## OTTAWA LETTER.

## Immigration Branch of Interior Department a Mere Political Machine.

Chiefly Used to Provide Berths for Men Who Have Rendered Campaign Service of a Shady Character.

Wasting About Half a Million a Year-While Canadians Have to Shift for Themselves, Sifton is Bonusing the Seum of the Old World.

government in the house continue to ago the record of the previous week's debate by parties was given, showing that the government side was keeping well ahead in the number of columns filled per day. Here is the record for the week now last past, with the exception of Saturday, for which the Hansard is not yet printed. It shows that the government side is still keeping the lead in obstruction. The figures represent columns of Hansard:

gov't. op'n. Monday .... 45 Tuesday .. ..... 71 Wednesday .. ..... 71 Thursday .... 69 50 Friday .... 70

The ministers persist in making long speeches to show that the country is under enormous obligations to them, whereas at this period of the session ministers hitherto have done very little talking and given the house every opportunity to pass the estimates rap-

The postmaster general has a little bill that he calls a conciliation bill. He deferred introducing it until the fifth month of the session, and then made a long speech, telling the house and the country that it was the most important measure introduced for many a long day. Not satisfied with that, on the second reading, which took place last week, he made another speech, in which he expressed in large words, and many of them, how the interest of labor was advanced by this legislation. It is necessary that the speeches should contain much, for the bill itself contains very little. It offers in time of strike a board of conciliation after both parties have asked for it. Mr. Puttee, on the government side, elected as a labor representative. Mr. Ingram, on the oposition side, was elworking men's riding. labor questions. Both of these memaccept the bill as a sort of introduction to possible legislation in the future, but they do not attach much importance to it in itself. Mr. Puttee laconically observed that he at least will not be disappointed in the What he wants is a board which can settle disputes, even though one of the parties does not ask for it. It agree to refer the matter to arbitration, there is not much need of a board of conciliation. The thing desired will already have been accomplished. What he wants is some way of getting at a settlement at an earlier

However, Mr. Mulock has made his speech and everybody has accepted his bill and it will be law. Mr. Powell and several other members think that it may serve a purpose in bringing the two parties together, although they are assumed to be together before the bill becomes operative.

is no longer any doubt, and in fact, deprive the miners who had built there is no denial that Mr. Blair has been charging to capital and thus taking out of regular expenditure statements large sums which under previous ministers would have been charged egainst the receipts of the year. Mr. Powell has gone over the accounts and the reports of the Intercolonial from the beginning. He has prepared a sheet which gives the charges to capital for all purposes and the charges to expenditure for such purposes as repairs to engines, repairs to passenger cars, repairs to other cars, snow ploughs and flangers, ties upon the road, lumber, wharves, buildings, platforms, rails and fencings, repairs to tools, repairs to water tanks, etc. He also has a statement of the new rails, new rolling stock procured, and of the old stock discarded. And all these statements are made for each year for the history of the road. With this before him, Mr. Powell is able to check any statement that Mr. Blair makes when he claims to be following a precedent. For instance, if Mr. Blair says that the late government charged certain large amounts for tanks or sidings to capital, Mr. Powell asks him to name the year and the locality. If Mr. Blair fails, as he usually does, Mr. Powell is able to give him full information on the point.

It is now established that Mr Blair's surplus for last year and the year before would disappear altogether and become large deficits if he applied Mr. Haggart's system book-keeping to his accounts. taking it the other way, if Mr. Haggart had made his charges as Mr. Blair does, he would have had a larger greater activity in traffic generally. mouth from his too much boasting. low. But the absolute proof that the immigrants into the labor market, and out, and are giving away our own peo- if every member came here determin-

OTTAWA, July 9.-The government | In his long speech, published in his organ still charges the opposition in own organ, he charged that Mr. Hagparliament with obstruction, while the gart had degraded the road by cutting government and the supporters of the down certain expenditures made by the ministers who went before him. do the most of the talking. A week Mr. Blair did not even claim that he had restored the outlay to what it was before Mr. Haggart's time, and Mr. Powell shows conclusively that the minister of today has not spen that as much money on the maintenance of the road and works in proportion to mileage on current account as Mr. Haggart did. Of course Mr. Blair has spent a great deal more than Mr. Haggart or Mr. Haggart's predecessors, but the extra expenditure does not appear in his balance sheet. He charges it to capital and borrows the money.

