OTTAWA LETTER.

Non-Publication of Departmental Reports Blocking Business.

Mr. Mulock's Flippant Reference to the Death of a Valued Officer of His Department.

D. C. Fraser Now Defends the Government on the Ground that it is no Worse Than the Tories—Why the Temperance People Will no Longer Support Laurier et al.

OTTAWA, April 26.—If the ministers do not succeed in getting the departmental reports printed soon, they will find that life has ceased to be worth living. The committee on agriculture, which has always retrained from partisanship, and which like all the other committees has a large government majority, has gone on strike. Even the chairman, Mr. McMillan, in his widest Scotch, gives his word of honor not to call the committee together again until the reports of the department of which they are concerned has appeared. He was moved to this by the protest of members who refuse to go on examining immigration officers until the immigration reports are in their hands. Mr. Wilson moved that the committee rise and suspend operations until they had the reports to work on. This was resisted by Mr. McMullen, Mr. Macdonald of Huron, and the other thick and thin supporters of the ministry, who wanted to examine "hug the machine" Preston without the books. The discussion on the motion grew fast and furious. If an official report could be had of that morning's debate in the Tower Room, it would be as interesting as a war story. The chairman pleaded that the motion be not pressed to a vote, while he expressed himself as greatly surprised over the failure of the ministers to send in their statement. Mr. Wilson was disposed to yield to the pathetic appeals of Mr. McMillan, backed up by a solemn assurance that the committee would not be called again until the book appeared. But Dr. Sproule, Mr. Cochrane and the other objectors stuck to their point that Mr. Preston should wait for his examination until the members had some information of the business of last year. Finally it came to a vote, and Mr. Wilson's motion was lost, 28 to 23, with two or three government supporters joining in his protest. And after all Mr. Preston did not testify. Another witness was called, who told about the Doukhobors, and Preston waits until the Book of the Chronicles of the Interior Department is in the hands of the members.

In the house Mr. Mulock set about to explain what was the matter with the public works report. His fine gentlemanly instincts were shown by his statement that the department of which he is the acting minister was unfortunate, "as the officer who was preparing the report had the bad taste to die, and his successor had the bad taste to get sick." The good taste of Mr. Mulock, ex-vice-chancellor of the University of Toronto, is shown by this delicate reference to the death of a valued officer in the department now under him. It must be consoling to the family and friends of those officers who die in the service to know that they have a minister who has such a delicate appreciation of their feelings.

The budget debate is four speeches nearer to an end. Mr. Bell of Addington, who speaks seldom but always well, contributed a strong and individual speech, enlivened with a pleasant humor, which is rather severe but devoid of bitterness. Mr. D. C. Fraser, the man of all work in the liberal party, put in a defence of the ministry, which was of the nature of a plea of guilty with an appeal for mercy. Mr. Fraser hopes that the opposition will admit that the government has really reduced the taxes by one-tenth (which, by the way, the opposition is pretty certain not to do). He urges that the public should not apply to the government an absolute standard of rectitude, but that the whole of party politics should be narrowed down to the question whether a change to a tory government would improve the condition of things. In his mind it is not a question whether this government has done wrong, but whether another government did better. Unless this government is worse than the tories, Mr. Fraser does not think it ought to be condemned and retired, even though it may be guilty of as many lies as a Czar.

This is a great falling off since Mr. Fraser and his friends went about the country promising economy, integrity, independence of parliament, prohibition, free trade, commercial union and all sorts of reforms. The people were asked to turn out the tories because they were corrupt, extravagant, seekers after office and oppressors of the poor. If we have in their place a government that cost more and accomplishes less, which is loaded down with scandal, which has fostered combines that were never heard of before, has scattered offices among members of parliament and broken all its pledges; the fact is of no importance. Mr. Fraser cannot deny the violation of pledges, nor contradict the charges of office seeking and nepotism, and of extravagance. He can plead for a continuance of office because the present ministers are in their own opinion and his no worse than their predecessors.

