OTTAWA LETTER.

Government to Blame for This Unusually Long Session.

PAR DO The Budget Speech Not Delivered Until Seven Weeks After the Opening of the House.

St. John Telegraph Missed the Point of Mr. Powell's Remarks Official Report of the Westmorland Member's Conversation With the Minister of Railways.

return was brought down in relation to the retirement of Col. Domville, M. P., from the command of the 8th Hussars. It contained some interesting correspondence, which throws light upon the treatment given to Gen. Hutton by the politicians, and also upon the methods and character of the minister of militia. It reveals very little that was not known about Col. Domville, but shows in what repute he was held by the commander in chief.

The story begins on the 12th of July, 1898, when Col. Aylmer wrote to the district officer commanding at Fredericton, explaining that Col. Domville's time of service had expired on the 2nd instant, and asking Col. Vidai to offer Col. Domville the opportunity of resigning in case he preferred to retire in that way. In July, three days later, Col. Vidal reported that he could not find Col. Domville, and on the 25th, he was instructed to address the colonel at headquarters.

Nothing happened until September

10th, when Col. Vidal reported from Fredericton that Col Domville had not taken any notice of the communica-Another month passed, when Col. Domville was heard from with an application for six weeks' leave of absence, which was granted him. In November Lt. Col. Markham, the second in command, applied for the command of the Battalion, and a week later Gen. Hutton advised Col. Aylmer to inform Col. Markham that it was contrary to military custom for an officer to make such application. He went on to say that he had recommended that Col. Markham should receive the command of the regiment in place of Col. Domville, whose period had expired before the letter was received. Gen. Hutton remarked that an early Gazette would announce Col. Markham's appointment. That is where he was mistaken.

On December 13th the transfer of ently made same complaint about it. Col. Aylmer made enquiries of his chief staff officer as to the facts, asking whether Col. Domville were notified, what effort had been made to replace missing stores, and whether any sums of money were due Col. Domville from the department out of which such loss could be made good. In reply, Col. Vidal stated that Col. Domville had not been notified because he was absent from Canada, Lt. Erown was present at the transfer, and he had pravious charge of the arms. There was a half year's allowance for care of arms due, but it was not settled as to whom it should be paid.

On the 24th of December Col. Don: ville, who had returned from England, telegraphed to Gen. Hutton stating that he would answer the November letter about his resignation and asked the general to await his communication. He also telegraphed the compliments of the season. Gen. Hutton waited. On the 5th of January Col. Domville wrote:

It is my intention to prepare a case showing how impossible it is for Lt. Col. Markham to succeed me, as it would be small min in his disloyalty and want of discipline. Had the minister not informed me ham to succeed me, as it would be sustaining him in his disloyalty and want of discipline. Had the minister not informed me that the regulation was not intended to apply to me, I should have done so at the time when other officers were placed on the reserve. I was informed by the minister I should remain in command, and hope that his decision then will not be reversed now. I may say that my case is somewhat different from others, and that while the rule may work advantageously in many cases, it will have a different effect on the 8th Regiment. I do not believe as a rule the officers will serve under Lt. Col. Markham, for many reasons, and besides he does not reside in the district of the corps. A reference to the action of all the generals in the past will show that for years he has been trying to undermine me by underhand reports, and that each general turned him over. It is the common talk in the streets that he has at last succeeded in getting done what heretofore he has failed, and his whole course is subversive of good discipline.

Col. Domville concludes by expressing the hope of an early interview and suggesting that when the change took | Gen. Hutton wrote to the deputy minplace Major Campbell should succeed ister, stating that he had been inform-

To this letter General Hutton instructed Col. Aylmer to make reply. After stating the issue, Col. Aylmer says: In regard to Col. Domville's retirement "the major general sees no reason for not carrying out regulations in your case." As to the successor, "Gen. Hutton will be glad to receive, without delay, in official form, any remarks you have to make for his consideration respecting Col. Mark-

On the 11th of January, 1899, Gen. Hutton reported to the minister:

