OTTAWA LETTER.

Discussing Whether the Territories Shall Receive Provincial Rights.

Mr. Chariton Rapidly Becoming the Chief Protectionist in the House.

Time Has Come When Canada Should Take Efficient Measures to Get the Full Benefit of Her Great Nickel Wealth.

OTTAWA, April 19.-Nobody seems to remember of having seen a count out in the house of commons. Twenty members constitute a quorum, which is less than one-tenth of the whole number. But small as it is, this quorum was not on hand during a good part of yesterday's discussion on th important question whether the territories should receive provincial rights. Premier Haultain of the Northwest has demanded such an establishment and his council and assembly support him in it. Rev. Dr. Douglas, one of the four members from the territories, declares that the country is not yet ready for this change. Mr. Sifton entertains the same opinion, and holds that the population is too small and too scattered for such an organization. As a matter of fact the population is larger by far than that of Manitobs at the time that it was made a pro vince, and larger than that of British Columbia during its history as a province of Canada. The people are scattered over a large extent of country it is true, but they are largely grouped in communities and a consider proportion are village population.

The substance of Mr. Sifton's objection appears to be that the people in the west are divided on the question whether they should be grouped into one province or two, and that the immense amount of land and other re sources in the country would be an incentive to extravagance and the ac-cumulation of a large debt. Mr. Borden, the opposition leader, does not share the apprehensions. The people of the territories must some day be entrusted with these great responsibilities, and there is no reason to suppose that the folk now in the country will be more wasteful and reckless than those who shall be there a few years hence. The present government at Ottawa does not itself appear to be afraid of incurring debt, and it is quite probable that the western men would not mortgage their own future any more than the government at Ottawa is mortgaging it for them.

The real objection at Ottawa to western autonomy is probably a desire to control western expenditure and western resources. There is no end of money made by people who have a "pull" in the Northwest, and the importance from a party point of view of the patronage of the department of the interior would be greatly dimin-ished if the business which Mr. Sifton vere handed over rather independent and would not be likely to have a government like those Scotia, willing to play second fiddle to the Laurier administration here.

It is an interesting circumstance that while the subject was under discussion the government interest in it was so small that there were never more than three ministers present, of whom two were engaged in writing letters or asleep, until they went out and left the minister of the interior to wrestle with the question alone. Mr. Sifton was disposed to improve the opportunity to go on and pass various other estimates. He was restrained by the suggestion of the opposition whip that there was no quorum. To use a bull, it was found that the only way to keep the house sitting was to adjourn

Mr. Charlton is developing rapidly into the chief protectionist of the Yesterday the nickel interests and the binder twine industry received his attention. On both subjects he stands out for better protection than our present system affords. The statement made by Mr. Charlton in regard to nickel is quite interesting. have in this country the chief supply of nickel for the world. The United States people cannot get on without our nickel, and they buy the whole of it in the form of matte, which is slightly refined ore, and is admitted to the United States without duty. This mineral has become one of the most important elements in industrial operations. It is absolutely essential the manufacture of armor plate and is used in the best steel rails and structural iron for various purposes, and of course in many articles of the ware in common use. Canada might control this manufacturing industry if we did not choose to allow nickel to be sent away in a crude form.

The United States people take care of their own interests. They get the ore into their country and manufacture it, and do not allow nickel products in an advanced condition to admitted except under very high duties. The result is that the manufacture of nickel products in this country is impossible, and we are giving to a foreign country the control of an industry wherein we have a natural monopoly. Mr. Charlton goes on to state that a nickel trust has been organized in the United States with a capital of \$34.000.000, of which \$18.000. 000 will be issued at once to buy up the nickel properties of the world. the trust has purchased the Canadian properties and will obtain them all. It is closely allied to the steel trust, and will thus place the British empire at the mercy of the foreign corporation for all nickel products. Mr. Chariton reminds