> And speaking of expenditures, it will be observed that the government press are already reporting Mr. Fielding's balance sheet for the fiscal year which closed with the month of June. They find that his surplus was larger than he claimed, and that notwithstanding the capital expenditure, the debt has decreased. This is all very frivolous. The accounts for the year will not be closed for two months and during that period there will be many millions of expenditure chargeable to last year. Yesterday the representative of the Queen assented to bills voting money for last year's expenditure. A year ago, at this time, somewhat similar boasts were made. After that some seven or eight millich dollars were charged to the previous year's account. Wherefore the public would do well to wait until the accountant has finished his job.

A little controversy took place Saturday between Mr. Fielding and Mr. McDougall of Cape Breton. Mr. Mc-Dougall and Mr. Gillies are persistent in their efforts to obtain better traffic accommodation for their island. Mr. Gillies particularly made a strong case in favor of the improvement of ected as a conservative, but as a for- | St. Peter's canal, which has now bemer railway brakeman and engine come a more important waterway by driver and as the representative of a reason of the developments at Sydhe has ney and the increased travel and trafalways taken a prominent part in fic towards Newfoundland. Mr. Gillies rather astonished the minister and the house by a comparison of traffic between that canal and three canals in Ontario which cost a good deal for maintenance and repairs, and do not have as much business as the one affording an entrance into the bill, because he expects nothing from Bras D'Or Lake. After some discussion on this point there was a reference to Port Morien. Mr. Paterson was explaining some customs changes strikes him that when the two sides and it was shown that Port Morien was not the place that it used to be, because important collieries there had been closed.

This led up to a discussion of the coal question generally. Mr. Fielding charged that Mr. McDougall had gone to the governor general and done all he could to prevent the agreement with the Dominion Coal company whereby the development of Sydney became possible. Mr. McDougall has several times contradicted that statement and declared once more that he had no share in the movement. He did condemn one feature in the arrangement, and that was the one The question of Intercolonial rail- which allowed the company to close way balances still crops up. There down any mines they chose and thus homes or acquired an interest in that district of all their property.

The discussion went back to the tariff question, and Mr. McDougall stated that Mr. Fielding had fought the coal duty for twenty years, denouncing the protection on this Nova Scotia industry and thus assisting its enemies in Ontario to fight the late government on the issue. Mr. Fielding made two speeches in which he declared that the one issue in the whole controversy of the coal tariff was the question whether the Nova Scotia coal could find a market in the United States under reciprocity or free trade. Mr. Fielding said he and his party always held that it could, and the proof that they were right was found in the fact that Cape Breton coal was now sold in New England.

Mr. McDougall says that was not the controversy at all. No party in Nova Scotia objected to the free admission of Nova Scotia coal into the United States. That was a question for the United States to determine and could not be fought out in Cape Breton or in Canada, where they had no control of the United States tariff. It was the Canadian tariff that was in controversy in Canada, and the Canadian tariff developed the coal industry in Cape Breton, increasing the output to three or four times what it had been under free trade in coal. It was that tariff that made the Whitney syndicate possible. It was the protective tariff and the iron bounties which made the Sydney industry possible While it is true that culm coal is sent to New England this could not be done if the Canadian market for other coal surplus in every year than Mr. Blair was not secured by the protective Besides these immigration officers has had in any year, notwithstanding tariff. As it was, the price of coal to there is Mr. Jury, a former political the increase of business and the the Nova Scotia people had been ad- labor agitator in Teronto, who went vanced, while the price of the article Mr. Blair is convicted out of his own sent to the United States was very the late government for bringing the would be worth twice that sum to keep the work could be done more quickly

vative party was right in its and that Mr. Fielding was fought it was the fact that he had that the policy was still in force. S. D. S.