After a careful review I am of opinion that there are faults on both sides, and that in view of the fact that Lt. Col. Markham's conduct to his commanding officer in the most recent instance having been condoned by Gen. Gascoigne, it will be unfair to recent the case unless there were throng reasons, which there do not appear to be. Lt. Col. Markham has practically commanded during two years. He was in command during the camp of 1897, and would have been in 1898 had the regiment performed its duty at the usual time. He is president of the Cavalry Association, and has shown a keen interest in cavalry matters. I am of opinion that he should be appointed to command. Lt. Col. Domville in a private letter states his intention to prepare a case showing how impossible it is for Lt. Col. Markham to succeed him. I have informed him it must be official, and await its receipt.

On Feb. 4th the adjutant general wires to Col. Domville, stating that no

wires to Col. Domville, stating that no reply has been received, and that the general intends taking action, and Col. Domville replies that the papers will be sent on Monday. This seems to have been done, but apparently this

OTTAWA, July 2 .- On Saturday a communication is also marked "private," for it does not appear, and on February 11th we have a letter from Col. Aylmer to Col. Domville. Col. Aylmer is requested by Gen. Hutton "to reply to your private letter." Gen. Hetton feels much regret over the misunderstanding between the two of-ficers, and feels "that the differences been so accentuated by personal and political motives that it is impossible for him to differentiate." The letter proceeds :

Gen. Hutton desires me to remark that the minister has informed him you are laboring under some misunderstanding as to any promise having been made to you by him that the regulation would not be applied to your case. He has no recollection of such promise, nor would it have been possible for him to have made such an exception.

The general cannot agree that the regulation for compulsory retirement would be detrimental to the cavalry, but thinks it would more effectually benefit that arm. The letter pro-

Major General Hutton has no recollection Major General Hutton has no recollection of having received from you any excuse or epology for your absence without leave in England. He also notices that in your private letter to him you invariably speak of Lt. Col. Markham as Major Markham, no doubt by some accident. The latter part of your letter is not altogether understood by the major general commanding, and he cannot quite realize how your public and private position is in any way at stake, or why with reference to Lt. Col. Markham you find it necessary to vindicate yourself for the service at large.

On the 21st of February Colonel

On the 21st of February, Colone Domville seems to have been heard from again, for Col. Aylmer, acknowledges papers from Col. Domville, and is requested by the Major General Commanding to inform Col. Domville that the conflict in the regiment is a subject of regret, adding:

I am to point out that in his reflections the Col. Marking, Lt. Col. Jemville himself appears to have overlooked the fact that he absored himself from Canada with that he absorted himself from Canada with-cut leave, and that in fact he was absent without leave of any kind for four weeks. . Under the circumstances, I am de-sired to inform you that the major general commanding intends to recommend the re-tirement of Lt. Col. Domville about the 18th

It is again suggested that Col. Domstores to Col. Markham had taken wille might forward his resignation. observes that as Col. Domville is about to retire, there is no necessity for retransferring the stores to him. On the 24th, Col. Domville wrote to Col. Aylmer, repeating the statement that the minister promised him an extension of time, apologising for absence without leave, and stating his regret that Gen. Hutton "does not realize how my public and private position is at stake." Col. Domville submits to his commander as a soldier, but says "in a representative position I cannot see it in the same light he does." suggestion that Col. Domville, as a member of parliament, has some power, does not appear to brought any reply.

On April 7th, Col. Domville writes to Gen. Hutton, offering a new reason for delay. He says the charges against him by a senior major were then before parliament, "and it would be unfortunate if the action taken by the department might be considered as the minister to overrule the general, sustaining the charges." To this letter Col. Aylmer replies that he is desired by Gen. Hutton to state that any charges made in May of 1898 could have no bearing on the fact that Domville's period of command had expired. The letter proceeds :

Major general commanding, while noting the motion registered by yourself, under the name of Mr. Domville, does not understand that the charges which have been made by the senior major are being submitted to rarliament.