the government that it has power al-

the world's supply of nickel, the United States, by the ownership of the Philippine Islands, controls the world's supply of manila hemp. Our friends across the border do not follow the Canadian example. There was always an export duty on manila, collected for the benefit of the Philippine ad-ministration, but it was applicable to all countries. It still remains against all countries but the United States, amounts to \$7.50 a ton. This manila is used in the manufacture of cordage and of binder twine. Of course the United States under absolute free trade and equal conditions would have a good chance to control the Canadian market, but with the advantage of nearly half a cent a pound and free trade besides, there can be no chance for the Canadian manufacturer. This was pointed out in a previous letter in a statement of the case obtained from John Connor, but was not brought up in the house until yesterday. It will be seen that while we give the United States their raw maferial in nickel free of charge, that country shuts out the refined product from Canada by a prohibitive duty. The United States cuts off our raw material in hemp by a high export duty, and we invite them to send the manila product into this country duty free. Thus we are generous in regard to both commodities, while the United States is protected in both. Mr. Charlton makes a strong case against the present Canadian tariff on binder twine and cordage, and though Mr. Fielding will not commit himself to anything, it is pretty certain that before the session is over he wil have to

do something about it. When Mr. Gourley offered the suggestion that the opposition should pay ess attention to small government peculation and more to larger speculation, he may have had in mind the comparatively small steal achieved in the Grosse Isle expenditure. It is small enough compared with the Intercolonial jobs or with the operations in the Yukon. But after all when it comes to paying \$1.45 a foot for pipe that is sold in the market at 85 cents, making a total charge of \$4,700, it is perhaps worth looking into. Mr. Kemp, who knows what pipe ought to be worth, is trying to find out why the chief architect purchased from one of the favorites in Quebec this pipe and other articles amounting to \$10,000 at prices 80 per cent. over the market value. Mr. Ewart's explanations are rather vague. The chief architect the air and manner of a canny Scotchman. There is an impression that he would not buy pipe for his own louse and properties on the same basis that he buys it for the Grosse Isle quarantine station, but if he were buying for himself he would not be obliged to buy from Mr . Tarte's

OTTAWA, April 21.-When Mr. Brock declared his conviction that Mr. Tarte was not master of the administration, he said he was sorry for the fact, because if Mr. Tarte was master we would have a better tariff and more dignified relations with the United States. I suspect that the mastery of the administration waries from time to time, and that occasionally there is in the cabinet something resembling They discussed somewhat fully the anarchy. It is understood that not long ago Mr. Fielding informed the premier in a formal manner that he vould no longer be responsible for the financial administration if Mr. Tarte was allowed to go about the country condemning the tariff and setting forth the changes that ought to be made. There may be evidence against Mr. Tarte's mastery in the fact that the minister of public works has not since made a tariff speech and did not even improve the opportunity by taking part in the budget debate.

Yet I venture to think that though the budget was delivered a month ago, and though Mr. Fielding then declared that there would be no tariff changes until next year, the session will not conclude without at least one important amendment. The binder twine situation is the same as it was on budget day, but Mr. Charlton's speech and the general enlightenment of the public in regard to the matter have brought things to a crisis. It will be rather a surprising thing to have a finance minister within six weeks after declaring his intention to keep the tariff as it is for a year, make an important change by taking binder twine from the free list. Yet this is the thing that is likely to happen. Nothing else can save the binder twine industry in Canada so long as the United States retains the advantage in the Philippine Islands export duty.

Moreover, when once a duty is imposed upon binder twine it will stay there, no matter what change is made about manilla, for the government realizes what the opposition announced long ago, that this concession to the United States was an atrocious blunder, and as Mr. Charlton pointed out, all the more idiotic when made on the eve of negotiations with the United States. This concession and the exemption of corn were two things which could have been used in making a bargain with the United States. Our delegates went to Washington after having announced to the government there and to the world that we required the free importation of corn and binder twine in our own interests, and therefore that there was no concession to the United States in the matter. Yet there is no free trade in corn or in binder twine, only the free admission of those articles into Canada from the United States. If the goods travel the other way the duties are high enough.

Mr. Sifton has been obliged to beat a retreat. The Treadgold deal in the Yukon may still be bad, but at least it is changed so far as to satisfy the delegates who came here pledged to fight the government on the subject. Whether there is anything left in it for the original dealers is not known. fir is no earthly good for railway ties, ready to impose export duties on nickel It may be remarked that the original as Mr. Pottinger himself swore the matte, and he recommends that that dealers are not to any considerable other day. It is also reported by the

one or two or three mi large interests in the which did not cost them much money, which take place in regard to then they stand to profit on the principle of "heads I win, tails you lose."

