

OTTAWA LETTER. Some Instructive Information Squeezed Out of Mulock and Sifton.

The Soldiers in the Yukon an Ex- pensive Ornament—Sir Wilfrid on "Little Minds."

The Senate and the Drummond and Trunk Railway Deal—Sir Oliver Mowat's Pledge Must be Redeemed.

OTTAWA, June 28.—The affair of the Yukon telegraph line which has been the last all night session of the house contains some interesting elements besides those discussed in previous letters. It now happens that while no money was voted for this service and while the parliament met on the 18th of March, the government passed the order in council on the 13th of March, authorizing the beginning of a work which was estimated to cost \$1,000,000. Another remarkable feature of the case is the fact that while the order in council authorizing the work to be done was passed on the 13th of March, Mr. Charlson had three days before been appointed and received his instructions from the department of public works to go on with all these services. Under date of the 14th of March Mr. Charlson wrote to Mr. J. B. Charlson informing him "that upon the construction of a telegraph line to connect with Dawson City you have directed me to inform you that he has been pleased to place you in charge of the party which is to proceed immediately to undertake the construction of the said telegraph line."

Mr. Charlson had other duties and was given very large authority to spend money. Among the things he was asked to do in addition to the construction of the telegraph to Dawson was the examination for another telegraph line southward to Quesnel, the improvement of the rivers surveyed by Mr. Coste, the construction of administration buildings at Dawson City, and the examination of the country for a road. He was authorized to purchase supplies for all these services and to procure such assistance as he needed. Mr. Goben explained that he had placed \$15,000 in Mr. Charlson's hands and authorized him to deposit in the bank whatever balance there might be when he reached Dawson, or if he had no account money he could draw for more. It will be seen that the government began by taking money that was not voted and giving it to Mr. Charlson, and ended by giving Mr. Charlson a free hand to spend money on his own account.

Mr. Charlson had gained a considerable notoriety as a contractor before Mr. Tarte introduced him at Ottawa, and there was a general expression of opinion on the opposition side of the house in the house that he was a man to be made a profuse and generous use of the opportunities allowed him. Mr. Charlson began well. After privately asking for prices from only three dealers, Mr. Charlson went to his son, a retail store keeper in this city, and bought \$5,000 worth of telegraph wire. Mr. Charlson junior is not an extensive dealer in telegraph wire, and the prices paid were excessive. There is a common impression that Mr. Charlson senior is interested in business with Mr. Charlson junior, and that Mr. Charlson junior has had a considerable pull in supplying goods for the public works department, his father being one of the purchasers for Mr. Tarte. Mr. Charlson senior starts out with a salary of \$4,000 a year on this enterprise.

It was five o'clock in the morning before Mr. Fielding, who represents Mr. Tarte in the latter's absence, proposed these prices to Mr. Charlson. In the early part of the all night sitting the acting minister of public works was very reticent in giving information and very flippant in making replies. Moreover he was not as intransigent as a minister ought to be when he wants money from the house. Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the course of his apology for the government's change of base on the telegraph matter, explained that the department had a vote out of which Mr. Charlson's \$15,000 was taken. Mr. Fielding at once backed him up. When Sir Wilfrid was asked to explain, this is the item he mentioned: "Telegraph line, B. C., \$12,000." This was voted last year.

It did not take Mr. Foster long to show that the money given to Mr. Charlson did not come from this vote. The last year's vote of \$12,000 was expended in paying salaries and for repairs on the government lines already established in British Columbia and operated by the department of public works. There was no money left from the vote for the Yukon enterprise, which is not in British Columbia at all, and the attempt to make it appear that the money was paid out of this vote was a miserable little piece of deception quite unworthy of a minister of the crown, but not unusual. After this sort of quibbling and after refusing to tell the committee whether Mr. Tarte's Charlson was the same as the Crown's Charlson, Mr. Fielding seemed to be surprised that he could not get his estimates through as fast as he liked. If he continues this style of doing business there are many more surprises in store for him.