Mr. Fraser is indignant with Mr. Davin for the inuendo which the latter used in connection with Mr. Fraser's elegant and moral simile of the wife and her erring husband. He declares that Mr. Davin alone of all members of parliament or men out of parliament is low enough to suggest that the Morden speech was improper. All that Mr. Fraser admits that he meant was that the people of Canada ought to judge this government and treat its faults with the same leniency as a wife should show in judging her husband. He appears to be of the opinion that this government has been accepted by the people for better, for worse, for richer or poorer till all the ministers or all the people are dead. This is a view that perhaps will not impress itself upon the people of Canada. They will perhaps feel that they have only accepted this government during good conduct. They think that they are perfectly free to send it about its business without waiting for death to part them.

Mr. Fraser's passion with Mr. Davin sweeping through him, left him dry and Mr. Bennett of Simcoe took up the story. Mr. Bennett usually makes things a little lively for his opponents when he speaks and last night was no exception to the rule. Mr. Fraser rebuked Sir Charles Tupper for predicting victory and Mr. Bennett reminded Mr. Fraser of his own prediction on his recent return from Manitoba, with the announcement that the Greenway government was going to sweep the country. Mr. Fraser interrupted to state that he was not campaining in Manitoba for Mr. Greenway, and Mr. Bennett observed that Mr. Fraser was only following the example of Mr. Sifton in repudiating Greenway after he was beaten. The defeat of the Manitoba government does not surprise Mr. Bennett when he considered the kind of speeches Mr. Fraser had been making in that province shortly before. No doubt the people compared the defence of the Laurier government and the miserable apologies offered for it, while the pledges made by Sir Wilfrid and Mr. Fraser himself in that province four years before. No doubt they were sick of everything connected with such a party.

Mr. Bennett went on to tell of the career of members of parliament in seeking and in making offices. He spoke of the thirteen patriots who had retired into comfortable positions, and gave a long and interesting list of ministers and members who had provided for their relatives. He told of a judicial district in Ontario, which had a county court judge and three cases last year, yet an additional judge had been provided to assist the previous incumbent. Another district, which also provided three suits, had been furnished a junior judge to assist the senior in his arduous labors. Another judge had been appointed over a new district where two lawsuits had occurred in the previous year, and still another in the place where there had not been a single suit. This is the way the faithful were provided for in Ontario, for all the new judges had been active campaigners.

Mr. Bennett has an idea that the temperance people are going to make trouble for this government when the time comes. He recalls the pledges given by Sir Wilfrid on his tour after the Ottawa convention. He began in Ontario with the announcement that the liberal party would take a vote on prohibition and carry out the wishes of the people. So strongly did he press this point that the Rev. Mr. Huxtable, a prominent prohibitionist, had endorsed the then liberal leader, believing that prohibition had at last found a friend. He spoke in that sense, and this so encouraged Sir Wilfrid that his assurances grew stronger and stronger as he went west, until in Manitoba he declared that the will of the people as expressed in the plebiscite would be carried out, even though it should drive him from public life.

And then Mr. Bennett told the story of the plebiscite. The temperance people took hold of it in a way that frightened the ministers, and the premier's colleagues in Quebec went on the stump to beg the French-Canadians not to embarrass the government. The ballot in some of the Quebec polls was manipulated, so that the vote cast was larger than the list of electors.

Mr. Sifton was another standby for the prohibitionists in former times, and Mr. Bennett described the interesting occasion when the minister of the interior met in Toronto a delegation of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and gave them a solemn assurance that no liquor would be allowed to go into the Yukon. It is now known that intimate friends of the minister himself from his own town secured the right, as some allege, contrary to law, to send in vast quantities of liquor to that country. Some of them procured permits merely to sell out at profits of $10,000 to $20,000 to men in the trade, while returns recently brought down show that the Yukon has been flooded with liquor, probably to a greater extent than any other region of the same population in Canada. Mr. Bennett thinks that these confiding ladies who heard Mr. Sifton and who trusted him will not have that same kindly feeling for him that they once had, and that so far as their influence goes Mr. Sifton will suffer with his colleagues at the next election. S. D. S.