Col. Aylmer is desired by Gen. Hutton to point out

That your letter should have been forwarded through the usual channel, and not direct to himself. You will be good enough to carry out in future the usual method of official communication.

In the end Col. Domville got his way, for on April 11th, Col. Cotton of the staff here, wrote to Col. Domville, stating that no action will be taken pending the investigation by the public accounts committee. On April 17th, ed personally by the minister on April 11th that as charges were to be investigated, Gen. Hutton therefore delayed gazetting Domville out.

On the 24th of April "leave of absence pending retirement," was given to Col. Domville. This was not what the colonel wanted, and he at once sent three letters and telegrams to different officers over him, as follows: "I did not apply for leave, do not desire leave, and do not intend to absent myself from regimental headquarters." May 10th, Col. Aylmer asked the chief staff officer to explain to Col. Domville that "leave of absence had been granted to him to cover the very unusual delay which has occurred in the official an-

nouncement of his retirement." On May 4th, there is a correspondence which shows the relations between the minister and the general in a light not very favorable to the minister. Deputy Minister Pinault writes Gen. Hutton:

The minister desires to see the letter addressed by you to Col. Cotton about the 17th concerning Col. Domville, and also the letter addressed by Col. Cotton to Col. Domville

To this Gen. Hutton replies to the deputy:

I think probably the date referred to in your minute is the 11th and not the 17th. I, however, did not address any letter to Col. Cctton on the subject about either date. Attached hereto is a copy of the letter sent to Col. Domville on the 11th, and signed by Cotton for chief staff officer by my order.

—schemes to execute. They are "plungers." They line up their incomes as soon as they receive them or re-invest them with the idea of increase. They cannot afford to be sick. Sickness is a calamity—a financial calamity—as well as a color.

a financial calamity
as well as a physical one. So the
sick man worries,
and the more he
worries, the
sicker he Worry is a good thing at the right

a twinge of rheumatism tells you plainly that your blood is impaired—when you are losing flesh and vitality, go to the nearest drug store and get a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Biscovery. It Pierce's Golden Medical Secovery. It is the greatest blood purifier and tissue builder on earth. It cures rheumatism and all other blood diseases by curing the cause. It purifies the blood and puts the blood making organs into good, healthy, working order. It tones up the stomach, stirs up the liver, helps the kidneys in their work and puts suffering nerves at their work and puts suffering nerves at rest. It contains no whisky, alcohol, opium or other dangerous dangs and does not therefore angerous dangs and oes not, therefore, create a craving for etimulants or narcotics.

stimulants of marcotics.

James E. Crampton, Esq., of Sharpsburg, Washington Co., Md., writes: "I was in business in Baltimore, and had rheumatism for three mosths; couldn't walk at all. I tried the best doctors I could get but they did me no good. I took three bottles of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and it cured me sound. I came home to Sharpsburg and there were three cases of different diseases. I advised the patients to use Dr. Pierce's medicine, which they did, and all were cured, I have sold over one hundred dollars' worth of your medicine by telling people how it cured me. You can write to our druggist, Mr. G. F. Smith, in our town and he will tell you what I did for you in regard to selling and advertising your great remedies."

The next day General Hutton received a note, signed in the minister's name, in the following language: Gen. Hutton showed me a copy of his letter to Cotton, which contained the authority for Cotton's letter to Domville. No matter what was the date, I want a copy of the letter

Col. Foster next sent in a memorandum to Gen. Hutton:

Regarding the memo, of the minister, I can only say that further search has been made for the letter said to have been addressed by you to Gol. Cotton, but no trace of any such letter can be found. The acting of any such letter cam be found. The acting chief clerk thinks there is no such letter, official or unofficial, and he states that Cotton is of the same opinion. How shall it

General Hutton answered by going into the gap hin self. He wrote to the minister:

derstanding. I addressed no etter to Col. Cotton as regards Domville. The letter, a Cotton as regards Domvine. The letter, copy of which I sent you, was dictated by me and signed by Cotton as C. S. O. It is this letter to which I think your minute refers as having been shown you by me. I never write instructions to my staff unless. under exceptional circumstances and when I am away. I need hardly say that any communication I have as regards Domville's retirement is entirely at your disposal.

