

# OTTAWA LETTERS.

## Cost Over Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars

### To Convince Hon. Sydney Fisher that Canada is Not Ripe for Prohibition.

#### Sir Louis Davies Assists in Knocking the Bottom Out of Sifton's Yukon Defence.

OTTAWA, April 12.—Mr. Mulock introduced a bill in 1896 which would have prohibited any liquor in parliament accepting office during the term for which he was elected. At that time Mr. Mulock did not have the control of the house nor the disposition of offices. Now Mr. Mulock is a minister and in less than three years he has been appointed to parliament accepting office during the term for which he was elected. At that time Mr. Mulock did not have the control of the house nor the disposition of offices. Now Mr. Mulock is a minister and in less than three years he has been appointed to parliament accepting office during the term for which he was elected.

of a form, as the government has been nothing which requires a mandate from the people, unless the ministers choose to appeal to the electorate on the general record. There was a caucus yesterday, and the premier made no disclosure on this point.

The main thing disclosed by him was the new agreement for the construction of the Pacific cable. This is another feature of the late government's policy which has been appropriated by this ministry. Sir Wilfrid said that the share of Canada will have to be a little larger than was contemplated. It is estimated that the cost of this cable between Vancouver on this side and Australia and New Zealand on the other will be seven or eight million dollars. The government of Canada was to have paid two-thirds, the imperial government three-ninths, and the other colonies four-ninths. It is now suggested that the five-ninths to be borne by the Canadian and imperial governments will be divided equally, which will give the Canadians share five-eighths.

There is trouble with the Franchise Act. That measure was introduced and carried through with great flourish of trumpets last year, and was proclaimed to be a remarkable feat of statesmanship. It has proved to be a magnificent collection of grotesque blunders. It has made trouble wherever it has been applied. Whipping is unrepresented in the house because the act did not provide for a registration in that constituency, while it forbade an election without registration. The law requires that lists of voters should be sent up from the constituencies immediately after the revision. The provincial revision generally took place last autumn, and the clerk of the crown in chancery has received few or no lists as yet. The clerk of the crown himself is not able to procure the lists. Neither is he able to interpret the law. The minister of justice is paralyzed with the difficulties and contradictions of the act. The solicitor general, who is unfortunately compelled to admit the paternity of the measure, is himself disgusted with the deformity of the child. The outcome of it all is that we shall probably have a brand new franchise act this year, and possibly our old friend the revising barrister will be long at it.

Another McDonald took up the riddle, a doctor of that name from Huron. This Dr. McDonald spoke for some three hours, though he said right behind Mr. Charles. Two interesting features appeared in his discourse. Dr. McDonald a few years ago was a profound prohibitionist. Now he has doubts. Public sentiment having shown a majority of voters in favor of prohibition, Dr. McDonald begins to think that the time has not yet come for the law as it is used in. In fact, the opening of this fruit is progressing backwards and is liable to arrive at the blossoming period if the liberals remain in power any great length of time.

Then it is vaguely hinted that the government will be compelled to do something about prohibition. The protest that comes up from all parts of the country is becoming more than embarrassing. It looks dangerous even, and there are vague fears of an impending fatality. Mr. Mills in the department of justice is thinking long and earnestly. Possibly he may evolve from that profound intellect which he carries about with him a proposition for provincial prohibition. Most likely if this comes it will appear in the form of an abrogation of the dominion parliament functions and the kindly permission to the provincial legislatures to go on and prohibit.

The weak point in this scheme would be that so far as the provinces have power to prohibit, they do not require an invitation or permission from Ottawa. So far as the British North America Act deprives them of this power, the parliament of Canada is not able to confer it, seeing that the Act of Union cannot be amended on Parliament Hill. It may, however, be possible to give the provinces power to prohibit with a wider area.

Mr. Wilson of Lennox, who holds a county captured from the grits, and is not given to making many speeches, also devoted some time to a discussion of the prohibition issue. He was able to show that the plebiscite was accepted by the temperance men and women, and by the churches in Ontario, as a bona fide undertaking that the decision of the majority of voters who went to the polls would be carried out. He is also able to show by the statements of the same class of people made recently that the decision practiced upon them would not be overlooked. He dwelt especially on the course of the government in appointing what he called "a committee of the privy council" to stamp the province of Quebec against prohibition and work up a big vote in opposition.

There is a good deal of speculation as to the government's programme during the next six months. Many experienced politicians look for a dissolution at the close of this session. It is difficult to find reasons that can be given for a dissolution in the middle

of the session. The government has been nothing which requires a mandate from the people, unless the ministers choose to appeal to the electorate on the general record. There was a caucus yesterday, and the premier made no disclosure on this point.

concentrate the whole business of manufacture and importation in that province. Mr. Moore of St. John's, who is in the same light as Mr. Filat. Though living in Quebec province he is not favorable to the liquor traffic, and is able to show that the sentiment in the eastern townships is strongly for prohibition. But Mr. Filat is not disposed to give the government any more trouble than is necessary, even if the government has played a rather low trick on the temperance community. The temperance community may have a strong claim on Mr. Filat, but it cannot give him a county court judgeship.

