

OTTAWA LETTER.

Mr. Foster Showed in His Powerful Address on Friday,

That an Attempt is Being Made to Humberg Nova Scotia Electors.

Laurier, Davies and Mulock Made to See Themselves as Others See Them.

Ottawa, April 19.—In the house of commons some progress has been made this week in public bills by private members. The consolidated alien labor bills went to special committee on Wednesday. Charlton's Sunday bill got its second reading. Mr. Mullen's second class fare railway bill got its second reading and went to the railway committee last night.

Mr. Charlton's speech on his Sunday bill was not unfamiliar to the house of commons. He brought forward his old statements against the Sunday newspaper, which he says has demoralized the whole newspaper press of the United States and made it "foul and bestial." Mr. Charlton has objections also to Sunday trains and Sunday work on the canals. Many of these objections are shared with Mr. Charlton by other members of the house, although they do not connect with him in the volume and vigor of their denunciation. There are, however, objections raised to the legislation proposed by the member for North Norfolk. In the first place most of the propositions he makes come more properly within the scope of provincial legislation. This point used to be urged by Sir John Thompson when he was minister of justice, and are now set forth in almost Sir John's words by Mr. Laurier. It is of course undesirable that the provincial and federal legislatures should be legislating in the same fields, making laws which may contradict each other, and which are almost certain to clash in some respects, and to be confusing in all others. The bills are taken to the substance of the legislation proposed. It is pointed out now, as it has been many times before, that the customs and ideas of the French people in Quebec are entirely different from those of Ontario and the maritime provinces. The French Roman Catholic believes that he may do on Sunday afternoons many things which are regarded as immoral by the Presbyterian people of Ontario, and by Protestants in other provinces. The French people are disposed to look to their clergy for instruction as to what is and is not desecration of the Lord's day. They rather dislike to have the parliament in and dictate to them on such matters. Mr. Charlton, however, takes the ground that he is dealing with Sunday observance, not in a religious spirit, but in the interests of the working man and for the promotion of peace, order and good government in Canada. One part of the bill is clearly within the province of the federal parliament, and is a perfectly proper one to be brought up in the house. That is the question of operating the government canals on Sunday. The Sunday part of the bill is mostly confined to the matter of Sunday trains, Sunday canal boats and Sunday newspapers. As a matter of fact, there are no Sunday newspapers in Canada except in British Columbia, and in that province the Monday paper has been abolished. This is perhaps a little more logical than Mr. Charlton's proposition, since the Sunday paper is for the most part made on week days and the Monday paper on Sundays. The Charlton bill, after some criticism, was allowed to go to the committee of the whole, where it will be dealt with in detail. It is not unfamiliar with that locality, having frequently been there before, and having generally emerged therefrom in a greatly damaged condition. It ought to be remarked that the whole debate was allowed to go through this time without a reference to Mr. Charlton's famous journey on a Sunday train, or his conduct in operating his own tug boats on Sunday, or even to the untrue affidavit that he was once accused of having made with intent to injure a fellow member. It was a happy escape.

Mr. McLellan of Glenarry made a rather strong speech in support of his proposition about second class return tickets. He wants to have a law made compelling railways to issue return tickets to second class passengers at the same reduction that is allowed to first class passengers. His bill is brought forward in the interests of the poorer traveller, who, as he points out, is as much entitled to a commensurate and generous return as the liberal side of the house are growing very conservative, and several of them, including the leader, protested against this interference with the right of railways to charge what they please. Mr. Laurier did not believe that the railways could be compelled to issue return tickets at all, and therefore it would be out of place to try to make them issue a particular class of return tickets. However, he remarked in a somewhat facetious manner "I will allow this bill to go to the railway committee," and to the railway committee it went.

The wheelmen have plenty of friends in parliament. A bill has been read the first time which, if passed, will compel the railways to carry the bicyclist without charge as the members of the house pointed out this measure, which he says is very necessary for tired bicyclists. (The typewriter—not the machine, the girl wants to know if this is a pun.) Mr. Casey says that the unfortunate wheelman, if caught in a storm far away from home, has sometimes to pay more to get his wheel back than for his own fare. He wants the railways to put hooks in the ceiling of their baggage cars and hang the wheels on them. For the benefit of the members of the house he pointed out that the Wheelmen's association in Canada number over 10,000, and as-

serted that there were more than 100,000 bicyclists in the dominion. The political strength of such a body ought to be considerable.