This seems to have satisfied the r ister, as we hear no more about it. The correspondence is resumed en June 30th by a letter from Gen. Hutton to the minister. "I have to recommend," he says, "that in consequence of grave reflection upon Col. Domville before the public accounts committee, some special steps should be taken. I would invite special attention to it, for these reflections not only affect that officer's integrity as a commanding officer, but his honor as an officer and a gentleman, and thereby involve the good name of the 'Canadian militia in general." The period of Domville's command is extended to cover this case.

About this time Col. Domville put in a cleam for transportation to headquarters about some matter and it was disallowed. There is some correspondence concerning the re-transfer of stores to Col. Domville, who seems again to have used his influence with General Hutton having announced that he saw no occasion for the transfer. Col. Markham, who had charge of the stores, seems to have failed to appear at Hampton on the day fixed. The major general asks the chief staff officer to inform Col. Markam that his expianation for his non-attendance is "highly unsatisfactory." Afterwards it appears that the general had not seen the explanation, but was taking it at second hand, since Markham's letter had been lost. In the end it was discovered that Markham's explanation was "either insufficient notice or absence of notice of the proposed transfer."

This brings the correspondence down to July 31st. When the enquiry was over, Gen. Hutton wrote to the minister:

Having regard to the fact that Col. Dom-ville will be retired, I propose nominating Col. Markham to succeed to the command. Having regard to circumstances connected with the regiment, and personal and political misunderstandings between Lt. Col. Domiville and Lt. Col. Markham, which has led to urpleasant feeling in the regiment, I do not consider it in the interest of the service that Lt. Col. Markham should be continued to command. Laccordingly propose to rein command. I accordingly propose to re-commend the promotion of Col. Markham to command, conditional upon his applying to retire before the end of the current year. Lt. Col. Markham is, moreover, from his age unsuited to carry on command of a cav-alry regiment to advantage for a longer

Here the minister intervenes shorten further Col. Markham's tenure, and to lengthen out that of Col. Domville. He says:

I have to call your attention to the fact

I have to call your attention to the fact that the transfer of stores to Lt. Col. Dom-ville has not been consummated. Of course it will be absurd to gazette Lt. Col. Dom-ville out till this was done. I understand that he will be prepared for the second time to be present to take over the stores in a few days, and that he then intends immediately to send in his resignation.

Secondly, my understanding with regard to Secondly, my understanding with regard to Markham's tenure of office differs entirely from that stated in your memorandum. It was distinctly understood by me that his tenure of command should not continue be-

Gen. Hutton does not quite agree with the minister's conclusion. writes on August 4th:

yond the interval between two Gazettes, that

The regimental stores were, I was informed by Lt. Col. Markham, re-transferred before the 1st instant. fore the 1st instant.

In any case, it is a matter which in no way bears upon the retirement of this most undesirable officer. The transfer of stores, under the circumstances, is purely a matter of formal routine.

It is quite unnecessary for Lt. Col. Domittle of the beautiful and the content of the conte ville to take over the stores if he has not already done so, as his retirement will date

On August 10th Gen. Hirton tele-raphed from Hotel Champidan to his chief staff officer, to include Col. Dom-ville in the next Gazette. In reply, the chief staff officer wired: "Minister declines to act regarding retirement unless it is understood Markham retires one week later. Matter rests pending

On the 4th of August Gen. Hutton had sent a memorandum to the minis-

ter; saying: I consider it is advisable that this officer (Col. Markham) should command his regiment during its training in September next. The delay which has been occasioned in retiring Lt. Col. Domville has necessarily modified my previous recommendation. The minister refused to yield and re-

In view of all the circumstances in this case, and for the future well being of the regiment, I think Lt. Col. Markham should not be allowed to remain in command. The general was thus forced to yield.

On the 17th of August the chief staff flicer wrote to the district officer ommanding:

I am desired by the major general commanding to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of Lt. Col. Domville.