But if Mr. Sifton has not succeede in completing the transaction as originally made he need not be despondent He is quite prosperous in this world's goods, and this will temper an ad ministrative disappointment. The lates bank statement shows that he holds two hundred shares recently acquired of Bank of Ottawa stock, which is good in the market for about \$40,000 or also good for \$1,800 a year dividends. For a minister who came here six years ago in rather straitened circumstances and who has since bought and rebuilt a house which is now one of the finest residences in the canital who keeps up the best set of driving eams that are found here, with pos-sibly two exceptions, and has gone through the most expensive election campaign on record, this is not a bad showing. It may be observed that Mr. Fielding and Sir Richard Cartweeks bought houses in the city, bu they are comparatively modest in their establishments, costing in one case about ten thousand and in the other eleven thousand. Mr. Sifton's house has cost a good deal more than both the others.

To go back to Mr. Tarte. It will b remembered that a few days befor the session Mr. Mulock's organ in Toronto opened up a discussion government ownership of telegraph lines. The writer in the Toronto Star and also one in the Toronto Globe suggested that the government telegraph ine, and those which should be established under the Marconi system, ought to become a part of the post of fice service. At present the govern ment lines are controlled by Mr. Tarte, and we have seen through the transactions of the public accounts committee how beautifully they are organized in the interest of contract tors who are now in and out of the government employ. Mr. Tarte's Patrie vigorously opened fire on the Toronto suggestion and furiously protested against the idea that any part of the telegraph control should taken from Mr. Tarte and given Mr. Mulock. It did not take La Patri long to get on the usual argumen that this change would be an al and an insult to the French-Canadian people. The argument was that Mr. Tarte was a French-Canadian, and was minister of public works, and the telegraphs were in the department of public works. Mr. Mulock is English and therefore a transfer to him of a telegraph is robbing the French peo-

But somehow Mr. Fielding got ahead of Mr. Tarte with Marconi. As Mr Marconi is neither English nor French, but Italian, his nationality was a neutral element in the case. Mr. Fi was first on the ground and made the Marconi bargain, and however much Mr. Tarte may have resented it, he did not get here in time to interpose a veto. But the other day was Mr. Tarte's turn. The Prince Edward Island members made complaints of the Anglo-American cable and of telegraph matters in that province generally. procured is good for double that applications of the Marconi system to their requirements. There was some interest in the question whether Mr. Mulock or Mr. Fielding or Mr. Tarte would reply. But the little minister of public works was ready, and the moment the ministerial utterance was due he was at it. Some other minister had had no instructions from the governbeen discussing the question of the Anglo-American Company, but Mr. Tarte ignored that. He also ignored Mr. Fielding and the Marconi arrange ment, and informed the house that for his part he meant to go to Engla this summer and to have a short and interesting conversation with Anglo-American Company. If they would hear reason, well and good; if not, something else would be done, and Mr. Tarte would be the man to do it. So now if Mr. Fielding makes his arrangements with Marconi, and if the Marconi system is adopted in Prince Edward Island, Mr. Fielding will be obliged to stand and deliver the control to Mr. Tarte. S. D. S.

OTTAWA, April 22.-Members of the accounts committee who undertake to get the truth concerning Intercolonial railway management have a retty hard contract. In the first place if there is a witness desired whose information is supposed to be accurate and important and may be damaging to the government, the motion to call him is voted down by a majority of the committee at the request of the minister, and a majority in the house supports the action. Then when ar enquiry leads up to proceedings more than a year old all these are ruled out. This happens now for the first time in the history of enquiries at Ottawa And yesterday it was discovered that when witnesses called by the governmust have memoranda from ministers which it is deemed expedient to keep out of sight, these written papers may abstracted from the owners' desk and retained by government supporters in the house. When a witness is and appears with the anno that he cannot find his own documents and it is afterwards discovered that a government supporter in the com-mittee has secretly acquired them, and is keeping them until it may or may not suit his purpose to have them pro-duced, one begins to ascertain how difficult it is to learn the exact state of facts to this extraordinary Intercolonial management.