OTTAWA, July 10 .- Mr. Wilson of one of the talkers of the house, but he is a member who does a good deal does take up a case he is apt to handle it somewhat thoroughly. The committee on agriculture, of which he is a member, gave a good deal of attention this session to immigration matters, taking testimony from the officers here in regard to the working of the department, and particularly gathering all that could be learned from Mr. Frank Pedley, the chief of the establishment here, and "Hug-thebe an inspector of the agencies across the water. These two officials, who were appointed by Mr. Sifton as a re-ward for political services, the character of which need not be discussed here, were not too communicative. They came to the committee with prepared briefs, and these they delivered with fluency and emphasis. But when it came to answering questions and explaining in detail the matters of business and finance, they were not always at home to the committee, Their minds wandered, and, in Mr. Freston's case, the body did also. For one day when the committee inquired for Mr. Preston that they might know in more detail what value he was giving for his money, he was found to have started for England.

Mr. Wilson had a good deal to do with the examination and made a careful study of the reports, storing up information from various sources. Last night, finding Mr. Sifton present he proceeded to expose to the house the situation as he understood it. This he did on a motion of his own against a further increase of \$10,000 which Mr. Sifton wanted to pay to his offi-

At the time of the change of government the expenditure for imnilgration had for some years been less than \$150,000 a year. The largest appropriation, some \$300,000, had been made a good many years before, and it had gradually been reduced to half that figure. Even as it was the liberals then in the house held that it was too high, and Mr. McMullen made a vigorous speench when the bill was \$202,000, insisting that it ought to be reduced to \$200,000.

Today the government is asking for for immigration purposes. 8445,000 About that sum was spent year, and in three years the sum of \$1,267,863 has been this service. Mr. Wilson spent on discussed the manner and direction of the outlay and the value received.

In the first place the immigration branch of the interior department is a political machine. It has been used to provide berths for men who have rendered campaign services of a shady kind, and whose career in connection with the machine had become surrounded with pitfalls. Mr. Preston, who cost the country last year \$3,000 for salary, and some \$2,000 for expenses, was simply pitchforked into the position of inspector because a refuge had to be provided for him. He had managed the machine in the by-elections, with what results the country now knows. He had been twice put into office by the Ontario government, and each time abandoned his job to help the party through an election. He was on the government's hands. An election enquiry was impending. He received his appointment on the morning following that disgraceful West Elgin election, which will be immortalized in the McNish confession.

Now Mr. Preston himself has not been able to show that he has given the country any return for this \$5,000. Mr. Pedley was a campaigner also, and Mr. Wilson strongly criticizes the offensiveness of his conduct before the committee. Mr. McCreary, who has charge of affairs in the west, was a campaign, heeler for Mr. Sifton. He not only managed politics for him but he looked after certain matters of finance. For it is not forgotten that the minister of the interior, who now lives in one of the finest dwellings in Ottawa and keeps up a splendid team of horses, the whole scale of the establishment implying an income much larger than a cabinet minister enjoys, came here in a condition of grave embarrassment. He compromised with the city of Winnipeg in regard to financial operations. Mr. McCreary was one of the parties who assisted in the transaction, and Mr. McCreary has now the best office in the gift of the government within his field of operations.

LaRiviere. Concerning this it is sufficient now to say that it was a case in which a thrifty but poor German farmer and his son applied for homesteads which were declared vacant. Their applications were received and speculator named Mr. Christie caused an application for this land to be made on behalf of two brothers named Wollmann. Through some hocus-pocus the been told that their claim was good. Wollmanns, as it subsequently appeared, had no knowledge of the transaction. They were simply used by the land speculator, who got the land in their name, and then by a mortgage sold it at \$1,000 profit. This little operation by the land shark could not It is said to be one of many transactions in which the settlers are bled and the land sharks make fortunes.

To return to Mr. Wilson's discussion. around the country declaiming against

has been rewarded by appointment policy and that Mr. Fielding was as an immigrant agent in England.
wrong during the twenty years that It is fair to him to say that he has preserved his consistency, by drawing come a convert to it himself and his salary, but retraining from stocking the market with immigrants. Then there is Mr. Devlin, a member of parliament, who revolted on the school question and who has himself lately Napanee, who sits for Lennox, is not written that he was sent to Ireland to get him out of the way. He has stayed out of the way, but according of thinking and study, and when he to last year's returns, every immigrant from Ireland has cost \$14 for immigration service alone in that country, to say nothing of the share of the expenses that belongs to that feeble immigration.