The major general commanding notes that this officer has been able to satisfy the tablic accounts committee as regards the charges preferred against him. I am, however, to remark that the minority report of the above committee has been forwarded for the information of the major general. I am also to add that it is much to be regretted that Lt. Col. Domville did not take the necessary steps to satisfy the public accounts committee earlier in the session.

General onders issued on the 17th of August placed Col. Domville on the retired: list.

OTTAWA, July 2.-We are now ertering on the sixth month of the session, with the fair prospects of a prorogation in anywhere from one to two weeks. This makes an unusually long session, all of which the government seems disposed to charge to the opposition side. It may be worth while to show once more that the government itself is almost wholly to blame. Nothing has been ready on the government side until it was long overdue. Business that has been brought down has been delayed through the absence of ministers or because the bills were so crude that they required to be made over. In this sixth month the election bill, which is the largest measure of the session, and which is an attempt to put into some kind of lecent shape still in committee. Nobody is delaying it, but a score of members are trying said, accepts suggestions in a friendly

as good a law as is possible under the

himself offered amendments to dozens

of his own clauses and accepted am-

endments in still larger number.

It is now clear that the government in transferring to the provinces part of the election machinery and the whole of the franchise legislation, has complicated the machinery in a pretty thorough manner. In the end it will cost as much to get a voters' list, and carry it through the election, as it did before. We shall have different franchises for federal purposes in the different provinces, and it will always be difficult to get lists prepared by officers over whom the government here has no control. The lists for last year, which should have been printed last autumn, are not all available yet. It is now known that an election could not have been held last fall under the present law. Neither could one have been held any time last winter, or this spring. What will happen under the law now being worked out is difficult to tell. But there is reason to fear that when the bill is printed with the hastily drafted amendments, it will be found inconsistent with itself and full of anomalies. This measure ought to have been discussed in February and March, when the house had not much else to do.

Again, after five months, Mr. Mulock has introduced his bill for adjusting labor disputes, which he declares to be one of the most important events of his life. About the same time Mr. Fielding brings down a series of estimates asking for seven and a half million dollars. At the time of writing, the railway bill is not yet in sight.

To go back a little, we find that the first estimates, which are usually down within a few days of the opening, were not ready for weeks. Mr. Fielding's budget speech did not come until seven weeks after the opening. The house had been in session four months before the supplementary stimates for the year then closing made their appearance.

As to obstruction. The opposition made no debate on the address, and were even attacked by the ministers for allowing it to go through with so little objection. The budget debate But he is a most persistent man and was long, but for the first time probably in the history of the country there were more speeches on the government side than on the opposition. We have had amendments to supply, but the first one moved was brought in by Mr. Russell on the government side, for the purpose of glorifying Mr Fielding and killing time. Much the larger part of this debate was on the government side, and in all subsequent discussions the supporters of the government have done at least their full share of the talking. In the face of this it was charged no longer ago than Friday night that the opposition was making delay. Yet here is the record for that day and the three preceding, given in Hansard columns, adjusting the broken columns of conversation as fairly as possible:

Govt. Oppn. Tuesday 69 Wednesday 61 Thursday 68 Friday 76

mased the point of Mr. Powell's sation with Mr. Blair about the ources of information as to Intercol onial capital expenditure: Mr. Powell never stated that he get the infor mation from Mr. Blair's officers sonally, and he was not represented so in the despatches. He simply the minister a little when Mr. the minister a little and finally referred the minister published reports. Here is the official

Mr. Blair-Would the hon, sentle-man be good enough to give me the references, so that I may be able to enquire as to just what these state-ments are? . . . Where did the hom: gentleman procure them? Where are they published?

Mr. Powell—Would the minister like

Mr. Bleis—Yes.
Mr. Powell—If the minister would promise me he would not take the headt off some official I will take him Mr. Blair-I see.

Mr. Powell-That is what the minister is at. I thought the minister knew all about it, but I will entighten him. They are published in the published reports.

