

OTTAWA LETTER.

The Government Is Away Behind With Its Work.

Tarte's Organ Claims That Sir Louis Davies Is by Blood a Genuine French Representative.

Why Mr. Beausoleil Is Quiet—Preferential Trade—Making Things a Little Livelier for the Minister of Justice—Laurier and Manitoba Schools.

OTTAWA, April 22.—For the last two or three weeks the public has been given to understand that the government was anxious for the address to pass in order that the house might "get down to business." We have been told that Sir Charles Tupper and his party were obstructing the progress of parliament, and that the government was burning with a desire to get ahead. The address has been passed. The private members' day since then have been well occupied, and yesterday the house lined up to hear what the government had to propose. It was government day and several notices were on the order paper.

Mr. Fielding has given notice of supply, but he has not yet even brought down his estimates and therefore is hardly ready to ask the house to go into committee on them. He has also given notice that he will move the house into committee on ways and means, which motion is on the occasion of the budget speech. But Mr. Fielding is not ready with his budget and could not yesterday even go so far as to say when he would be ready. Mr. Blair has a notice about the Drummond railway, but nothing was said about it, nor yet about the Pacific cable project. The notice whereof stands in the name of Mr. Mitchell. Nothing was ready and 20 minutes after the speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock, Sir Wilfrid moved the adjournment of the house, thus making confession of the falseness and foolishness of the charge of obstruction made against the opposition. If any fault can be found with the opposition side, it is that they have done an unnecessary service to the government by filling in the time which the ministers would have found no way to occupy. It is now nearly the end of April, not far from the time when the house frequently rises, having finished the business of the session.

Yet it is understood that we are to have a measure for senate reform, one for the redistribution of the constituencies, a practically new franchise bill, and the usual number of political contracts to come on at the end of the session. There is Mr. Flint's bill for prohibition by provinces, which the government will be asked to take up, and which is said to have the approbation of the minister of agriculture. It is not very likely that Sir Wilfrid will be permitted by Mr. Tarte to interfere with that matter this session. It involves some constitutional questions and a great many practical difficulties. Mr. Tarte may consent next year, as the effect of the scheme would be to transfer not only the retail, but the wholesale liquor trade and manufacture to the province of Quebec.

Mr. Tarte's paper, La Patrie, is exultant over the result of the Dominion Alliance meeting. It declares that the principle has now been established that there is to be no interference with the habits of the Quebec people. It cites the sentiments of Mr. Flint, Mr. Spence and others, whom it calls the prohibition leaders, to the effect that the adverse vote in Quebec makes it impossible to apply prohibition to that province. If the alleged prohibitionist leader takes this view, Mr. Tarte's journal perceives that there is no danger of an attempt upon the liberties of Quebec by what it calls the "buvards d'eau." La Patrie is addicted to scornful reflections upon "the water drinkers."

Sir Louis Davies is also indebted to La Patrie for a pleasant introduction to the French speaking people. In his commendable speech of the minister of marine, La Patrie says that Sir Louis is of French origin and shows the characteristics of his race. This enables the province for which La Patrie speaks to claim an additional representative in the cabinet, and thus a stronger influence than was previously accorded. Mr. Brodeur, the deputy speaker, has apparently some dim notions of a change in the relative position of the French and English languages in the house, for the other day he read the motions and amendments first in French and afterwards in English, which is contrary to the usual order.

Mr. Beausoleil is peaceful this session. On the question of the dismissal of the translator whom he recommended and who had a habit of forming out his work at 25 per cent of the price which he got for it, Mr. Beausoleil made some motion, but when Sir Wilfrid and the rest of the cabinet ministers voted against him he calmly subsided. The meaning of this meekness will be explained within say four months. The postmaster of Montreal is vacant. The salary is \$4,000 a year. Mr. Beausoleil and Mr. James McShane are the chief aspirants for the position. The people's Jimmy will not be postmaster of Montreal. It is settled that the member for Beausoleil will get his reward when the house rises.