Mr. McDougall brought down the house while he enumerated the long list of Cartwrights who were in the government employ. He quoted in this connection some observations formerly made by Sir Richard about the Tupper family, and then explained how many sons, brothers, nephews, sons-in-law and cousins Sir Richard had been able to unload on the public service of the dominion and the province of Ontario. Sir Richard smiled a ghastly smile, and then put on a pensive look as he thought of the old Sir Richard whose heart was once pregnant with celestial fire. But the knight said nothing. He has evidently made up his mind to sacrifice to the public service not only himself but all his relatives.

Mr. McDougall went on to tell of Dr. McDonald, who had spoken the day before and who in his lofty position had given a son and son-in-law to the service of his country. Sir Louis Davies had surrendered several relatives and was prepared to put another one in Government House. Col. Donville is to be made issuer of liquor permits for the Yukon. Mr. Filat would like to be judge of the county court, but according to Mr. McDougall is prepared to take any other office that comes handy. Mr. Fraser wants a judgeship, and will take it on the Pacific Coast or anywhere else in Canada. The present minister of customs desires to retain the high protective duty on biscuits, which is a matter of some importance. Mr. Richardson of Lunenburg desires nothing more than the scalp of the minister of the interior.

effort has had his son provided for with Mr. Helme, the railroad magnate, whose measures were before the house last year and interested the minister of railways. Mr. Campbell of Kent, who has great mills, is reported to be willing to abandon his claims to promotion in consideration of the retention of the flour duty, and Mr. Frost is ready for the same sacrifice so long as the manufacture of Frost & Wood retain the impressed duty which the present government has allowed to fall on machinery.

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Col. McLennan of Glenagarry dealt extensively with the financial details and gave some interesting testimony about public works and contracts. The member for Glenagarry has built some of the most difficult works on the Canadian Pacific, and has large experience as a contractor. Among other contributions to the discussion he declares that he is prepared with the capitalized sum which the government is paying for the extension of the line of the Intercolonial from Lewis to Montreal to build two lines, one on each side of the river, and to construct a bridge across the St. Lawrence at Quebec. He also asserts that the subsidy given to the C. P. R. for the construction of the Crow's Nest road is sufficient to build the line outright, so that the railway does not have to spend a cent. Col. McLennan offers some interesting opinions on the Yukon railway scheme of last year, showing that it would have been an enormous loss to the country, a calamity to the Yukon miners and a source of great wealth to Mackenzie and Mann.

these two figures is the sticking point. Mr. Fisher has found one great merit in the plebiscite. It has taught him that the country is not ripe for prohibition. A year ago he was sure that the country was ready and waiting. Now he knows that the enactment of a prohibitory law "would produce anarchy and give the temperance cause a set back which would last for a generation." The act would be repealed in a year and everybody would blame the government for having passed it. It is a million dollars in order to teach Mr. Fisher that Mr. Geoffrion and Mr. Tarte were right.

Mr. Fisher was somewhat excited over the charge that the Quebec vote was fraudulent. He read from a statement of Mr. Webster of the Montreal Temperance Alliance concerning the report of Mr. Parent, a detective who was sent down to investigate some cases. Parent reported on a path that he had discovered cases in which the returning officer and his clerks had voted white pages of names and stuffed the ballot box with "not votes." Mr. Fisher, on examining the records that Parent gives names of returning officers that did not exist and of clerks that did not exist. His numbers of votes are wrong on the whole his report is unreliable. It is probable that Mr. Fisher is correct. Mr. Parent is a notorious grit, well known in this town, formerly an official of the present government, and he has disappeared. It has been said that Mr. Sifton made him an immigration officer and sent him away suddenly, but Mr. Fisher denies the appointment. Having, as he said, proved that Parent's statements are false, Mr. Fisher draws the very long inference that all the charges of fraud in the Quebec vote are proved to be false. This view is not yet accepted.

Mr. Fisher also denies that the people of Quebec are in favor of the sale of liquor to the extent that the vote might seem to indicate. He shows that in many municipalities where "no" vote was almost unanimous, no license was issued. Later in his speech, Mr. Fisher forgot his statement and pointed out that the Scott Act and other local option laws had been a great educator towards prohibition, because those districts which had given the largest Scott Act vote and where local prohibition had been most successfully enforced, had given the largest vote for prohibition in the plebiscite.