OTTAWA, April 27.—Before this letter is printed the Ottawa fire will be something of an old story, as the despatches contained pretty full details. A long time will pass before it becomes an old story in Ottawa. As yet many of the people, and most of all the victims who have suffered most, have hardly come to realize what has befallen them. While the statement of the press here that this is the worst fire ever known in Canada is not sustained by history, there are certain features of the case which make the Ottawa fire a greater catastrophe than would appear at first glance. The amount of property destroyed is less than the loss of the great St. John fire of 1877, and the destruction of residences is perhaps not half as great, considered by value. But the Ottawa fire has struck very hard on the poorer class of people and on the large class of artisans and mill men who, if not poor, had very little property except what was in their houses.

The water power at the Chaudiere Falls is one of the finest in the world. It has made many millions for the lumbermen in this district, and if Ottawa has more millionaires than any other city of its size in Canada the credit belongs largely to the Chaudiere Falls. The great lumber mills, paper mills, flour mills and other industries have collected around this one point, and the fire which has wiped out nearly the whole of these establishments and practically incapacitated the damaged structures that remain, has stopped the wheels of industry in the whole town. The same calamity which deprived the workingmen of their homes has deprived them of the means of earning a livelihood.

Perhaps the destruction of the manufacturing establishments is a greater calamity even to the homeless mechanic than the loss of his abode. He at least is sure of a shelter and of provision and clothing through the kindness of those who are able to help him. The great lumbermen who were millionaires yesterday do not ask for charity, and yet they may have some difficulty in reorganizing the industries under their control. For the lumbermen have not only in some cases lost their mills but have lost the product of last year's operations just at a time when it is ready for the market. Doubtless even some of the rich lumbermen have obligations at the banks which this lumber was expected to retire, and the extent of the embarrassment will not be known for some time to come.

The city of Hull was not a beautiful town at its best. The accumulations of lumber lay all about it. The houses were largely of the poorer class and built of wood. The irregular character of the ground and the neighboring splendors of Ottawa operated against the appearance of the town. The tendency of the wealthier people who did business in Hull was to reside across the river. On the other hand the workingmen largely owned their own houses, and as they had very good pay and are generally of a thrifty class they might be called a well-to-do body of people. It is among the workingmen's houses that the fire started.

At 11 o'clock those who happened to be in the little summer house on Parliament Hill saw a black column of smoke rise in the northern part of the town and grow stronger and denser. Half an hour later the telephone announced that some 70 houses had been destroyed and the flame could be seen making rapid headway with a raging wind behind it towards the bridge. Before one o'clock those watching from the hill could see that the mills at the Chaudiere on the Hull side were doomed, and that on the eastern border of the fire the splendid municipal building, the dominion building and the spacious City Hall would have to go. Still the fire must have been a half a mile from the nearest point on the Ottawa side when suddenly those looking up river saw a small blaze in the lumber pile on their own side of the stream. Within fifteen minutes the whole of a large lumber yard was in flames and the mills at this point were attacked. There is another channel on the Ottawa side, making the place where the fire now was a sort of island. But the flames took very little note of this obstacle and moved on towards the C. P. R. station. On the flats around this place were a great number of tenements, some hotels of the cheaper sort with one or two fairly good ones, and a great number of boarding houses and shops, with many warehouses and small industrial establishments. The C. P. R. had good station buildings and a good deal of yard room with a considerable freight on hand, including some 40 car loads of coal. Almost everything was burned, and the employes found they had to bestir themselves to get away with their books and records.

There is only one bridge for passengers between Ottawa and Hull. It is an iron structure, a suspension bridge, with stone underwork, but the approaches on each side cross sluice ways, canals and other channels, and the bridges over these are of wood. The fire was so hot on each side of this bridge that even if the wooden part had not burned, passage would have been impossible. There remained only the ferry and various boats and lumber scows for transportation, and the Ottawa fire brigade, which commenced operations in Hull, found some difficulty in getting back to defend its own city. The C. P. R. train which brought a relief to the fire department, not only came too late to save its own building, but too late to get into town at all. Its track is destroyed part of the way through Hull and also on this side. A later train from Montreal came by the other route south of the Ottawa.