House was dismissed early last evening to allow the members to read the pamphlet brought down by Mr. Fielding containing the estimates for the year beginning the first of next July. In the opening speech it was remarked that the estimates were framed "with a due regard for economy." But as the amount asked for is over a million in excess of the amount required by Mr. Foster, the last year of his financial administration the word "economy" is evidently used in comparison with some other standard. The standard is that prevailing this year, which is a very high standard of expenditure. Compared with it there is a reduction of over one and a half millions, but Mr. Fielding is a capable man, and is reasonably certain to make up a little more than that in his supplementary estimates, which will come later. In addition to the thirty-eight millions and more asked for out of income six and a half millions is wanted on capital account. This is a very large capital expenditure, but it does not include all that is to be spent next year. It contains no appropriation for the territorial extension to Montreal, nothing for the Crow's Nest, nothing for Bale des Chaleurs, nothing for the Quebec bridge, nothing for railway subsidies. The total estimates on the capital account call for \$4,907,288. Before the house rises it is reasonably certain that anywhere between fifty and sixty millions will be voted.

Some interesting things are revealed in the estimates. It was claimed that the government would save \$125,000 in five years by the new bank note contract, but the house is asked for \$15,000 less, and not \$25,000 less than last year. It is said that there is another story about this bank note contract which will be interesting reading when it comes. Apparently the government is not going to be changed as to its constitution. Provision is made for twelve salaried ministers, as now, and also for two controllerships as at present. It was publicly announced last year that Mr. Paterson would be promoted to the charge of the department, soon as legislation could be procured, but if Mr. Paterson and Sir Henry Joly are to be promoted it appears to be the intention of the premier to appoint some new men in their place. This seems to imply that some of the ministers are to go.

Notwithstanding all that has been said about the uselessness of the High Commissioner and of the outrageous cost of his establishment in London, we are still to have him and his establishment. Not a dollar is reduced from the old appropriation. Those famous wine glasses of Sir Charles Tupper are to be replaced with equally magnificent wine glasses on the table of some other man.

Sir Oliver Mowat expects to save money in the operation of the penitentiaries. In Kingston particularly the appropriation is to be reduced, the commission seems to be with this year, in which there has been a large appropriation for machinery. Still it would seem that the convicts in three of the penitentiaries are to go on shorter rations, as the cost of their maintenance is to be reduced. Or perhaps Sir Oliver intends to continue his policy of liberal exercises of pardoning power. "Tobacco for convicts" is banished from the list of items. This will save about forty cents a prisoner, and though it seems a little harsh, it may be regarded as one of Sir Oliver's "evidences of Christianity."

Mr. Sifton is getting in his work in good style. It was announced when he went into the government that he would claim a free hand in Northwest matters. The understanding is that he has claimed it to the extent of leaving the council room two or three times a week. He appears, however, from the number of men turned out and the number he has put in the interior department, that he has had his day pretty well. He has increased the total amount of salaries paid in his department in Ottawa notwithstanding the increase, and the vote for immigration is increased from \$130,500 to \$175,000. The sum of \$3,000 is added to the salary of agents in Canada, \$3,715 to the salary of agents in Great Britain, \$10,000 to the salary of agents in foreign countries, and nearly \$22,000 to general immigration expenses.

As was stated in the despatches, Mr. Foster has added \$80,000 to the appropriation in his department with respect to the butter, cheese and cold storage enterprises. The minister of agriculture says that he will continue the policy of his predecessor in regard to the purchase of butter for experimental shipments to England, and will establish a continuous chain of cold storage from the creamery to the British customer. In discussing the growth of the butter export trade, Mr. Fisher admits that he is simply following the line of those who went before him, and though he thinks that the export of this year will be double that of last year, he is honest enough to remark that the doubling process has gone on for some time. These are his words: "During the season just past we exported more than double the amount we did the year before. The year before that we exported more than double what we did the preceding year. In other words, butter exports have been increasing by more than double for the last three years, and I venture to say that the butter export of Canada during the coming season will again double the quantity of last year." During the past winter we have been exporting every week a large quantity of butter to England, a thing which has never before been known. For the first time in the history of the butter trade, Canada will export butter every week in the year.