When Mr. Fielding gets ready to go into supply he will be obliged to discuss preferential trade the first thing. Mr. McNell's notion expressing regret that the government had taken no action to secure the preference in

English market has the precedence of the estimates. Mr. McNell sets forth that a dozen deliverances of imperial ministers amounting to an invasion to Canada to promulgate a policy of that kind, and Mr. McNell is practically asking the house to ensure the government for taking no action in the premises. No doubt the discussion will be serious, and it may result in some important announcements from Sir Wilfrid.

In the senate Mr. Ferguson and Sir Mackenzie are making things a little lively for the minister of justice, who with Mr. Scott is obliged to defend all the actions of the government. The plebiscite has caused Mr. Mills some worry, and the secretary of state has been trying to explain away the failure of mail communication with Prince Edward Island. Senator Perley has had some talk on the railway train with Archbishop Levesque of Manitoba. The archbishop states that the school question had not been settled, and Senator Perley understands that there was some interesting correspondence between him and the premier on the matter. The premier corresponds with some of the Manitoba school matter for a question that is settled. The range of his writings covers the distance between the Red River valley and the Seven Hills in Italy. But the minister of justice declines to bring down the letters, and insists that they are private in their nature. Similar to Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the house of commons declared the other day that the Catholic members of the house and the government had a perfect right to discuss with the head of the church of Rome any matters whatever which might be called in question in parliament. So when they say that a matter is settled the explanation must be taken subject to the understanding that it is still under discussion between the government and the authorities of the church. Mr. Fielding's speech may unsettle the question remains to be seen. If Sir Wilfrid, while informing the people of Canada that the question is settled, continues to inform the authorities at Rome that the settlement is only partial, and that complete justice will be furnished later, we must console ourselves with the reflection that the addresses to the people of Canada are public and those addressed to Rome are private and confidential.

OTTAWA, April 24.—It has been decided that when a preacher of the gospel becomes a member of parliament he must no longer be designated in the house as a preacher. It came about this way. Mr. Prior of British Columbia in giving notice of a question referred to a speech of the hon. Mr. Prior, member for Burrard, referring to Mr. Maxwell. Speaker Edgar, before calling the question requested Mr. Prior to strike out the word "rev.," as by a decision of Speaker Denison in the imperial parliament it is decided to be "not a becoming expression." Col. Prior accordingly put the question without referring to Mr. Maxwell by his former title, but incidentally remarking that Mr. Maxwell was a preacher all the same. The fact is that the member for Burrard is more properly designated by the clerical title in the house than he is out of it. Out of the house he cultivates a rather "rough" appearance. He is addicted to smoking a pipe with a very dark complexion and of equipping himself in the most unconventional attire. In his social dissipation he wears the swallow-tail coat and expansive shirt front. It is in the house when he is on his feet that the old man takes possession of him. He becomes a preacher again without knowing it, and is constantly lecturing the other members as if they were a congregation under his spiritual ministrations. As a parliamentary speaker, his habits remind one of the reply made by Charles Lamb to Coleridge: "Did ever you hear me preach?" said Coleridge. "I n-n-never heard you d-d-do anything else," stuttered Lamb, in reply.

On the particular occasion when the speaker intervened, Colonel Prior was asking about a remark that Mr. Maxwell made in his speech to the Vancouver liberals, who were complaining because they did not get offices enough. Mr. Maxwell had said, "At home I have a book three inches thick full of applications." He pointed out, however, that since he had been a member for Burrard \$26,000 or \$28,000 had gone into the pockets of Vancouver liberals out of the common revenue. Col. Prior wanted to know the details of these payments. He did not receive the information he sought, Sir Wilfrid explaining "that the government does not undertake to interpret ex cathedra speeches delivered by members of this house." This reference to the status of Mr. Maxwell as an ex cathedra orator seemed to be a covert allusion to the member's previous vocation, but it left the house in the dark as to the disposition of the public money.