When the fire got fairly under way on the Ottawa side it made great speed. Had the wind been more westerly, or been in any other direction than from the east, the whole city would have been gone before midnight. As it was, the fire swept across the western end, and taking the business establishments on Wellington street, west of the bridge, and some fine residences a little beyond that, including Mr. Booth's, the Rochester homestead, Mr. Crannell's of the Bronson Co., Dr. Malloch and Dr. Scott and Hon. Geo. E. Foster's. Beyond that, through Hintonburg and along the western boundary of the city up towards the experimental farm, the houses burned are mostly residences of a very fair class, together with some smaller wooden cottages. Almost at the end of its reach the fire found plenty of work in the lumber piles at St. Louis dam, near the experimental farm. A good many millions of feet of lumber, much of it belonging to Booth, was piled here. It is all gone.

Among the churches burned was the Erskine church (Presbyterian), and the French Presbyterian church. On the Hull side St. James (Anglican) church and some others. A number of schools in Ottawa and practically all the Hull schools are burned, with a convent in Hull. Among the buildings that were saved in Hull is the splendid Catholic church, of which the city is so proud. It was threatened towards evening and the fire raged all around it.

It is impossible to state accurately how many families are homeless, but that will have been announced by telegraph before this letter appears. Every effort is made to provide temporary homes, but there must be a great deal of trouble in getting the people together where they can be cared for. Many women and children appeared to be wandering aimlessly about, carrying some few household articles chosen in moments of distraction. They would perhaps be gathered in somewhere before morning, but it would certainly be through no efforts of their own. One could see sometimes a lone woman and sometimes a woman with a child or two in some vacant lot, with a few household things gathered about her, or perhaps a family would be defending their goods from the predatory people who always seem to be on hand at such a time. In many cases it was impossible to save anything. All the carts and wagons were engaged and men stood and saw the furniture burn which they had carried out on to the sidewalk and could find no way of transporting to a place of safety. As always happens, the distracted people usually selected some absurdly valueless articles to carry away with them and many amusing processions might be seen with very queer baggage.

About six o'clock in the afternoon Mr. Foster's house resembled a tory caucus. Among the members of parliament who were seen assisting to save property were Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Mr. Borden of Halifax, Col. Kaulbach, Mr. Mills (Annapolis), Mr. Powell, Mr. Ganong, Mr. McInerney, Mr. McDonald (P. E. I.), with half a dozen Ontario members. Notwithstanding their efforts, it was impossible to save the heavier furniture, as the fire reached this locality very suddenly and unexpectedly and at that time it was difficult to get teams. The beautiful residence which Mr. Foster purchased a few years ago was a heap of ruins within an hour after the danger was seen.

It is not quite clear why the house of commons should have adjourned until Tuesday, but even the federal government is indebted to the Chaudiere Falls for much of the motive power used about the buildings. The house was lighted with oil lamps last night in default of the electric apparatus. Until two or three years ago the building used an electric plant of its own, but Mr. Tarte "arranged an arrangement" which was criticised at the time and which proved rather expensive and is now rather inconvenient, by which the buildings were lighted through the local company. Mr. Tarte is in Paris and so does not suffer from the inconvenience.

S. D. S.

MAKE THE BEST OF IT.

She (dreamily)—Just think of it, dear! In another month we shall be married!
He—Well, let's be happy while we can.—Larks.

KNOW BETTER.

Mrs. Jones—I wonder your friend Brown has never married.
Mr. Jones—Oh, bless you, Brown is not half such a fool as he looks.—Larks.

CORNS

Permanently and Painlessly Cured Within a Few Days.

A New and Successful Treatment that gives ease and comfort at first application. Prompt, Reliable, Efficient.