One misleading item in the estimates is that of superannuation. The amount asked is no larger than the sum appropriated last year. But it was only yesterday that the finance minister brought down a statement of the expen-

ditures made since the government came in power last July. The amounts to be paid annually to the forty-two persons on the list, come to \$18,228. In addition, fourteen civil servants who have not been ten years in the service, and, therefore, are not entitled to superannuation, have been retired with gratuities amounting to \$3,173. Of the 42 officials retired with an annual allowance no less than 17 are under 55 years of age; 10 are under 65, and 5 are under 70. One man of 56 will receive \$750 for the rest of his life. A veteran of 41 is down at \$540 a year; one of 56 will draw \$1,590 a year; and \$408 a year will be annually paid to a gentleman who is now 57. Among those who have retired with gratuities of \$500 and upwards, are an official of 41, another of 36, and one who has reached the mature age of 30.

That bete noir of grit politicians, Kideast hall, is going to cost as much as ever and a little more. Last year the vote for improvements, furniture and maintenance was \$14,107. Mr. Tarte is now asking \$18,000 to be spent there next year. Well informed and speaking of Mr. Tarte, he got in some fine work by putting in the estimates rather liberal appropriations for public works from Champlain county. An election took place in Champlain this week, and the electors there were fully informed as to the real intentions of the government respecting them. Mr. Tarte naturally expected a generous response. The evening of election day was fixed by him as a neat time for a dinner party, and the bill was accordingly presented to the house. The announcement of the glorious victory of the liberal cause in Champlain, in other respects the dinner party was no doubt a success, but this part of the programme was a melancholy failure. As there was nothing to celebrate the banquet concluded to go somewhere and swear at the bishops. As yet there are no votes asked in respect to steamship service. The amount put down for steamship subsidies is exactly the same as last year, and for the same services, with the exception of the reduction of \$5,000 for a service on the Pacific coast. But all this is, of course, open to revision.

Unless Mr. Davies has something new to say in the supplementary estimates, the grant to the fisheries will be reduced in his department. The appropriation for lights is reduced to one-third what it was last year. Fishery overseers lose ten per cent. Fish breeding establishments are cut down. Fish protection is reduced \$15,000, and the grant to the fisheries is cut down. But Mr. Davies is given to second thought. In the customs service, outside, there is not much reduction. Bridgetown and Margareville are abolished as customs ports, but the cost of our trade is not reduced. The same result follows the degradation of St. Andrews in New Brunswick. There is a new vote of \$10,000 for "the maintenance of additional revenue cruisers required and preventive services." Our old friend Mr. F. J. Jones, the newspaper correspondent, is concerned in that appropriation.

Whether Mr. Mulock will be able to save \$150,000 out of the four millions allotted expended in the operation of the post offices and mail service, remains to be seen. He has been able to renew a number of small carriers' contracts at reduced rates, but competition has brought their pay down to so small a return, that it is probable that in many cases he found incapable of doing the work for the money. Those who are acquainted with the mail service know very well that the stage driver is the worst paid of all government employees. The postmaster general hopes to be able to get along with fewer officials in the inspection service, as he proposes to reduce the number from 120 to 104. The number of railway mail clerks is to be reduced from 331 to 273. The staff of the post office throughout the dominion is to be cut down from 1,456 to 1,288. For instance, Fredericton is to have two men less, St. John two less, and Halifax one less. This is what Mr. Mulock hopes to do. It remains to be seen later what he will be able to do. He is to face with his programme, with operation, and face to face with the omnipotent office seeker. S. D. S.

Ottawa, April 19.—The government is obstructing the business which it is conducting with the most importance, and crowding out the legislation which the ministers themselves say will not be required for three years. The solicitor general admits that the Franchise bill is not needed at present. The leaders of the party have on many occasions stated that the first and most important business of the new parliament would be the complete destruction and reconstruction of the fiscal system of the country. Yet they are holding back the measure for which they declared the country was suffering and are pushing forward a most contentious bill, which, as they know, cannot get through the house without long delay, and which they admit is not immediately necessary. The despatches of last night gave an outline of Mr. Foster's arraignment of the government for the course taken in this matter, but no outline could give a fair idea of the strength and vigor of his attack, or the force and cogency of his argument. He proved by an irresistible course of reasoning from admitted facts that the ministers were deliberately withholding this important measure for political purposes of their own. He connected with absolute certainty the delay in the tariff with the Nova Scotia campaign, and showed that the ministers were almost as sure to deceive the Nova Scotia electors as they were the people of the west. One of the other must, certainly be deceived, because the promises made to them were distinctly opposite and contrary. The first part of Mr. Foster's

speech showed the relatively unimportant character of the Franchise bill, compared with other legislation promised in this session and with legislation that ought to have been in the program. We the party leaders had been true to their pledges.