Mr. McManus appeared in the committee yesterday as Mr. Blair's witness. He has been inspector of ties on the Intercolonial, but was displaced from those duties nearly a year ago, when complaint was made that he was accepting bad ties. A reinspection was ordered last May, and has not yet not know and that the matter should been completed. Less than one third be concealed from the committee of the ties have been re-examined in the eleven months, and the examiner says that 23,000 of these are fir. Now

points. Mr. McManus cannot that the latest inspection is believe correct. He thinks that Mr. Williams, who was sent by Manager Russell to go over his work, made a mistake, and that the ties which Mr. Williams said were fir were really white spruce. In his examination a short time ago General Manager Pottinger stated that Williams had knowledge of ties and of railway stores generally. It may be assumed that Mr. Russell knew his capacity when he selected him. If Mr. Williams cannot tell white spruce from fir his appointment as judge of Mr. McManus' inspection was a ridicu lous blunder. For surely there cannot be many men who know anything about timber unable to distinguish be tween these two woods. Both kinds are about as bad as they can be for railway ties, but according to Mr. Pottinger's testimony fir is a little worse, since fir will last only three years and white spruce is good for

Just here I will insert the evidence given by Mr. Pottinger as to the relative value of ties. Mr. Pottinger was asked on the first day of his examination and declined to answer, but he undertook to get the information, and a week or two later he appeared with a memorandum on the subject from his engineer. The examination was by Mr. Haggart.

Q. I asked you about the life of diferent qualities of ties. What do you put down for cedar? A. Six to ten years. And spruce?

A. Black spruce six years, white o vellow spruce four years. Q. What about popuar: A. It is worthless or worth very

little. Q. You would never think of putting in a poplar tie?

Q. I suppose the cost of putting

A. No. Q. What about fir? Fir is down here for three years

down and taking it up again makes almost worthless too? A. Well, we prefer not to have it a What about hemlock?

Six to seven years. Q. What about princess pine? Eight years.

A. Nine years. This evidence is interesting in the

light of the prices paid and of the qualities of the wood accepted. It appears that Mr. Culligan and Mr. Ultican were paid 20 cents per tie for spruce and cedar, the same for one as the other, and that white spruce was accepted from both. Inspector liams finds that 23,000 fir were also taken from these or other contractors Mr. Curran got 25 9-10 cents for spruce but it is not known what proportion was white spruce. These purchases were made in election year, and the stock procured, exclusive of spruce, was double the number required or used. So large a supply is on hand that the government is buying scarcely anything now that the elections are over. Those which are bought cost 20 ents apiece for cedar and princess pine, and 173-4 for hemlock. This is less than was paid for white spruce or election year, while white spruce last four years, and the cheapest wood now

To return to Mr. McManus. Closely examined by Mr. Blair he stated that he was authorized to pass certain ties d that he made his examination thout favor to anybody. He gave special favors to Mr. Curran and ment to slight the inspection. He admitted he did not insist on full size stating that his instructions were to use his own judgment, and that it was usual to allow a 6 in. to 61-2 in. tie to go in under a 7 in. specification. Mr. Blair put on a considerable appearance of severity, as if he were anxious to get all the facts. But there was no suggestion from him that Mr. Mc-Manus and he had any communication concerning the inspection at the time the ties were accepted. The whole drift of the examination was to show that Mr. McManus was guided by his instructions from Moncton. No ene would have supposed from the minis-ter's method that he had himself adsed a note to Mr. McManus order ing him to accept Mr. Culligan's white

This leads us back to the first day of the inquiry, when under the "intense" examination of Mr. Blair, Pottinger was made to say that minister did not interfere in any matter of purchasing supplies. Mr. Blair pressed this question very insistently, and no one could reach any other conclusion from Mr. Pottinger's answers than that Mr. Blair had kept out of it altogether and gave Mr. Pottinger leave to carry out the general manager's own policy. Mr. Pottinger's not contradicted, for it does not appear that he knew anything about the communications which passed through Mr. Blair and the tie inspector. Mr. Pottinger, indeed, swore to this in spite of Mr. Blair's vigorous examina-tion and repeated questioning whether subject with the minister on the railway train. Mr. Pottinger has no re collection of any such interview.