The end of it all is that Mr. Fisher is no longer in favor of a prohibitory law, but he still thinks the return point to a restoration of the Scott Act, where it has been dropped. He does not go in for prohibition by provinces, and in general is quite on the side of Mr. Tarte and Mr. Geoffrion and the Licensed Victuallers' Association.

The only other speaker to discuss the prohibition question was Mr. E. F. Clarke of Toronto, who is not a prohibitionist but is one of the best speakers on the opposition side. Mr. Clarke was a member of the royal commission on prohibition and signed the minority report. He still thinks that the conclusions reached by the majority were supported by the evidence, though he favors a much more stringent license law, and is strongly in favor of the idea of suppression of the liquor traffic if it is and other matters. He commends the government for duplicity. He believes that they never intended to carry out the promise of prohibition, and charges that the government had a set purpose in deceiving the people. He informed Mr. Fisher that if he had been such a speech in introducing the plebiscite bill as he had made today the bill would not have passed. It served no purpose except to delay the issue, and had put the country to a good deal of expense and trouble. Mr. Clarke showed the inconsistency of Mr. Fisher's claim that the Dominion should be a temperance nation, and other temperance bodies did not believe that the plebiscite vote warranted the enactment of a law. On the contrary, the prohibitions were being their claim not only on the general principle that they maintained before, but also on the result of the plebiscite.

The subject of the Yukon then took precedence by the amendment which Mr. Clarke moved. This amendment struck out the other topics which are before the house. It does not, however, prevent Mr. Sifton nor his officers. It merely sets forth that the charges are of so grave a character that they require investigation. Mr. Clarke does not even say that he believes the allegations to be true. He does believe that they reflect on the good name of the country, and that they do injury to Canada by reason of the wide circulation and general acceptance in the United States, England and France, as well as in this country. They deter capitalists from making investments here and their circulation in a journal of such tremendous influence as the London Times, whose colonial editor had himself visited the Yukon, is sufficient to call for a vindication of the administration, if that is possible. For his part, Mr. Clarke hopes that the vindication will come, and says that it will be well worth all it costs.

Mr. Bell of Pictou reviewed the circumstances, carefully refraining from expressing a strong opinion as to the guilt of any official, but insisting that Mr. Sifton's vindication of his department was entirely inadequate. He pointed out a number of the minister's evasions, notably the one about the telegram for a liquor license. Mr. Sifton had spent fifteen or twenty minutes in the attempt to make everybody believe that

Mr. Fisher does not claim that a majority of the registered vote is required to constitute an expression of public opinion. He is willing to narrow it down to a majority of the usual vote at general elections. He finds that 66 per cent. of the people usually vote, and suggests that anything over 33 per cent of the total vote would indicate a preponderance. Mr. Fisher could not well place the figure any higher, for he only claims for his own party in the last election a vote of 34 per cent, and this claim is disputed. We have, therefore, Mr. Fisher's announcement that 33 per cent. of the registered electorate, even though it be a majority of the vote polled, does not indicate anything, while 34 per cent. does. It is a preponderance of public opinion. Some where between



That snowy whiteness of linens comes from the use of Surprise Soap on wash day. Surprise has peculiar qualities for laundry uses. Surprise Soap is the name. A pure hard soap. 5 cents a cake.

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper was a shrewd man when he charged that a British Columbia lawyer had received \$500 for telegraphing to the minister for a liquor permit for a friend. After all Mr. Sifton had to admit that Mr. Andrew Martin had telegraphed and that Mr. Sifton had given him what he wanted. At this point Sir Louis Davies, who was leading the house, broke in, declaring that Mr. Sifton had issued no permits. Mr. Bell carried on a short dialogue with the minister of marine, in which Sir Charles Tupper and others participated. The charges and counter-charges grew somewhat exciting. After Sir Louis had been drawn on sufficiently, Mr. Bell read Mr. Sifton's admission.

The story has been told before. The Northwest government had issued permits to the dominion government officers refused to receive them. Mr. Martin's friend had a lot of liquor on the road and could not get it through. Mr. Martin telegraphed to Mr. Sifton asking that the dominion government allow the liquor to pass. Mr. Sifton telegraphed back permission, and the liquor went through. It appears though this is not on the record, that Mr. Martin got \$500 for his interference. Mr. Bell read the telegram.

Then Sir Louis put in that Mr. Bell was misquoting the House, as he knew that the dominion government had no power in the matter and the Northwest administration alone could issue permits. Mr. Bell again read from Mr. Sifton's speech the opinion which the minister said he had obtained from the minister of justice, that the dominion government had no power in the premises. Sir Louis Davies then subsided. The question, however, is not one of law, but one of fact. The dominion exercised the power of stopping the liquor. Later as a result of the telegraphing the liquor was allowed to pass. The other result of the telegram was the payment of \$500 by the liquor man to Mr. Sifton's correspondent.