For instance, there was Mr. Mulock's bill, which he so earnestly urged upon the house only a few sessions ago. This bill prohibited the appointment of members of parliament to other positions or the appointment of persons who had been members of parliament within one year after they ceased to sit in the house. This measure, Mr. Foster said, was one of the most important under the present circumstances. It was intended, according to Mr. Mulock, to take away temptation from ministers, and it appeared that this temptation was now very strong. In fact, the ministers were yielding to it every week. Mr. Foster's reference was to Mr. Devlin, who voted for Mulock's bill, and was the other day appointed straight from the house of commons to a position of \$2,000 a year. And speaking of Mr. Devlin, he got in some fine work by putting in the estimates rather liberal appropriations for public works from Champlain county. An election took place in Champlain this week, and the electors there were fully informed as to the real intentions of the government respecting them. Mr. Tarte naturally expected a generous response. The evening of election day was fixed by him as a neat time for a dinner party, and the bill was accordingly presented to the house. The announcement of the glorious victory of the liberal cause in Champlain, in other respects the dinner party was no doubt a success, but this part of the programme was a melancholy failure. As there was nothing to celebrate the banquet concluded to go somewhere and swear at the bishops. As yet there are no votes asked in respect to steamship service. The amount put down for steamship subsidies is exactly the same as last year, and for the same services, with the exception of the reduction of \$5,000 for a service on the Pacific coast. But all this is, of course, open to revision.

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pledges had not been made in such terms that they could be absolutely relied upon. All over the country "a whip of terrorism has been held over the producers." Promises conditional on political support have been secretly made to their ears. Men go about among them saying, "We know a thing or two, you don't need to be afraid." The leaders have been throwing out vague suggestions where they will do the most good. The leaders have been saying, "The tariff is not made yet, you had better take care," and the minister of marine and fisheries comes here and tells us "we have got to consult our leading friends." The tariff commissioners have done their work and completed their public enquiry. Now we have got to consult our friends.

Coming to a particular discussion of the coal duties, Mr. Foster quoted the party deliverances on that subject, beginning with a speech of Laurier in 1882. The announcement of the date was greeted with laughter by the premier and his friends. "I knew they would laugh," said Mr. Foster; "they don't think that a principle lasts two minutes." Laurier said: "Because one nation legislates against another it is no reason why another should do so." The premier had pressed that point home to the great liberal convention a year or two ago, by describing a Chinese duel. In that country, Mr. Laurier said, when a man insulted another the aggrieved party thrust a sword into his own bowels, and then sent the sword to his opponent, who proceeded to disembowel himself. Mr. Laurier did not think it was wise for Canada to thrust a sword into its own vitals because the United States had chosen to do so. "Now," said Mr. Foster, "congress has used its sword on itself and has sent the bloody weapon to Mr. Laurier. We will see what he does with it."

Less than ten months ago the premier clearly and emphatically promised free coal and free iron to a great audience assembled at Montreal. Months afterwards, when he was leader of the government, he sat beside the premier of Ontario on the platform from which the latter urged the people of Brantford to support the government and get free coal. Mr. Laurier made no objections while Mr. Hardy denounced the policy of protection to coal "for the benefit of a few New York capitalists with interest in Nova Scotia." Now on top of all this comes Mr. Fielding's statement that the government proposes to retain the coal duty and Sir Oliver Mowat's declaration in the senate that the finance minister was speaking for the government.

The Nova Scotia friends of the finance minister considered the future uncertain. Why does the premier of Nova Scotia make protection to coal the issue in his province? Does he not accept Mr. Fielding's Montreal statement and regard the matter as settled? If it is settled, how can the success of Mr. Murray and his government affect the question? All the circumstances, as Mr. Foster argued, proved that the matter was still left in such a form that the terror of free coal was held over the people interested in Nova Scotia. It is impossible to believe that the government after all these months could not get its tariff ready. It was absolutely certain that the delay was for political reasons connected with the Nova Scotia elections and with by-elections in Manitoba.

