of half a dozen defeats in the interests of his party, admitting that the senators deserve credit for their action, and urging them to accept the present bargain because it is very much better than any which is made possible by their patriotic course on the previous occasion.

Last night's discussion in supply on militia matters reveals a queer state of affairs. Minister Borden was placed in an awkward position. The enormous purchase of supplies for the militia sent to the Yukon ought of course to have been made by tender. But it was given to a favorite firm on the terms proposed by the firm itself. Last year it was announced that several firms had been asked for offers. It turned out, however, that no two firms had made offers for the same thing. The only competition obtained was by taking an offer from one man for provision, another man for clothing, another for feed for horses and so on. The competition between Mr. Bate, who supplied canned food and other matters to the extent of tens of thousands of dollars, with that of someone else who supplied hardware, and of a third person who furnished dry goods, would not be very effective at beating down prices. They all got the contract.

Now there is no reason for supposing that Dr. Borden had any particular fancy for Mr. Bate as against good liberals in other towns, but the pressure in the Yukon was towards Mr. Bate, and so have some other members of the cabinet. So Mr. Bate got the contract for the whole business of furnishing provisions for the soldiers, and they were carried across the continent to the Pacific coast.

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THE Rev. J. Breth... Rev. Dr. Son's O... Rev. J. S. Tribute to... ple's... The ann... of St... morning... The moder... and the... Fothering... J. S. Suth... Fraser, G... J. S. Mull... Vans, Pe... Campbell... Ed... Casbell... Gheslin... J. Peacock... After the... regular se... proved the... of meet... of Rev. J... meeting... of the same... of the Res... rial meet... the resin... special m... 16th, calle... from Stan... J. S. Mull... strary to... tery, were... the minut... on m... McKennie... roll of the... Judge F... ations for... for the co... The Res... Moderato... clerk, Rev... on m... sions was... ness for t... On m... and on... correspond... The Rep... St. Math... Rev. D. J... the Res... elusions ar... congregat... the suppo... Rev. M... of the ac... accept r... was rec... thanked... Rev. T... of the ge... satisfacto... the dele... butes. I... tury fund... and the... was pro... Mr. M... at this... A man... had depa... accusers... Rev. M... for the... monies o... Judge F... be read... to appeal... against... was calle... voice of... It was... ter up at... Balmie... notify M... In the... fund, on... a comm... Sutherland... joined r... institution... Rev. J... bytrial... The co... meeting... a sultab... the Rev... lowing:... The Rev... of St. Dav... ronto, the... cepting th... Bruce, it... his remov... An min... character... seal. An... care of... to the p... the fru... loyalty o... Officers for... elected as follows: President, Rev. M... Calder, Loggville; secretary, Miss... Dickson, Nappan; treasurer, Alex. M... May, Chatham.

KLONDIKERS AND GOLD.

Everett Eaton of Nova Scotia Talks of the Atlin County. The James Domville Broken in Two. (Victoria, B. C., Globe, June 27.) Steamer Rosalie arrived at the Outer wharf about 9 o'clock this morning after a quick and pleasant passage from Skagway and way ports. She had a big crowd of passengers aboard, including many excursionists and a few miners from Dawson and Atlin. Of the men from the interior, some are rich and some are poor, the latter, probably, being in the majority. Actual facts in regard to what these men have are in many instances impossible to secure, as many men with big sacks of the precious dust deny having anything at all, while others who are worth about \$100 speak lightly of "tons of gold," "millions," etc. However, from actual observation, it may be stated that there were some hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of gold dust aboard the Rosalie, a small amount of which was landed here. One firm, the Canadian Development company, received a sack of the yellow stuff that weighs about 100 pounds and represents about \$2,000. Several small sacks were brought ashore here by passengers, but the bulk of the dust, which was in the purser's safe, went on to Seattle. About thirty passengers landed here from the Rosalie. Most of the news they bring is identical with that brought by the Humboldt and Cottage City, passengers from the interior by all three boats having come up the river at about the same time. The water in the lakes and river is reported to be rising rapidly, and navigation between Dawson and the coast will soon be in a first class shape. News of the wreck of the river steamer Domville is confirmed. The boat is said to be a complete loss, having broken squarely in two. One of the passengers arriving by the Rosalie was Everett Eaton of Nova Scotia. Mr. Eaton went to Atlin last March. He is now returning home, having had, as he puts it, "all he wants of it." He states that there is undoubtedly gold in the Atlin district, but it is very far from being a second Klondike. Some of the claims, both bench and creek, on Pine Creek, are turning out well, but work on all the creeks has stopped on account of the water, many freshets having occurred.