PUTNAMS PAINLESS CORN EXTRACTOR

Putnam's Corn Extractor never disappoints. It goes right to the root of the trouble and will remove the source of your annoyance in short order. Beware of the cheap, poisonous and dangerous substitutes that are on the market. Putnam's is sure, safe and harmless. Sold by all druggists.

DO YOU SUFFER FROM

Does a dull aching of nerve or muscle, or the acuter pangs of neuralgia, toothache, or lumbago make life a misery? Thousands are compelled to suffer day in and day out because they are unacquainted with the extraordinary pain subduing power of Nerviline—the great nerve pain cure. Nerviline cures toothache, rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, cramps, colic, summer complaint, nausea. Nerviline is the most prompt, penetrating and effectual remedy for all pain, whether internal, external or local.

Catarrhozone cures Catarrh and Asthma

"TAKE CARE

of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves." Large things are but an aggregation of small things. If we take care of the small things we are in effect taking care of the large things which the small things combine to make. That is the philosophy of the old financial proverb, and its application is as broad as human life.

Take care of what you eat, when you eat, and how you eat, and your stomach will take care of itself. But who takes care of such trivial things? That is why, someday, the majority of people have to take care of the stomach. When that day comes, there is no aid so effective in undoing the results of past carelessness as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It strengthens the stomach, and restores the organs of digestion and nutrition to a condition of healthy activity. It cures biliousness, heartburn, flatulence, indigestion, palpitation, dizziness, cold extremities, and a score of other ailments which are but the symptoms of disorder in the stomach and its allied organs.

If you are sick you can consult Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y., by letter, free of charge. Each letter is treated as sacredly confidential, and an answer is promptly sent in a plain envelope without printing or advertising upon it.

"I was troubled with very frequent headaches, often accompanied by severe vomiting," writes Miss Mary Belle Summerton, of San Diego, Duval Co., Texas. "My bowels were irregular and my stomach and liver seemed continually out of order. Often I could eat almost nothing, and sometimes absolutely nothing for twenty-four hours at a time. I was entirely unfit for work, and my whole system seemed so run-down that I feared a severe sick spell and was very much discouraged. I was advised to try Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and did so with such satisfactory results that before finishing the third bottle I felt perfectly able to undertake the duties attending public school life, and contracted to do so. I most heartily advise those suffering with indigestion, and its attendant evils, to give this great medicine a fair trial."

Use only Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets with "Golden Medical Discovery" when a laxative is needed.

BOARD OF TRADE.

Winter Port Business Shows Great Increase Over Last Year.

The Total Exports Valued at More Than Ten Million of Dollars.

Report on Technical Schools—Interesting Address on Manchester Ship Canal and Steamship Service.

The board of trade met on Tuesday afternoon, the president, D. J. McLaughlin, in the chair. Among those present were Thos. McAvity, J. N. Sutherland, C. E. L. Jarvis, R. B. Emerson, Joseph Bullock, G. Wetmore Merritt, T. H. Hall, Mayor Daniel, W. M. Jarvis, W. O. Raymond, W. F. Hatheway, J. A. Likely, S. Schofield, F. S. Sharpe, E. Peters, H. D. McLeod, Ald. Robinson, Thos. L. Hay, J. Edgecombe, C. F. Kinnear, F. O. Allison.

The minutes of last session were adopted, also the following summary of council proceedings since last board meeting:

"Since the last regular monthly meeting of the board the following matters have occupied the attention of the council. In response to the request of the council, James Thom, manager of Furness, Withy & Co., Montreal, has written to the president stating that the board of directors of Furness, Withy & Co. have decided to make the rates to St. John and Halifax the same, and have instructed the London office to act accordingly. Mr. Thom also writes that their promise in regard to cost of transportation from west to east St. John will be carried out, and that this will apply to all who have claims for transportation.

"Efforts have been made to induce the delegation of paper makers which propose to visit Canada from England shortly to visit St. John before returning to England, and the president is now in correspondence with the parties interested in England to that effect.