If the Nova Scotia duty was continued, what became of the argument that the duty on agricultural implements should be reduced in consideration of the manufacturers getting their coal free? The manufacturers' duty would have to be kept up. This would kill the party in the Manitoba elections, and in Manitoba free coal and free agricultural implements were still the policy of this government. Somebody must be deceived. Perhaps it will be Nova Scotia. Perhaps it will be Manitoba. Perhaps it will be both. But the policy is to conceal the programme from them all until the regular election. For this cause the condition of financial embarrassment has been continued. For these reasons the country has been kept in anxiety, business is depressed, industry suspended and the maximum of uncertainty and danger continued. The reasons might be sufficient for the ministry, said Mr. Foster, but they are not satisfactory to the country nor to this side of the house.

During the speech Mr. Foster was occasionally interrupted, but invariably got the better of the interrupter. Mr. Casey first took the point that he was not speaking to the question of the franchise, which was the measure before the house. Mr. Foster admitted the fact, but said that he was about to propose an amendment to which his remarks applied, Mr. Casey was not satisfied with that, and addressed the speaker. Mr. Edgar informed Mr. Casey that Mr. Foster was in order, but Mr. Casey required the speaker to give further explanations, which he did, though Mr. Foster suggested that it was too great a strain upon the speaker of the house to expect him to make even simple things clear to Mr. Casey.

Later in the afternoon, the speaker, who did not know what amendment Mr. Foster was to make, told him that he seemed to be wandering very far from the franchise question. But the speaker was assured that the speech did not wander from the motion to be moved. In fact, Mr. Foster's speech was addressed directly to his own amendment. He moved that the franchise bill be left over till the tariff was considered, and his whole speech was directed to a proof that the tariff was the most important and urgent question before the house. If he had discussed the franchise he would have been doing just what he was insisting should not now be done.

Mr. Lister also figured in an interruption. Mr. Lister represented Hamilton and is interested in the oil wells at Petrolia. He observed to Mr. Foster that the tariff would probably not affect gold mines. "No," replied Foster, "but it will affect oil, and that is a subject in which Mr. Lister knows that he is interested. And that, he knows that I know it." The full

force of this retort was perhaps more strongly felt by Mr. Lister than was apparent to other members. Mr. Foster had been finance minister, and in that capacity had to deal with oil duties, and it is possible that Mr. Lister may in the past have had some request to make of him on that subject.

There was an interesting dialogue between Mr. Foster and Mr. Davies in the course of the discussion. Mr. Davies, speaking at Aylmer shortly before the house met, and during the campaign in the Liberal organ at the constituency Aylmer is one of the principal towns, was reported to have said that within a week after the meeting of the house the tariff would be brought down, and that Sir Charles Tupper would be surprised to find that the government had kept its promises. When Mr. Foster read these remarks Mr. Davies rose and said that he had used no such language. Moreover, no such language had been attributed to him in any of the reports except that of the Ottawa Free Press, which was a few weeks ago published in the Ottawa Citizen. The Citizen report did not so represent him. "But," said Mr. Foster, "I am reading from the Citizen report the words which the hon. gentleman repudiated." Afterwards Mr. Davies declared that he had never had any opportunity to contradict the false report, as he had never been repeated in the house.

Mr. Foster was handed a copy of Hansard by a member near him, and proceeded to read from Sir Charles Tupper's speech, when he was interrupted by Mr. Davies, who had himself previously read, Mr. Davies then declared that he had not been present and did not know about it. But whether he was present or not, when Sir Charles Tupper quoted his alleged words, he was present a few minutes later when the leader of the opposition referred to them, and he has read them every day in the papers for the past fortnight. Mr. Davies now says that he promised to read the tariff report a few weeks after the opening of the session, but as Mr. Foster remarks, there would hardly be much point in that observation, when Mr. Davies was showing that the government was all ready and waiting with its policy.

The above is at best a mere summary of a powerful speech, which left upon the minds of all fair persons who heard it the strong impression that an attempt is being made to humbug the electors of Nova Scotia, and to secure grit votes there on false pretences, and all at the expense of the business interests of the country. S. D. S.

A DECIDED CHANGE

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Any one who are suffering from diseases of the blood and nerves may, like Mrs. Godose, find a cure if they will give Dr. Williams' Pink Pills a fair trial. As a spring medicine there is nothing else as equal Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They drive the seeds of disease from the system and give those who use them a feeling of freshness and vigor. Do not be persuaded to take any pink colored preparation, or something else alleged to be "just as good." Insist upon getting the genuine Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and if your dealer does not keep them in stock, they will be sent post paid at 50¢ per box or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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Raised and

Important Statist

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