There is something peculiar about the binder twins contracts. Two years ago the government sold the prison-made twins to the Hobbs Hardware Co. of London. This year the tender accepted was that of Martin Connolly, while on the previous occasions John Connor was the negotiator. But in all cases the Hobbs Hardware Co. appear to be the ultimate purchasers, as they have come in for the Connolly contract. The Hobbs Hardware Co., with alleged headquarters in Canada, is understood to be a branch of a United States concern and connected with the United States Cordage Combine. Both last year and this year the combine price has been maintained and the prison manufacture has had no effect in giving the consumer the benefit of the abolition of the duty. A few years ago the Patrons of Industry established a rope walk at Brantford for the relief of the farmers. Last year when the price was high, his speakers made enormous profits and the farmers paid more for their twins than they had for many years before. From the time the duty was taken off until the present moment it does not appear that the Canadian farmer has got one cent of good out of it, while the Canadian

factories that were not in the combine have been closed down and the revenues have lost the amount that would have been collected in duty. Moreover, the auditor general reports large arrears long overdue from the Hobbs company to the government on the transactions of 1897.

Mr. McAllister has been trying to find out about the investigation into charges made against Mr. Jenner, Indian agent in Restigouche. It seems from the information that he has now elicited that Commissioner Levesque (of Montreal) was paid ten dollars a day for twelve days employed in his investigation. He also was provided with clerks and received \$72 for travelling expenses. Mr. LeBel went down to visit Policarpe Martin, an Indian chief, and took his statement apparently without consideration. Mr. Jenner, after leaving Mr. Jenner the opportunity of knowing what was said about him. The sum of \$60 was withheld from the agent's salary because of some alleged failure to perform a duty in connection with the seizure of timber. Mr. McAllister intends to pursue the subject further when an opportunity arises.

Through the series of blunders made by the government in regard to the preferential duty, it has come about that a heavy discrimination is being put on Canadian products. It is remembered that Canada gave Germany at the beginning the advantage of the preference. This was a blunder and ought not to have occurred. By and by it was taken away, which caused our annoyance that would not have been given if the government had started out on an imperial preference in the first place. The result of it is that every other colony but Canada has better terms in the German market than the dominion. Sir Richard Cartwright, replying the other day to Mr. Foster, explained that the discrimination amounted to an extra duty of one and three-tenths cents per bushel on barley, three and three-tenths on beans and peas, four and four-tenths on oats, nine and seven-tenths on rye and a like and nine-tenths of a cent a pound on butter.

The cost of maintaining the standing army in the Yukon is reported by the minister to be \$700 a day. This is some \$250,000 a year besides the cost of transportation, all of which appears to be absolutely wasted. The soldiers have actually done nothing for the preservation of order, simply because there was nothing for them to do. Even so strong a government supporter as Mr. Morrison declared that there was no need of the soldiers to preserve order. These were sent to a great many other things in that country for the convenience and comfort of the miners, but the country has not been able to afford the expense.

The minister of customs the other day made a boast about the decrease of duties. He applied the customs tariff now in force to the imports, and explained that if the tariff of 1896 had been levied the revenue collected would have been two million dollars more. Mr. Ferguson might have gone on to say that if the tariff previous to the re-imposition of the sugar duty had been applied, the taxation of last year would have been no larger than it was. But when he claimed that this two million dollars indicated a remission of taxation, he entirely mistated the case. The same tariff bill that established this set of customs duties changed the excise duty and put on in one way all the taxes that were taken off in the other. It may have been a suitable adjustment, but it is absurd to call it a remission of taxes. In the item of tobacco alone, as was explained by Mr. McDougall of Cape Breton, by Sir Henri Joly on Thursday, the excise duties were increased by \$371,285. This shows that the tobacco consumers alone pay one half of the duty that Mr. Patterson boasts of having remitted altogether.

HOT FIGHTING.

Americans Lost Six Killed, and Twenty-eight Wounded, and Then Fell Back on their Camp Rest to the Fatigued Soldiers.

The Filipinos Have Adopted New Tactics That Will Greatly Prolong the Struggle—They Are No Mean Foe.

MANILA, April 25, 10.30 p. m.—Gen. MacArthur's division fought its way to the Filipino trenches before Calumpit today, advancing four miles, mostly through woods and jungles, and crossing the Bagdad river. This was accomplished at a cost to the Americans of six killed and twenty-eight wounded, the first South Dakota regiment being the heaviest loser.

After fording the river the South Dakotans pursued the insurgents to the outskirts of the Calumpit, but the town was found so strongly protected that they were obliged to retreat. It was to have been the third day of the fight, but the night was so dark that the men were obliged to make a night's rest before making the final assault.