Mr. Martin is having a controversy over the case of the destruction of lobster traps and ropes belonging to Benjamin Compton & Company of Bell River. The Comptons say that they closed up their factory before the expiry of the fishing season, but that on account of the bad weather they were not able to get their traps to shore. The property was afterwards seized by the cruiser Acadia, and the

whole of it, costing about \$100, was sold, so Mr. Martin says, at a hole and corner sale at Charlottetown, without the knowledge of the company, for \$8.96, out of which the expenses had to be paid. The company returns that they had made every effort to get their traps in, and were engaged in landing them when the seizure was made. It is also stated that the ropes which were seized by the cruiser were being used at the time in taking in the traps.

Among the letters read by Mr. Martin was one from Compton & Co., explaining how they came to be late in taking in their traps. The writer says: "As we had permission from the department of marine and fisheries to ship our goods without being stamped, having sold under contract, we were therefore compelled to have our goods in Charlottetown before the 20th of July." It would appear that this permission, which was apparently a special arrangement unauthorized by law, led to the trouble, for while the company was taking the goods to Charlottetown, the time expired for taking up the traps and the weather became so bad that the delay occurred.

Sir Louis Davies does not appear to have any explanation of this special permission about marking goods, but he declared that the officers had to be sustained in the performance of their duty, and that he could not interfere with the course of law in the matter. Mr. Fielding, on the other hand, says that he does not want to weaken the power of the government to deal with matters like this, but that in the case in question there was no evidence to show any intention to violate the law or that the law was in fact violated.

OTTAWA, June 24.—A weak point was discovered yesterday in Mr. Mulock's postal revenue and expenditure calculations. The postmaster general says that the reduction of postage to two cents will not cost a loss of revenue of more than half a million a year, and he hopes that the increase in the number of letters will eventually be so great that there will be no loss at all. His revenue for five months ending the 31st of May was \$1,190,000 short of what it was in the same period last year, and figuring after this rate he makes the shortage about \$450,000 a year. In this calculation Mr. Mulock made no allowance for any additional gains from newspaper postage, which has brought him in a snug sum of money. So far he has only been able to discover an increase of ten per cent. in the number of letters other than drop letters mailed. In order to make up the total loss by reducing the postage from three cents to two cents he should be able to show an increase of correspondence of 50 per cent.

But it turned out in the discussion yesterday that Mr. Mulock had omitted another important element. Some surprise was expressed at the fact that there is an such increase in the postal expenditure as would be expected from the expensive services of the department in the Yukon. The postal revenue from the Yukon and from letters sent to that country, as well as that growing out of Yukon enterprises which have stimulated trade and travel and financial operations in the country generally, is very considerable. But it was discovered by Mr. Foster's examination of Mr. Mulock and Mr. Sifton in the committee of supply yesterday that while Mr. Mulock takes in the postal revenue from the Yukon he does not charge the department with the postal expenditure there. Practically the whole mail service in that region is performed by the mounted police. They have transported the mail on all parts of the district wherever mails were delivered and have charged their expenses to the interior department. It turns out on examination that a great part of the work of these mounted police in the Yukon was done by Foster led up to it very cleverly. The mounted police in the Yukon cost the country this year \$750,000 or so. Mr. Foster was trying to gather from Mr. Sifton what they did for their money, as they cost over \$4,000 a year for each man. Mr. Sifton explained in detail giving a very good account of the excellent work performed by this magnificent force. It appeared that the work of the postal department was a very important part of that of the mounted police duty, and that this feature of their services would have cost a large sum if Mr. Mulock had been obliged to pay for it in regular way. Now, since Mr. Mulock gets the Yukon revenue, it is reasonable that he should be charged with the Yukon postal expenditure, and Mr. Foster presented the matter as a fight that the postmaster general admitted the necessity of making an appointment at the end of the year whereby transportation of mails in the Yukon would be charged to his department and credited to the department of the interior. When this is done Mr. Mulock's deficit will be increased probably by some \$200,000.

It is not yet very clear what service the soldiers have performed in the Yukon. We know that the country has paid about a million dollars for transportation, supplies, and pay of the force in that country. The mounted police were necessary, and have been useful. It does not yet appear that the soldiers were necessary or that they have performed any essential services. Mr. Sifton gives a lurid story of what might have been if the lawless people of Dawson had not been overawed by the military, but the common report from that country is that the great body of people in Dawson are law-abiding and are supporters of law and order. No one who comes from there expresses a doubt that the mounted police would have been quite sufficient for all practical purposes. If a force of constabulary were needed there are plenty of courageous people in the town who would have been quite willing to serve as local officers at a cost probably of not more than the price of Mr. Borden's soldiers. As if in the country has expended an amount equal to the whole postal revenue of St. John or Halifax on a service which is apparently unnecessary and is likely to be discontinued.