We are carrying on a most expengive campaign in the United States. Among the agents there is a brother of Sir Louis Davies, who has a good salary which he nearly doubles by a Machine" Preston, who is supposed to most generous scale of travelling ex-There is a Mr. Holmes. whose brother through the favour of the ballot slipping machine sits for West Huron. Mr. Holmes operates in the Western States, with great advantage to himself, though it is not observed that the people where he labors are tumbling over each other in their haste to get to Canada. Over 250 agents of various kinds have received salaries or commissions for their services in the United States in obtaining immigration for Canada. Over \$20,000 is expended in printing and advertising in that country. No one knows exactly what the result is, but according to Mr. Wilson the country is paying for expenditure in the United States alone more than \$10 'a head for every man, woman and child who comes across the border. Many of these do not stay. Many would come if there were no agencies. Probably if one could find out exactly how many bona fide settlers were induced to come to Canada from the United States by the labors of these egents it will be seen that every soul represented \$25 or \$30 expenditure.

> In Scotland much money was spent with very little results. Altogether the result of the outlay of between \$400,000 and \$500,000 is the arrival of perhaps 25,000 immigrants, including the Doukhobors and the Galicians, who are a good deal more anxious to come than most Canadians are to have them. The government claims over 40,000 immigrants, but as Mr. Wilson and Mr. Clancy point out, they cannot possibly be discovered anywhere in Canada.

The fact seems to be that the country is spending about \$100 a year for every family of immigrants obtained. If this expenditure was swept away altogether and every immigrant agent were sent about his business, we would still have a large part of this immigration. The Doukhobors would still come if we wanted them. 'The Galicians, the Italians, the Arabians, the Jew peddlers, the Chinese, the Japanese, will still flock in if we do not take measures to stop them.

As for the more desirable settlers, the Irish, Scotch and English farmers, the agriculturists from the United States, the thrifty Scandinavians and North Germans, these we shall always have coming in if the suitable opportunity is given to them to find good homes and good opportunities. which gave us so large a part of the present population of the older provinces, were not brought out by methods such as these. There always will be a certain stream of immigration from Europe to America. So great mineral resources and valuable their way to us.

Why should we pour out our money in this absolutely reckless fashion, in the attempt to gather in all kinds of people in our drag net and fling then among our own brethren who are struggling to make this a good country? Some day our successors will be filled with wonder to think that the Canadians of this time possessed such a feverish desire to get people of all climes and character to settle among them. Tthey will say takes an attitude of resistance. Last that Canadians placed a very low value on the privileges of Canadian citizenship when they sent it begging among the slums of Europe. Thrifty moral and educated people need this country as much as it needs them. Canadians will yet regret that it did not reserve its heritage, its opportunities, its privileges of citizenship for the test classes of people.

But even from the point of view of Mr. Sifton, who seems to be anxious to gather in everybody and everything, his department is a failure. He is paying more for the material he gets than ought to be paid for the best stock in the world. All the while, in spite of the boast of the government, notwith-There is a good deal of complaint standing the falsehood that was put in concerning this gentleman, and one the mouth of the governor general at case was discussed yesterday by Mr. the beginning of the session, the movement from Canada to the United States goes on the same as in former years. Mr. Wallace showed this by the statistics of settlers' effects, and his statement will be verified by the observation in all parts of the country. so were their deposits. A certain land | The factories of New England are still recruited by young men and maidens from our French speaking population. No one can travel on the street cars in a great American city without first mentioned applicants, who had meeting Canadian conductors and motormen. We find them in the sawwere ruled out and possession was mills of Michigan and Minnesota, in given to the Wollmanns. Now these the mines of Pennsylvania and Virginia, in the silver and gold district, in the orange groves of California and Florida. We find them in the steamers and schooners of the United States coasting trade, and in the great railoperation got held of it himself and way service. Our young men from the technical schools obtain situations in United States industries. Our girls have occurred without the sympathetic abound in the establishments where co-operation of Mr. Sifton's officials. nurses are trained and may be found in the sick room of every United States

The exodus is and will be, and all the governor general's speeches, all the ministerial boasts, and all the grit editorials cannot change that fact. We are buying immigrants at \$20 or \$30 a head, many of whom it