The largest buildings in Calumpit were being fired by the Filipinos while the Americans were crossing the river, and a mile away, deemed it best to withdraw the third day of the fight into camp for a night's rest before making the final assault. The largest buildings in Calumpit were being fired by the Filipinos while the Americans were crossing the river, and a mile away, deemed it best to withdraw the third day of the fight into camp for a night's rest before making the final assault.

The insurgents seem to have adopted a settled policy of retiring from one position after another, after inflicting the greatest possible damage on the advancing army. Their forces today were well drilled. Every foot of the ground was tenaciously disputed by thoroughly organized troops, who stood remarkably firm even before the artillery.

The enemy had planned to wreck an artillery transport train. This attempt was frustrated, but a span of the iron railway bridge over the river was destroyed, hampering the American transportation for some time. The Filipinos cut the cables, intending to have the structure fall with the train, but it collapsed prematurely with its own weight.

The Bagdad river, which is about 100 yards wide at that point, was splendidly fortified, and the Americans were obliged to approach across an open space from which the rebels had cleared every obstruction in sight. The bank of the river, a high bank, was covered with trees, capped with rocks, loop holes and partly hidden by bushes.

Gen. Wheaton's brigade approached the river along the railway, leaving camp beyond Malolos city. Gen. Halle's, which started yesterday, was surlier on the march, sweeping westward toward the river. The armored train was being pushed by Chinamen, the 20th Kansas regiment advancing in extended order on the left and the First Montana regiment, with the Utah light artillery, on the right.

serve, and Company K charged a distance of a quarter of a mile over a cornfield to the bank of the river near the bridge, where the insurgents from a trench were peppering the armored train, then about 200 yards down the track. The company found shelter in a ditch.

Col. Frederick Funston called for volunteers to cross the river, and the colonel himself, Lieut. Ball, a private of Company K, a private of Company E, Trumpeter Barfield and Corporal Ferguson of Company I crawled along the iron girders.

While his was going on the men of Company K, from the ditch were furling the trenches in the endeavor to divert attention, but the Filipinos got the range from a trench down the river, and their bullets soon splattered the water under the structure.

Having reached the broken span the small but valourous party of Americans slid down the shore and crawled up the bank, the little colonel leading the way to the trenches, revolver in hand, while the few remaining Filipinos bolted.

Gen. Halle's troops, on the right, had the hardest fighting. They followed the north bank of the river, nearest the town, from the east, with the First Nebraska regiment on the left and the First South Dakota and the 51st Iowa beyond. The country to be traversed was mostly jungles, but the Filipinos stood their ground even in the open spaces.

Gen. Halle's right joined Gen. Wheaton's left soon after noon, a curve in the river enabling the Americans to pour an enfilading fire into the enemy's trenches.

About this time the cheers of the Kansas troops announced that the Americans had crossed the river. Gen. Halle's men began to ford the Chico, a branch of the Bagdad, stretching to the northeast. The general himself plunged in up to his neck, and the regiments, all carrying flags, fendered across the stream.

The guns of the Utah light artillery were dragged over next and formed into an extended line to advance upon the trenches before Calumpit, from which the Filipinos were pouring continuous volleys.

The armored car had, one man killed and two wounded. The Kansas regiment had three wounded during the charge, and the Utah light artillery, one killed and two wounded. Most of the other casualties befell the South Dakota regiment. It is difficult to estimate the insurgent losses, but they had no fewer than 70 killed, many of them by the artillery.

LINCOLN, Neb., April 25.—Governor Poynter today appointed Lieut. Col. Colton to be colonel of the First Nebraska in place of Stotsenburg, killed in battle. The appointment was cabled to Manila.

Children Cry for CASTORIA. MCGILL PRIZE WINNERS. MONTREAL, April 25.—The prize winners in the arts and applied science faculties of McGill were announced today. The following from the maritime provinces won prizes: Samuel Robertson, Marshfield, P.E.I.; Henry Chapman, gold medal for classical languages and history; W. B. McLean of Pictou, N. S., British Association medal for mechanical engineering; W. W. Colpitts of Moncton, N. B., British Association medal for civil engineering.



MRS. THORNE DEAD.