Mr. Blair-The statement made by the hon gentleman is not correct.

Mr. Powell—What is that?

Mr. Blair—The hon gentleman says that in the annual reports is published

that in the annual reports is publish all the information he has read. Mr. Powell-Will one of you page beys just earry this lot of books over to the minister? They are open at the

correcti pages. Mr. Blair-Can you give me the oages? Mr. Powell-You can get the page as well as I can. The books are open at

Mrr Blair looked into the matter and

the exact page.

two days later the discussion was renewed over the item of \$67,000 for increased accommodation along the line. It was found that Mr. Blair was not charging to regular expenditure the tanks he was building, new semaphores, small sidings and various othen triffing expenditures which were always paid out of the year's income by the old government. Among other item, there was one which the minister said was for fitting up the third story in the Moncton station. Mr. Powell reminded him that the station had no third flat. The minister had Mr. Schreiber present to coach him, and concluded correctly that the vote in question was for the third flat of the general offices. Then Mr. Powell explained that the whole building had bee: put up by the previous government to replace a smaller one and every dollar of its cost had been paid out of the revenue of the year it was built. Now Mr. Blair was coming in to do a the measure passed three years ago, is little fitting up, and was charging it to capital. Mr. Blair said he did not know that the building was built out their best to make a practical act out of revenue, but on applying to the deof it. The solicitor general, it must be puty he found that Mr. Powell was

spirit and seems to be anxious to get. The member for Westmorland then pointed out how falacious Mr. Blair's circumstances. But on Saturday, he comparisons of his own management with that of Mr. Haggart were when he was not charging himself with these services that had formerly been paid out of the receipts of the year. Mr. Fielding interposed with the argument that Mr. Blair's bookkeeping might be correct, even though it differed from Mr. Haggart, and if Mr. Haggart had not been fair to himself there was no reason why Mr. Blair should follow his example. Pessibly Mr. Blair's system may be

in accord with correct railway finance. Mr. Haggart always claims that under ordinary bookkeeping he could have shown much larger surpluses, but he did not choose to swell the capital account with the cost of every new station building or tank or siding, or with the cost of strengthening bridges and replacing rails. Mr. Blair has no objections to swelling the capital account by millions a year, and by so doing he reduces his expenditure account and produces a surplus. The fair thing now, if the minister adopts that system, is to adjust the balances made by the previous government, credit Mr. Haggart's revenue with the expenditures wrongly charged against it, and thus make a fair comparison. But Mr. Blair now knows that the result would be to give Mr. Haggart and his predecessors a larger surplus than Mr. Blair has ever dared to claim for himself. It is only by this juggling of accounts that the minister is able to make a larger surplus last year than the whole of Mr. Haggart's surpluses. If the accounts are adjusted as Mr. Fielding suggests, one of Mr. Haggart's surpluses would be larger than all of Mr. Blair's. If, on the other hand, they are adjusted according to the system in Mr. Haggart's time, Mr. Blair's deficit of last year would large as any of Sir Mackenzie Bowell's. the benefit of the new contractors, and S. D. S.

OTTAWA, July 3.-Among the members who can afford to be "not void of righteous self-applause" is Mr. Martin of Prince Edward Island. Mr. pense and litigation is excused on the Martin is not a son of thunder, like Sir Louis Davies, and cannot say so many words in a minute as the knight. has not the splendid gift of infinite inaccuracy that characterizes the minister of marine. When they get down to a discussion of an election act applying to Prince Edward Island, Mr. has a pull, and ordered it to be used Martin submits to a good deal of vociferation and a certain measure of contemptuous setting aside at the hands of the minister. Sir Louis assumes a knowledge of all the law points and engineer in charge of the work. It familiarity with the local situation. But in the end Mr. Martin comes up calmly with the facts that Sir Louis ignores or misrepresents, and with the law which the minister invariably gets wrong and usually misquotes. At the very end, the solicitor general, who has charge of the bill, discovers the lapses of his colleague and good naturedly accepts the amendment which even to reduce it to \$17,000. But the Sir Louis has been denouncing or holding up to ridicule.