This year a new discovery is made. It is found that the country is charged over two thousand dollars for freight on these goods from Ottawa to Vancouver. It is found also that the firm has charged for packing boxes, nails, and all other material used in putting the goods into the country. Even then the goods were sold pretty high, and the principle of buying by hole and corner contract was vicious. But it was passed over, seeing that the goods were shipped before parliament knew anything about it. Last session Mr. Earle, one of the members from Victoria, wanted to know why it was necessary to buy these goods here, when they could be bought to better advantage in British Columbia. The prices were not quite so low, as far as he could learn, but that was not the point. The transportation bills would be heavy, Dr. Borden explained that the prices quoted were Vancouver prices, and that the Bate firm was to pay the freight to themselves. Even then the goods were sold pretty high, and the principle of buying by hole and corner contract was vicious. But it was passed over, seeing that the goods were shipped before parliament knew anything about it.

Another matter of enquiry is that of transportation. This is no trifle. For the militia alone the country paid some \$250,000 to carry supplies into the Yukon. When the estimate was made last year the contract was given to other people who send supplies to the Yukon. The quantity carried is more than twice what he thought it would be. The reason for this is that he made his estimate on the exact weight of the goods, and then made his contract at "ship's option," which means that the ship can charge by weight or by measurement as it pleases. In this case one ton weight became over two tons by measurement. Consequently the bill was twice as large as was expected. This appears to be rather unbusinesslike, especially when Mr. Earle says "ship's option" is never allowed on the Pacific coast on routes where these high prices prevail. No business man, he says, would think of making a contract when prices run up to hundreds of dollars a ton without knowing whether he is to pay by weight or measurement, when ton weight is equal to two tons by measurement. He points out that Mr. Borden gave a contract for transportation to a United States company in this careless way when he had offers which would have been much better from Canadian companies. In this case Mr. Borden seems to have been overruled by Grand Trunk influence, whose connections were with the American line. S. D. S.

A Delicious Tubbing and then refreshing sleep—there is nothing better for any baby. Always use the "Albert" Soap. BABY'S OWN SOAP. and your child will have a fine complexion and never be troubled with skin diseases or eruptions. The National Council of Women of Canada have recommended it as very suitable for nursery use. The Albert Toilet Soap Co., MONTREAL. Makers of the celebrated Albert Toilet Soap.

MIRAMICHI C. E. LOCAL UNION. The Miramichi Local Union of C. E. met in the Presbyterian church at Black River on Monday evening, July 3. The church was crowded to overflowing, and after a short praise service led by Mr. MacLion, the Rev. D. Henderson, retiring president of the Union, took the chair. Excellent papers were read by Miss Noble and Miss MacNaughton, the leading points of which were emphasized in a telling manner by the Rev. Mr. Murray, presbyterian minister at Hardwick. An inspiring address on Missions of the Church, by Rev. D. Henderson, brought the "speaking" part of the programme to a close. Miss Edgars, St. Andrew's church, Chatham, favored the convention with a solo. The manner in which the church was decorated for the occasion was the admiration of all the Brethren. The next convention is to be held at Loggville. Officers for the current year were elected as follows: President, Rev. M... Calder, Loggville; secretary, Miss... Dickson, Nappan; treasurer, Alex. M... May, Chatham.

CASTORA For Infants and Children. The healthiest and most nourishing food for infants and children. It is a natural product of the beehive, and is perfectly pure and wholesome. It is easy to digest and gives strength and vitality to the system. It is the best food for infants and children of all ages.

DETROIT, Mich., July 4.—Injunction proceedings have been begun in the United States court on behalf of several railroads to prevent ticket scalping during the Christian Endeavor convention. THOMPSONVILLE, Conn., July 4.—Fred Clee, aged 37, son of George Clee, was killed by the railway engine at Thompsonville today. A fragment about the size of a walnut entered his head just below the eye, tearing through the socket and penetrating the brain.

WATERVILLE, Me., July 4.—Through the careless use of fireworks a child of children at play upon Union street of this city, this morning, Florida Smith, the six-year-old daughter of Wallace Smith, was seriously burned, there being little hope of recovery.

Latest News in the Semi-Weekly Sun.