Mr. Puttee, the member for Winnipeg, who is called a labor representative, put in his protest last night egainst Mr. Sifton's policy. He is a supporter of the government, but there are some things which he cannot dibodied

gest, and the political immigration machine is one of them. Mr. Puttee urges the government to Sifton's army of able pensioners, meaning the immigration agents, and to something to assist the Canadian settler who was born here and wants to stay. He protests against the favors that are given to strangers and denied to our own people. The Doukhobors groups and colonies, while a half a dozen young men from Eastern Can-ada who go west could only get alter-nate sections, and must therefore live far apart. The Doukhobor has a bonus given him when he comes. The government lends him money when he settles. Then he plants himself down in some kind of a hut, leaves his women folks to do he work on the land and goes off to work for Mackenzie and Mann on their railway contracts at a lower price than any Canadian will accept. He is the Chinaman of the middle country, and therefore a great source of annoyance to men like Mr. Puttee. The member for Winnipeg says that the government is imposing the pro-

tective tariff to assist the producers in this country. The laboring men pay the duty, but the market for their own labor is free to everybody. Their employer escapes competition to the extent of the duty, but they must compete with the labor of all the world It is worse than free competition, for the government actually pays a bonus to foreign laborers to come in and cut down the value of labor in the Canadian market. Besides, Mr. Puttee protests against the government thrusting objectionable neighbors upon Canadian settlers who have taken up land in the west. These Canadians and Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen, who took up farms and are raising families on the prairie, did not bargain to have Galicians herded around them. Not long ago Mr. Oliver, the liberal member for Alberta, explained to the house that the Galician immigration had reduced the value of farms wherever they had come. Where they settle in their colonies no Canadian wanted to go, and those who already had farms in the vicinity were offering them for sale at a sacrifice. It is for this that we are paying out \$450,000 a year. This is the result of the labor of our Prestons and McCrearys.

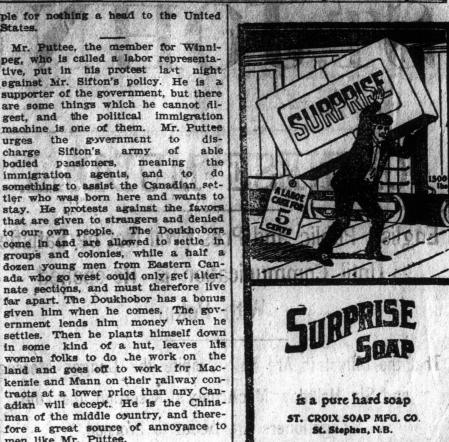
And the last and unkindest thing of all is the campaign of Mr. Preston in favor of general immigration of the Transvaal Boers to this country. Most people will think that Canada has had about enough of Paul Kruger and his friends.

Some statesmen ought to consider whether a half a million a year which we spend to bring people in could not be better spent in this country to make it a more desirable place for the best settlers to seek. Mr. Puttee says that the railway interests and the contractors' interest are all in favor of a vigor ous immigration policy. Every man that is brought in, whether he washes The migrations from the old country, himself or not, pays fare to the railway. Every man who can work is useful to beat down the labor market. The poorer he is and the poorer the country from which he comes the cheaper he will probably work. But if this is the thing for which Canada long as we have rich prairie land, is striving then by all means let us business. It does not appear that the open our western door for the Chinaforests awaiting development, we' men. Let us have coolie as well as shall never lack new people finding Galician, Japanese as well as Doukhobor, Boxer along with Boer.

> OTTAWA. July 11 .- The first question discussed yesterday was one which comes home to the business and bosom of the member personally. Grit and tory members of the treasury benches are pretty well agreed that the members are entitled to an extra \$500 on account of the length of the session As on other occasions, the finance minister of the time being week Sir Wilfrid Laurier made a distinct deliverance to the effect that the indemnity would not be increased. Thereupon many members went home stating that they had given as much time to public business at their own expense as they could afford. Most of them are back again now, and the government scored the full majority at the yesterday's divisions. Before this letter is printed it will be known on what terms the strike has been declared off.