## Children Cry for CASTORIA.

ADmiral DEATH. Boys are calling a long tonight. Hear what the Admiral says. For a bumper strong and bright. And here's to Admiral Death! He's sailing in a hundred-ton boat. He's fought in a hundred kinds of coat. He's the terror flag of all that sail. And his name's Admiral Death. Which of you looks for a service tree? (Hear what the Admiral says.) The rules of the service are but three. When you sail with Admiral Death, Steady you hold, and your anchor set. Stand to the last by him that falls. An' answer right to the voice that calls. And his name's Admiral Death. How will you know him among the fleet? (Hear what the Admiral says.) By the gleam of the stars that over his breast. The many-hued admiral pennant. By the colored pennant on his anchor star. By the voice that calls him to land afar. By the reddest eyes of all that are. And his name's Admiral Death. Where are the sails that sailed before? (Hear what the Admiral says.) They were white by many a shore. They sleep with Admiral Death. On the day they loved to sail and old. For he left the banner, and took the oar. And the light was blighted, and the story told. And they sleep with Admiral Death. —It's my Newbold.

ST. JOHN MAN. Appointed Superintendent of Education in British Columbia. Says the Vancouver News Advertiser of April 7: The appointment of Principal Alexander Robinson of the Vancouver high school as superintendent of education has caused general satisfaction in the city. It is felt that a better fitted man or an abler one could not have been chosen. Mr. Robinson has been teaching, in various capacities, for over thirteen years, and has seen and experienced almost every phase of a school teacher's life. He came to Vancouver in 1890, and acted as principal of one of the public schools for some time before he was appointed to the post he is now about to vacate. During his nine years' service in this city he has only been absent on sick leave, for a day and a half, a record that few teachers can show. Briefly, the career of the new superintendent of education has been as follows: He was born in 1853 at St. John, N. B., and first attended the high school at Sussex, N. B., and the normal school, Fredericton, from 1870 to 1881, at which institution he carried off the Lorne medal for professional work, i. e., teaching. Later he attended college in Pictou, and in 1882 Dalhousie College, Halifax, saw him as one of its most promising students. While at college he carried off many honors, including the \$300 exhibition and the governor general's gold medal, and in 1888 graduated with first class honors, in classics, being the third man in the history of the province to rank thus. After completing his brilliant college course, Mr. Robinson was appointed principal of the Upper Sussex school, and from 1887 till the time he left for Vancouver held a similar position in Campbellton, N. B., schools.

Read the "Semi-Weekly Sun."



The pathetic story of Romeo and Juliet is repeated every day in modern life, with the exception that the young man does not die by poison. She dies of the same disease, but it is not a fatal one. Neglectfulness and carelessness in women's peculiar sickness. Neglectfulness and carelessness in the management of the menstrual troubles cause serious complications. The irregularities, the burning, dragging ache, the debilitating drains that work the progress of feminine diseases, are passed lightly over or are borne in ignorance of their cause. Their continuance means death or insanity. This is all unnecessary. So-called female weakness can be cured. It can be cured quickly and permanently, and right in the privacy of the home without the humiliating local treatment so universally insisted upon by physicians. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription does this and more. It acts directly on the delicate organs concerned, and makes them strong and healthy. It banishes the usual discomforts of the expectant period and makes baby's coming easy and almost painless. It comes and strengthens the nerves. At all medicine stores.

W. R. Malcolm, Esq., of Kings Clay Co., Ark., writes: "My wife for perhaps four months previous to the birth of our child took the 'Favorite Prescription' for her menstrual troubles, and child-birth to her, was very easy, being attended with little pain. My wife was some months old and she has never been sick a day, not so much as had the colic she is hearty and robust and prettily a vigorous young woman. She is healthy, and we very much blame Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription for her recovery. We keep Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, the 'Favorite Prescription' and 'Pleasant Pellets' in our family, and I have called a physician into my family but one time—at birth of our baby."

Rosy cheeks, the rich, pure, red blood of health makes them. Keep the blood pure and you will have them. Constipation causes impure blood. Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure it promptly and permanently and never grip. They are purely vegetable and perfectly harmless. No other pills act so naturally and peacefully. Druggists sell them.

## A Statement of Policy

Hon. Mr. L. A. Beaudry. In the Department of Development for the

FREDERICK. Mr. Thompson and coming the Gibeon Railway. Mr. Hunsington, seconded detailed statements of the commission of the three bridge, new. The house considered a man. On the item of \$500, he asked that Hon. Mr. increase the salary of the superintendent. The \$100 ea. Peters, deputy culture, \$200, on account of the department of \$100; this will chell and Mr. will now receive will restore to Lugin.

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