By some such process Mr. Martin and Mr. Macdonald have succeeded in



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of a larger number that were prepared by Senator Ferguson, Senator Prowse and themselves. Yesterday, for instance, they succeeded in imposing a penalty on a returning officer who should refuse an eligible vote. As it stood, there seemed to be no punishment for the refusal to accept such a vote, which is somewhat important, inasmuch as they have no election lists on the island, and the deputy returning officer seems to have the largest kind of authority to say wifether a man may vote or not. Sir Loris loudly assured the house that such penalty was already provided, but; as usual, he was found to be wrong.

There remains yet the important question to be dealt with of the recount in Prince Edward Island Owing to the local law, which has been adepted, there seems to be no way of making good the error of the returning officer except by election petitions which opens up all the questions under the Controverted Elections Act, so that it may cost the candidate a year or two of litigation, and a thousands dollars or more to rectify an error in counting or blunder in throwing out votess.

Last evening the house got into supply with Mr. Blair's estimates inchand. Mr. Elair wants a good deal of money for canals, which is rather surprising in view of recent boasts of his own and of some of his colleagues and of statements in the speech from the throne at the beginning of the session. he people of Canada are familiar with the boast that this government found the canal improvements going on at a snail's pace and pushed the works on with such rapidity that there is now completed a 14 foot channel from the great lakes to the sea. Yet the house is asked to vote several more millions to complete this completed channel, and the date of finally final completion stands away in the future.

The Soulanges canal, which was estimated to cost, when completed, \$4,750,-000, now stands at \$6.400,000, and Mr. Blair wants more money fon it yet. A sample of Mr. Blair's manner of rushing along the work is found in connection with Archie Stewart's contract on the Soulanges canal. Mr. Blair made up his mind that Mr. Stewart could not have his work completed by the end of 1897, as required by the contract. So he broke the bargain and let the contract over again to Messrs. Ryan and Macdonald, a firm which is in better odor with 'he grit party. Last night Mr. Blair informed Mr. Foster that the price paid to his contractors would, be \$75,000 more than Stewart's contract price. The time has expired in which Ryan should have had the work done, and the best that Mr. Blair now hopes is that the work will be completed at the end of this year, or three years later than the time provided by the Stewart contract, and certainly a good deal later than the time that Stewart would have finished it in if he had been let alone, or especially if he had been allowed the half of \$75,000 for urgency.

That is not the whole of it. Mr. Stewart has a claim for damages for closing the contract, and another claim because the government in taking away the contract calmly took possession of the quarry which he had opened out to provide material for be greater than any deficits in Mr. his work. Mr. Stewart had objections Haggart's regime, and probably as to the confiscation of his quarry for entered an action in the Exchequer Court. Mr. Blair settled that by paying \$20,000 for a part of the claim, while Mr. Stewart has still a very large claim yet standing. All this extra explea of urgency, though it has not produced any considerable results in the completion of the work. There was a little more discussion

on Mr. Blair's famous cement contract. The minister bought a quantity of cement from a Thorold company which on government works at Soulanges. It cost some \$25,000 to \$30,000, and was bought against the advice and in spite of the remonstrance of Mr. Blair's own was found to be useless for the purpose and was condemned by the inspectors and engineers. This cement was piled up on some bank and lies there yet, now past all use for any purpose after its exposure to the elements. Mr. Blair contends that the cost to the country for this little freak of his will not be more than \$21,000, and he hopes matter is in law, and when the minister escapes there is no knowing where he will be at.

Willie Gibson made a rush to the resincorporating somewhere between a cue, which as a government whip he is dozen and a score of amendments ap- bound to do, and maintained that he plying to Prince Edward Island, out knew more about cement than anybody other way, work of a was allowe but for gre the more ex his own cos The discu ton, where a number nial. Mr. I sidings whe jects to dis the matter. with allowi in private a government of dollars Moreover, tion to a c has of inc cent., and cent.. after put in his

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