Meanwhile the question is discussed on its merits. Mr. Casey, a government suporter, rose yesterday to protest against the statement that the demand for increased indemnity was confined to the French-Canadian members. Mr. Craig on the opposition side seconded the protest. This was only fair, for it is undoubtedly the case that there is no race line in this matter. Mr. Craig says that he is willing to go to the country on the issue that both parties were agreed in 1885 and in 1891 that the extra indemnity ought to be paid. There is just as much reason for t this year. He holds that the member of parliament cannot be expected to devote half his year to parliamentary work at the capital, and a large part of the other half to the interests of his constituents, and only get \$1,000 which in the case of many of them does not pay their living expenses. Mr. Craig quotes the remarks of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Richard Cartwright and other opposition leaders at the time when previous extra indemnities were paid. It was agreed then that the payment was right and proper. In 1885 the session continued five months and twenty days; in 1891 it was five months and one day. This year it will have continued at the end of this week five months and fourteen days. So the precedent calls for extra allowance.

The objection made is that the length of the session is due to the members themselves and that the extra indemnity puts a premium on obstruction and loquacity. No doubt



ed to talk business and nothing else, and only as much of that as is necessary. But this would be an ideal condition and would imply the presence of ideal business men. Perhaps in a larger sense it would not be ideal, because the questions are not all purely business questions, but include matters of sentiment and larger interests than those which appeal to the business man as such. Farliament is something more than a meeting of directors. It is the gathering of the nation itself by its representatives and has authority to deal with any grievance or any national project which a member of the great community would raise if the whole populace were here to speak for it-

The imperial parliament as a business body would not need to be in session nearly all the year round. When the present scale of indemnity at Ottawa was established three months was a fairly long session and the allowance was apparently fixed on that basis. It was arranged that each member could draw \$7 a day while he was here and the balance of the \$1,000 at the end of the session. If the session were three menths long and he had lost no time, he would take \$370 at prorogation and go home. If he remained four months there would still be left him \$160. But if he remains five months and continues to draw his allowance, his indemnity will all be gone some ten days before the end of the period. During the sixth month he must get his allowance from some other source. Mr. Mills, the present minister of justice, suggested in 1885, that a per diem allowance ought to be made for additional months.

It is certain that there will be no more three-month sittings. Neither will there be many so short as four months. We may look forward to five months sessions hereafter as the regular thing unless there is some remarkable change in the way of doing speeches are much longer, or that members waste more time than they did in the three months' sittings. Many things have happened in the last twenty years. At the beginning there were four provinces and the range of legislation and administratien was much narrower than it is now. Even as late as the third parliament the revenue and expenditure was only half what it is at present. Parliament has extended its jurisdiction over Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. It has assumed practical control over the Northwest, which twenty years ago and much later was practically unsettled.

It has to legislate for the Yukon and to enquire into the administration of that interesting country. At least one-half of the five months of this session has been devoted to subjects connected with our western country, most of which were not live questions in the early seventies. For Manitoba and the Northwest there are exciting transportation questions, grain standards, the administration of land, the dealings with the Indians. In British Columbia there are railway questions, alien legislation, the Chinese and Japanese. In the Yukon we have matters of administration and of policy which have demanded a large attention.

Again there are general questions of railway policy east and west which absorb much of the time of parliament. The railway committee of the house has probably held forty sittings, two or three hours long, almost as largely attended as the sittings of the house, considering most important questions, some of them exceedingly intricate and involved, and all of them requiring from the faithful member much investigation and thought. Military affairs have come to the front this last year or two and must from this time forward require a good deal of attention. Then our relations to the empire and to the rest of the world are assuming new importance and will require more and more of the time of parliament. cannot get away from the fact that 'ong the sessions will hereafter be and that the indemnity which was just twenty years ago bears no longer the same relation to the services rendered.

The member of parliament is engaged five months and gets \$1,000. The Ontario legislator receives \$600 for two months. The Quebec legislator has \$300 for two months, the Nova Scotian \$500 for a shorter period. In New Brunswick they pay \$200 for a little over one month, and in the west the allowance is still larger in proportion to the time expended. This is the case which the members are able to present to the ministers. When the

finance minist worth \$9,000 members, some more than \$1.0 The minister amiable man. by obstinacy. why he should his bill which ment to appoin

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