"It has been decided to call the merchants' week committee together to consider the question of holding a merchants' week this year, and a meeting of that committee will probably be held early in May."

Dr. Bridges, for the committee on technical schools, reported as follows, the report being on motion referred to the council of the board:

"Your committee to whom was submitted a letter from the Ottawa board of trade referring to a resolution passed by that board 'that the technical schools' committee should wait upon the dominion government for the purpose of urging the appointment of a commission to investigate and report upon the systems of technical education as conducted elsewhere, especially in Great Britain and Germany,' and asking the St. John board to pass a resolution 'approving of a memorial upon the subject generally to his excellency the governor general in council,' beg to report:

"That they have carefully considered the said letter and memorial and believe that it would be greatly in the interest of the country for a commission of able men to investigate and report upon the systems of technical education prevailing in both Great Britain and Germany, but consider that the words 'and the United States' should be added, inasmuch as that country is now one of the foremost in technical school education. With this addition your committee would recommend the endorsement of the resolution passed by the Ottawa board of trade.

"Your committee while in accord with the general tenor of the memorial to the governor general, beg to say that in their opinion technical schools to be of any material advantage to the maritime provinces should be established in those provinces. The majority of our young men who might wish to go through a technical course would seldom have sufficient means to pay the expense involved in travelling and boarding in distant cities.

"Your committee would therefore suggest that the Ottawa board of trade be requested to add to the proposed memorial a prayer that any aid granted by the federal government shall be for the purpose of establishing technical schools in that part of each province advantageously situated for the purpose. It is the opinion of your committee that if grants could be secured from the federal government to be used in the manner above suggested it might also be possible to obtain additional provincial and municipal aid sufficient to sustain one technical school for the maritime provinces, if not one in each of the larger cities."

The secretary submitted the following complete comparative statement of winter port trade for the seasons of 1898-9 and 1899-1900, which shows an increase this season of nearly 50 per cent.

WINTER EXPORTS 1898-1900.

Grain.	Bushels.	Value.
Wheat	2,865,809	$2,113,520
Corn	None	
Oats, 40 bags	837,071	263,405
Peas, 5,348 bags	164,196	89,281
Rye	60,562	35,188
Buckwheat	1,884	1,130
Barley	417,922	161,207
Beans	None	
Grain not designated	40	30
	4,347,484	$2,663,771
5,388 bags, estimated at 3½ bush. per bag	18,858	
	4,366,342	
Flour and meal, pkgs	253,818	$885,829
Cattle	15,451	1,036,590
Sheep	2,911	22,894
Horses	481	44,270
	18,846	$1,103,754
Deals, boards, etc, spl ft.	29,233,133	405,187
Other lumber, spl feet	....	89,915
		$495,102
	Tons.	
Hay	3,148	34,136
	Pkgs.	
Cheese	85,689	772,574
Butter	3,898	52,636
Eggs	16,114	84,134
Meats	70,557	2,616,900
	Bales.	
Wood pulp	38,384	131,491
	Pkgs.	
Manufactures	37,668	359,331
	Barrels.	
Apples	59,867	176,329
Lard	88,791	533,833
Miscellaneous	75,099	665,611
		$10,567,051

THE TONNAGE.

	1898-9.	1899-1900.
Inward	13,242	22,529
Outward	145,246	191,754

Number of vessels, 64 in 1899-1900.
Number of vessels, 61 in 1898-1899.

COMPARISON WITH 1898-9:

Increases.		Value.
Wheat (bush)	1,510,554	$1,025,826
Oats	131,076	39,973
Barley	409,575	157,525
Other grain		28
Total grain	1,384,859	$1,222,652
Flour and meal (pkgs)	66,948	$242,403
Cattle (number)	6,875	486,929
Sheep (number)	1,287	12,648
Horses (number)	198	13,240
Total live stock	8,358	$512,817
Lumber (sup feet)	7,412,301	184,521
Hay (tons)	357	1,348
Cheese (pkgs)	17,402	166,624
Eggs (pkgs)	3,782	33,236
Meats (pkgs)	28,101	856,180
Wood pulp	....	23,846
Lard (pkgs)	88,791	523,895
Grand total (increase)		$3,768,720
Decreases.		
Corn (bush)	633,292	$244,351
Peas (bush)	3,728	9,741
Rye (bush)	10,121	14,812
Buckwheat (bush)	17,597	9,586
Beans (bush)	1,820	1,587
Total grain	666,468	$280,078
Butter (pkgs)	7,528	$100,191
Manufactures (pkgs)	9,676	33,758
Apples (bbls)	3,277	7,294
Miscellaneous	20,228	66,804
Grand total decreases		$408,125
Net increase for season		$3,360,595

Or over 45 per cent over the season of 1898-9.

The president introduced R. Dawson Harling of Toronto, representative in Canada of the Manchester Ship Canal and Manchester Line Steamship Co., who made a very interesting and instructive address. Mr. Harling pointed out that the first steamship line ever formed in Manchester was established to run between that port and Canadian ports. Therefore St. John people should be especially interested in Manchester and the trade of the great canal. Proceeding, he dwelt upon the importance of Manchester as a great manufacturing centre. Until twenty years ago the manufacturers did not fully realize how much they were paying to get their raw material, etc., from the seaboard. But competition in the cotton trade from China, Japan, and other countries where factories were erected forced them to look about for means of cheapening their own cost of production. As competition grew keener the depression became more marked, and mills began to close. In 1883 or 1884 the city corporation appointed a commission of enquiry, whose conclusion was that the port charges at Liverpool and freights thence to Manchester were excessive. Daniel Adamson urged the construction of a canal to Manchester, a scheme that had been mooted as long ago as 200 years. There are 177 towns more or less dependent on Manchester for produce supplies. They approved of the canal. A bill to provide for its construction was passed through the commons but thrown out in the lords. In 1884 a bill was adopted by the lords but rejected by the commons. In 1885 a third bill was sent up and adopted by both. After dwelling upon the opposition of Liverpool, and the other great difficulties to be overcome, Mr. Harling gave a most interesting account of the vast amount of material used in the construction of the canal, the extent of the harbor works at Manchester, and the enormous expenditure involved. He next showed the very large increase in the import trade of Manchester, and spoke of the new buildings that have sprung up on the banks of the canal, such as a huge abattoir, grain elevator, cold storage warehouse, huge oil tanks, and manufacturing industries of various kinds, which are a direct result of the building of the canal.

Manchester as a distributing centre was next discussed. The 177 neighboring towns send 2,000 men each week to the Manchester produce exchange to buy for them. To all of these towns the canal is of the greatest benefit. Mr. Harling gave striking illustrations to prove the latter statement. The population of Manchester and Salford is 750,000. Within a radius of twenty miles are 8,000,000 people who can be more easily reached through Manchester than any other port. Perishable products, which require the minimum of handling, are most satisfactorily marketed through Manchester. This applied to chilled meats, eggs and produce of that sort. The claim was proved in the case of a large shipment of Chicago chilled meat last year.

As to the Canadian steamship service, Mr. Harling pointed out that it was only two years old. There had been some great disappointments. The cost of steamers advanced and contracts for ships could not be filled as soon as expected. Then the war broke out and three of their best steamers went to South Africa. However, they now have eight steamers under commission, and he hoped that next winter there would be a prompt and regular service. After the war ends six boats will be on the Montreal and two on the Quebec route. They are first class boats and the service will be first class. The port of St. John had progressed greatly in the last three years, and he hoped it and the port of Manchester would go on and increase their trade to their mutual benefit. (Applause.)

G. Wetmore Merritt in graceful terms moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Harling. Mayor Daniel seconded the motion, and took occasion to refer to the great work of development done by Manchester, and the encouragement St. John might gain from its example and experience.

The motion was heartily adopted, and President McLaughlin in presenting the same paid a tribute to Mr. Harling and expressed the great pleasure with which all had listened to his very valuable address. The board then adjourned.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.