So Mr. Blair's examination of Mr. McManus came to an end, and if Mr. Barker had not by some means learned of the private communication given by the minister to Mr. McManus, the whole subject would have been left there. Mr. McManus had not destroyed Mr. Blair's letter, but it had been taken from his desk, and Mr. McManus did not know where it was. Mr. Em merson knew, for he had the letter Mr. Blair knew, for Mr. Emmerson called him out of the committee room and told him. But it was evidently the intention that the public should

Mr. Barker had heard something, so after obtaining from Mr. McManus an explanation of the charges made Mr. McManus explained that complaint power be exercised. Mr. Fielding says extent Yukon people. They are sup- latest inspector that a large number of about the ties had been made, that



Mr. Burpee, who had charge of the matter, sent for him, took him away from the inspection, gave him something else to do, and sent another man to go over his work. But it was some time before this that Mr. Burpee and Mr. McManus first came into collision. During the inspection somebody told Mr. Burpee that Mr. McManus was accepting white spruce ties. Mr. Burpes knew that white spruce ties were no good and did not want any four years' ties put into his road. So he summoned Mr. McManus and asked him what he did it for. It was then that Mr. McManus told him he did it by in-

It took Mr. Barker a good while to find out where these instructions came from. Mr. McManus was very reluctant to testify on this point. Witness said he rejected certain ties and afterwards accepted them. Why did you reject them? he was

He rejected them because they were white spruce, and his instructions were to accept only black spruce.

Why did you accept them at last? Because I was instructed to do so. Who instructed you? Well, I accepted them.

And so the question and answe went until Mr. Barker appealed to the chair to compel the witness to answer. Brought to a point, Mr. Mc-Manus said that he had instruction from the minister. Finally he stated that the instructions were written, and at last the fact was elicited that the written communication to Mr. Mc-Manus had been given to Contractor Culligan by Mr. Blair and handed by the contractor to Mr. McManus. Mr. Culligan had told Mr. McManus when he rejected the ties at first that he would get authority for accepting them and he kept his word.

It was after this that Mr. Burpee attacked the inspector for accepting these white spruce, and the inspector told Mr. Burpee what authority he had for doing so. It seems that Mr. Bur-pee could hardly believe that this in-terference had occurred. It was necessary for Mr. McManus to produce the letter, which he had not then about him. Mr. Burpee subsequently got the letter, kept it for a time, returned it to Mr. McManus, who finally put it in his desk. Thence it mysteriously disappeared, and when the inspector came to Ottawa after he had received Mr. Blair to be found.

Mr. Burpee was thus suppressed, the white spruce was accepted and paid for at very good prices, and the railway has on hand a considerable stock of useless ties. To begin with, there was no need of taking spruce at all. The way from cedar to spruce was easy, and that led down to white spruce, and according to the recent government inspection still further down to fir and poplar. If there is any worse wood known to lumbermen probably it will be heard from next.

Mr. Blair next took the witness in hand and obtained from him a statement that previous to this note he had accepted white spruce from Mr. Ultican. It is not yet ascertained how this acceptance of white spruce began. It could never have been authorized by Mr. Burpee, who evidently despised this kind of wood. It was not authorized by Mr. Pottinger, and certainly not by Mr. Russell. Mr. McManus wears that the memorandum that he had when he went to examine Mr. Culigan's ties was that he should take no other spruce but black spruce. Mr. Blair got him to the point of stating what was evidently a fact, that the note from the minister was an instruction to treat Mr. Culligan the same as Mr. Ultican. There is clearly another note somewhere, or some other in-struction which led to the acceptance of this worthless wood from Mr. Ultican.