Mr. Sifton has his faults, but he has

this advantage over Mr. Fielding, that he recognizes the right of parliament to ask questions and the necessity of giving all explanations that he can. He makes no flippant replies. He is not impatient in his treatment of inquirers on the opposition side, and appears to be seriously anxious to give a reason for the expenditure that he has made or intends to make. His reasons may not be good, but he gives them in detail and without resorting to close and careful scrutiny. The result was that Mr. Sifton got through his vote of hundreds of thousands of dollars last night before two o'clock, while Mr. Fielding was busy until six o'clock in the morning over one or two small items concerning which he would not give civil answers. As one of Mr. Fielding's supporters observed, "Mr. Sifton is only a few thousand dollars cheaper for a minister in supply to be civil than to try to be smart."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier offered some observations yesterday about the "little minds" of the opposition. It was about a matter in the railway department which had been purchased at Mount Stewart for the purpose of an extension and where the railway had been extended along the wharf without a previous authority from parliament for the expenditure. It was a matter in many other respects, and the purchase seems to have been in the interests of the community. No one objected to the expenditure in itself, but Mr. Foster, in regard to this item, in his vigorous speech by Sir Wilfrid Laurier: "That the acceptance of gifts or testimonials of any kind on the part of ministers of the crown or any member of their families from contractors, government officials or other persons having pecuniary relations with the government, is entirely opposed to sound principles of administration, is calculated to bring parliamentary government into contempt, and the example thus given tends to corrupt and demoralize the officials serving under ministers who have accepted or permitted the acceptance of gifts or testimonials as aforesaid."

OTTAWA, June 26.—The last meeting of the public accounts committee completed the investigation of the case of Collector Costigan's salary. The Hon. John Costigan had announced at a previous meeting that he intended making a statement. At the last meeting he said that he had made up his mind not to do so, as some of the matters which he would have discussed might be calculated to make bad feelings. He observed moreover that the case was very well understood, as it was H. A. Costigan who had resigned and been given anything more than neglect of duty, anything from his office without leave, drunkenness and wrongful withholding of public money in his possession. Mr. Costigan urged the point rather strongly that there was no dishonest or improper taking of money on the part of his son. The money which he withheld came into his possession properly and the neglect to pay it over constituted the offence. There was no doubt in his mind, as there was none in the mind of the minister of inland revenue that the withholding of the money on the three occasions mentioned was entirely in the interest of the public habit of drinking to which H. A. Costigan was then addicted.

Mr. Costigan supported the contention of Sir Henry Joly that Collector Costigan had not been allowed to go unpunished. For some months he was under suspension, and his removal to Ottawa with \$600 reduction in salary was a heavy penalty. Sir Henry had sworn that Hon. Mr. Costigan had frequently visited him before these troubles began and afterwards he had tried to arrange for a transfer of Collector Costigan to the east. This could only be effected by the superannuation of Mr. Bittel, who did not want to retire, and according to Mr. Miall, was performing his duties with success. But what could not be done as a favor to Hon. John Costigan was not done, and if the returns cannot be transferred to the place where he wanted to go. The only penalty is the reduction of salary, though the pay is the same as that of the late collector at Ottawa.

The relations of John Costigan with the department of inland revenue appear to have been rather close during the period since his change of government. Sir Henri Joly describes him as a frequent visitor to the department, and it would appear that his visits have not been entirely without results. It is natural that the ex-minister should have the sympathy of his friends in that department. He was long associated with them. Many were his own appointments. All of them, or nearly all, have at one time or another received favors and kindness from Mr. Costigan. For whatever shortcomings there may have been in Mr. Costigan's administration he always stood up for his department and endeavored to secure the highest pay possible for the men about him. No doubt there would be among those officers the strongest sympathy with Mr. Costigan in a matter that must have given him a great deal of anxiety, and Sir Henri Joly appears to have been entirely correct in his effort to protect Collector Costigan from the results of his unfortunate habits.