Mrs. G. Thorne of the Narrows, who was so terribly burned on Saturday last, died on Sunday after great suffering. Her husband, who is mate of the schooner Joliette, at present in Boston, arrived here yesterday from that city, and went immediately to the Narrows. A brother of the deceased, Thomas Black, of this city, and a sister, Miss Black, school teacher at Ansgar, Kings Co., also went up to the Narrows yesterday to attend the funeral.

A PERSEVERING YOUNG BRIDE.

Eva Stianett, a pretty girl of twenty-two, was granted her fourth divorce at the last term of the Tipton circuit court, with an injunction from the judge that she must not apply to him again. The girl was not daunted by her unsuccessful matrimonial ventures, however, for today she celebrated her fifth wedding, becoming the bride of Walter M. Partlow.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

COUNTY LICENSES.

The county liquor commissioners have granted the following licenses: Simonds—Retail: Wm. E. Newcombe, W. D. McEvoy, S. H. Barker, Thos. H. Ryan, Joseph Rowley, Three months' extension was granted to E. A. Treadwell. Lancaster—Retail: John Brennan, Geo. H. Pippet, W. Fleming, Daniel Dwyer, Fred Duckanson, J. J. Collins. Brewers: James Ready. Beer: James McCarthy, Margaret Sullivan. St. Martins—Beer: Ernest Hatfield, Aubrey W. Brown.

Mrs. Jane Ingraham's application for a hotel and retail license in St. Martins was opposed by the temperance people of that place, who were represented by Mont. McDonald. After some argument, the matter was stood over till May 8th, Capt. Hamlyn, one of the commissioners, having to go to Boston on business. J. A. Sinclair, in the absence of C. N. Skinner, Q. C. appeared for Mrs. Ingram.

KLONDYKER'S DROWNED.

VICTORIA, B. C., April 25.—A story has reached here by the steamer Tees to the effect that a party of six returning Klondykers, one of whom is said to have been bringing out considerable treasure, have been drowned near Fifty Mile, where the trail is now impassable. The story was given out at Skagway by a late arrival, but it is unconfirmed.

MANITOBA ELECTIONS.

WINNIPEG, April 25.—There is a report that the provincial general election will be held in July, but the ministers when asked concerning the rumor, made light of it. However, it is thought the elections will be brought on on the dates mentioned: Nomination, July 14; polling, 21st. The British and Foreign Bible society is at present busy getting out Bibles in the Filipino dialect.

Large advertisement for 'The best known Regulator of the system is Albee's Effervescent Salt.' The text is written in a large, flowing script. At the bottom, it says 'J. A. S. Brunelle, M.D., C.M., Montreal, Professor of Surgery, Laval University Medical Faculty; Surgeon to the Hotel Dieu, etc., says: "I have found it particularly beneficial in the treatment of derangements of the liver and of the digestive organs, and consider that the regular use of a preparation of this nature has a decided tendency to prolong life." I am using it in my hospital practice.' There is a circular logo on the right that says 'SOLD BY DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE'.

BOS Crowding Pro The Wint Mail Deahof F Sailors Lumber Quiet. (From BOSTON season is due time, day here, part of J companies and there that spring how The Can em. The from the result is over-supply much better outlook is appointed, dustries y on May 1, 2,000 Fre Rhode Is strike in t that Vall land, year has to the Portland and New shipments domestic port since ship seas lows: C sheep, 578 shipments slightly in to the grain land, 923,234 bu flour, 271, bushels; The six time Pro Thursday, Michae John MacInnis, Mackenzie others we The sch merly own this city, people, T and regist Living has acced dent of St. John. It is a Connolly party will the toll were in t days: Mrs McLaugh Macondal Mrs. Mc John, L. H. and of Halifax The fo lost on Beverly, on Rose conset, I Martin rington, of Barril tain; Em aged 25, Hopkins, son of t aged 30, M. H. and John S. Herbert bor, N. S. hailed for 40 years, S. King at Shag Morris John, die was 53 y Geo. E Somervi The inte day at Spruce firm. R the logs, as able as the back is stead much e lumber firm, spruce. Dealers needed, great r than at years. T 32 per t it is th still in planning realize ever, vancing lumber, now qu in the weeks.