Mr. Emmerson, who thinks it is quite to the point to show that some contractor, who seems to have favored, is a conservative, asked Mr. McManus whether Mr. Ultican was not a liberal and Mr. Culligan a conservative. Mr. McManus gave it as his opinion that this was so. The matter is of no importance in connection with the business transaction, but as a matter of fact it is believed that Mr. Culligan supported the government candidate in Restigouche at the elec tion that was going on when he had his contract. What happened was that Mr. McManus, in spite of his own judgment, and of the judgment and orders of the engineer of maintenance required to accept these almost worthless white spruce ties from Mr. Ultican, that Mr. Culligan wanted the same privileges and after an interview

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with Mr. Blair obtained from him a note of instruction to that effect addressed to Mr. McManus. Mr. Pottinger could not have been present at the transaction or he would have remembered it. There is another and stronger reason for saying that he was not present, for if he had been the order would have been given by him and not by Mr. Blair. Mr. Blair always puts one of the officers in the gap in a case of this kind if the officer is accessible.

And so while the deal with Ultican is not yet explained, facts in regard to Mr. Blair's interference were brought out. After that there was nothing to be gained by a further concealment of the letter, and something to be gained by producing it. So Mr. Emmerson, having called Mr. Blair out and consulted him, produced the identical document, which is identified by the witness and by the minister. This was after a long and wearisome questioning and explanation of the wintess about the loss of the letter, with speculation on his part and on the part of his examiner as to what had tecome of it and a promise from the witness that he would endeavor to find it. It is fair to Inspector McManus to say that while under Mr. Blair's examination about this letter he was a very unwilling witness and he appeared to be anxious not to tell anything that was untrue. It was difficult to get from him the whole truth, which is to be expected, but there was no reason to suppose that he told anything but the truth.

Mr. Emmerson's statement was heard with amazement. He seemed to be rather merry at first over his achievement, but afterwards the seriousness of the position appeared to impress itself upon him as it certainly did upon others. Mr. Emmerson's story was that before the Easter vacation he attended this enquiry and became anxious about the instructions which Mr. McManus had received from the minister. Now there was no mention in the committee about these instructions. The olny evidence given was calculated to produce the impression that Mr. Blair never gave instructions. Mr. Emmerson's anxiety was therefore due to information received elsewhere. What purpose he may have had in desiring to control the document that would connect Mr. Flair in an awkward way with the tie transaction can only be guessed. all events Mr. Emmerson says that when he went to Westmorland he set about an enquiry on his own account. As Mr. McManus was to be a witness he did not speak to him, presumably because he thought It would not be proper to do so. He therefore went to Mr. McManus' brother, who undertook to procure for him the letter which was the property of Inspector McManus, and which it was the inspector's duty to bring with him to the committee. The delicate sensibility which prevents a man from talking over the evidence with the witness before he comes into court, and which permits him to obtain through another person from that witness' private drawer a part of the testimony which he is to furnish is too fine to analyse here. The result was that from Easter until yesterday Mr. Emmerson carried around Mr. McManus' letter, while Mr. McManus was searching for it to bring to the committee, the unfortunate owner never dreaming that the

There is no reason to suppose that this paper would ever have been heard from again by the public if the facts had not been previously brought out at the examination. Perhaps it would have been heard from by Mr. Blair, because it might be convenient for Mr. Emmerson to mention it privately. Between Mr. Emmerson and Mr. Blair we are none of us wise enough to know what use may be made of information procured from other people's desks when the owner is away. as between the public which wants to know how public business is done, and the administration of railways, this affair is shabby enough.

letter had been abstracted.

Children Cry for CASTORIA

SUBURBAN ITEM

(Springfield Republican.) Citiman-"Yes, I'll be glad to run out and see you some time. What's our number?"

Subbubs-"Why-er-the houses in Swamphurst are not numbered, yet." Citiman-"Well, how shall I find

Subbubs-"Turn to the left from the station and walk down the road until you come to the second big puddle. My house is directly opposite

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FIRE AT MONCTON.

MONCTON, N. B., April 26.-Mrs. Gibson's residence, situated just north of Main street crossing, was destroyed by fire this afternoon.

CHICAGO, April 27.—Hon. J. Sterling Morton, former secretary of agriculture, died this afternoon at the home of his son, Mark Morton, at Lake Forest, Ill.

A Form Penite Killing Deaths

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