When one compares the extreme consideration shown in this case with the severity displayed in some other instances the more reason to congratulate the ex-minister on the outcome. Every day we hear of some officer thrown out of his position because some one asserts that he attended a political convention or discussed politics with a newspaper editor. The other day papers were brought down about a lighthouse keeper in Nova Scotia who was charged with canvassing and political partisanship, but who was then on investigation to have been doing more than attend a public meeting at which a candidate was nominated. This man was summarily dismissed without retriving allowance, without consideration of any kind, and without even a suggestion that he was "charged of life." It is a pity that without in his duty. He did not get drunk. He did not go away without leave. He did not neglect his duties.

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linens comes from the
use of Surprise Soap on
wash day.
Surprise Soap has peculiar
qualities for laundry use.
A pure hard Soap.
5 cents a cake.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

Two Pens that Write as One.

To the Editor of the Sun:
It is strange, what a remarkable parallelism there is between thought and expression of a writer in the New York Evening Post and the editor of the Daily Telegraph. Below are a short editorial from the latter paper of date June 27, and an extract from an Evening Post article in the same week.

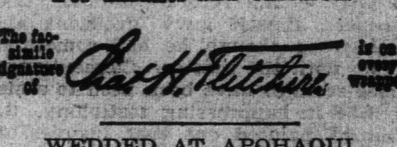
"The people of Norway and Sweden are not well pleased at the abrogation by the Czar of the ancient constitution of Finland. They do not relish the idea of their boundaries being practically continuous with those of their gigantic neighbor. Even after her submission by Russia in the early years of this century, Finland, with her autonomous government, her little territorial army, and her peculiar national characteristics was regarded by Scandinavian statesmen as a sort of buffer state, between themselves and the Muscovite empire. But it is no longer possible to entertain this view now that the Finnish forces have been absorbed into the Russian army. The military power of the Czar, as has been pointed out already in the London press, has now advanced to the very frontier of Norway and Sweden, and should there be any occasion, might easily be tempted to overrun them. It is not pretended that there is any immediate probability of such aggression, but the feasibility of it occasions a certain degree of uneasiness in the minds of the people of the North." (Evening Post.)

Surely the editor of the Telegraph might have added that he or some other wise person had made these reflections previously in the New York paper.

26 June, 1899.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.



WEDDED AT APOHAQUIL

On Wednesday morning, June 28, the Episcopal church at Apohaquil was the scene of one of the most brilliant events that has occurred in the village for a long time, the occasion being the marriage of Miss Ida Pearson, daughter of George Pearson, to James H. Manchester of the same place. About 11 o'clock the bride entered the church on the arm of her brother, Dr. Pearson of Sussex, the choir singing 'The Voice that Breathed O'er Eden.' The bride was accompanied by her sister, Miss Alice Pearson, and Miss Emma Manchester. The bride was attired in a beautiful dress of white cashmere, with satin trimming of same color, and train with bridal veil, and carrying a prayer book. The groom was supported by his brother, Dr. John Manchester. The church was beautifully decorated with ferns, mosses and potted plants, with a large arch under which the bride and groom stood, Miss Edna Spruce presided at the organ, playing the Wedding March while the happy couple left the church. The nuptial knot was tied by Rev. Scovell Neales of Sussex. After a sumptuous lunch at the bride's home, the wedding party, including the C. P. R. for Nova Scotia, amid showers of rice and roses, the bride looked charming in a going-away gown of brown cloth, with hat to match.

Reliable news in the Semi-Weekly Sun

Every Woman Understands.

It isn't necessary to name over the symptoms of disorders which come under the heading of "female troubles." Every woman understands the meaning of the terrible headaches, backaches, pains in the shoulders and limbs, bearing down feelings, irritability, nervousness, despondency and gloomy forebodings.

The drain on the system and the irregular menstrual functions which cause these sufferings are due to an exhausted condition of the nerves, which is entirely overcome by the use of

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food.

Thousands of women tell of new health and happiness obtained by the use of this great restorative. They tell of sufferings ended, of pale cheeks made rosy, of wasted forms rounded out and of new vitality given to the whole body.

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food is a positive cure for female weakness, leucorrhoea and all its peculiar troubles from "burning" of the system. It contains a "bar at all dealers, or by mail along with a copy of Dr. Chase's new book, "The Life of Life and How to Cure Them," by EDMANSON, BATES & CO., Toronto.

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