OTTAWA LETTERS

British Empire Leaguers Discuss Weighty Matters.

Parkin and Kipling Twin Leaders in Popularizing Imperial Consolidation.

The Yukon Miners and Investors at the Mercy of Sifton's Black Horse Brigade.

OTTAWA, April 6.—Yesterday was the twelfth day of the session and the debate on the address. about run its course on the ordinary topics when Sir Charles Hibbert Tupbrought in the Yukon charges which gave the discussion new life and vigor. It was a pretty long ar-ray of shortcomings, negligence, cor-ruption, black mail, and other faults and crimes which Sir Charles Hibbert charged against the officers of the minister of the interior in the gold Some of these charges were substantiated by very clear state some by almost absolute Some were supported only by statements of persons whose names were given, others by rumor and report said to be current in the Yukon and among people who have come out from there. Sir Charles Hibbert was careful to state the case on such authority as he had, giving to no charge any greater authority than the evidence seemed to warrant, admitting frequently that the charges were by no means proved, but claiming that tablished and that the evidence in others was of so strong and grave a character as to call for a complete

This speech was delivered last week. and Mr. Sifton had until Tuesday of this week to prepare his defence. The substance of his reply has already been printed. It must be admitted that the minister prepared a skilful plea and made the most of his case. Naturally in a series of charges such es those made, involving more than a score, perhaps two score, of separate offences, some of them only put forward as report, the accused head of the department would be able to show that some allegations were not well founded. Looking over Mr. Sifton's speech, it will be found that he did not deal at all with a very large number of the instances mentioned, and no doubt he did as another minister in his place would have done, in selecting for answer those charges which would be most easily met. the main he did not deny that there had been bad government and even corrupt government in the Yukon. Everybody knows that to be the and the minister who would deny it. would not be believed even for a moment. But what Mr. Sifton pleaded was that in making the rules for the Yukon government, the government did the best it could in view of the knowledge then in its possession. He claimed, also, that in selecting officials to carry them out they had chosen men of previously good repute, though he admitted that they not the kind of men who would have een chosen if the government had known how little cause there would be for the exercise of force. This staff was an emergency staff, selected because it was thought that there would be a large disorderly element in the place. It would seem that Mr. Sifton thought that the Yukon wanted fighting men and not administra-tors. Major Walsh had done good service against Sitting Bull, and it was thought he would do good service against the wild miners who were supposed to have their clothes full of revolvers and their boots stocked with knives. So the less effort was made to get men who would understand administration and would carry on the business on business

Mr. Sifton's other claim in defence was that the Yukon was far away, and that having selected good men it was not possible for the government to keep a perpetual oversight of them. It will be seen that the government, while denying many of the charges, and while pleading for its own officers, is disposed to shirk responsibility as far as possible for those cases which are admitted to be bad, the rest Mr. Sifton says that he had now sent up good men to take the place of the old ones though he denied that the old ones were dismissed From his account it would seem that simultaneously with the cry of the distressed and oppressed Yukon miner came the willing resignation of the chief officers in that neighborhood, who were conscious of their own virtue but anxious to get back to that higher civilization where their great qualities would be better recognized. And Mr. Sifton has ordered the new commissioner, Mr. Ogilvie, to enquire into all the wrong doing that happened before last August. As for what happened since August, and by all accounts there is a good deal of it, Mr. Sifton is not doing anything. Mearwhile the late commissioner is in this province writing setters to the naters to say that he did not get drunk and do other temporal things, and Mr. Wade has been negotiating the mining claims that he was able to acquire while he was administering mining laws in the Yukon. It is said that Mr. Wade has become a rich man, but that may not be true. Mr. Sifton says that he told them he saw no reason why he should not get claims, and of course Mr. Wade and his officials didn't see any either. They saw thousands of reasons why they should get claims, and some of these reasons appear to have been impressed upon the miners who had

disputed claims to vindicate or to

As was said, Mr. Sifton made a skilful defence, and in fairness it should be added that he cleared up a number of points. The member who followed him made a reply which was equally skilful, and I centure to think more convincing. Mr. Borden of Halifax has already made a reputation as a strong debater in the line of serious argument, and his analysis of Mr. Siften's speech was almost a masterpiece of clear and lignified argument. Mr Borden does not descend to appeals to the gallery, but preserves the calm and deliberate style of address to which he is accustomed in the

He began by pointing out an evasion or two in Mr. Sifton's speech on the subject of liquor permits. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper charged that a lawyer in Winnipeg had telegraphed to Mr. Sifton for a liquor permit for a friend, and had received \$500 for this small service. Mr. Sifton denied that any such permit had ever been given in response to a telegram from Victoria lawyer. This on the face of it seemed conclusive, but when the case was worked down to a final issue it appeared that after the Northwest government had assumed the right of issuing permits in the Yukon, Mr. Sifton still claimed that privilege and it became necessary for those obtaining permits from Regina to secure Mr. Sifton's subsequent approval. Now, a Victoria lawyer did telegraph to Mr. Sifton for his approval of such a license, and it is not denied that the \$500 was paid him for that service. Mr. Sifton admits the correspondence and that he did give his consent. He says he does not know whether the man got \$500 or not. Yet he must have spent nearly half an hour on Tuesday thundering at Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper for making the false charge that he issued a license in response to a telegram.

ward by Sir Charles Hibbert referred to the lease of the water front at Dawson. It is charged that the and that the tenant is making \$120,000 a year out of it. Mr. Sifton on Tuesday promised Mr. Borden a copy of the lease. But the paper produced turned out to be only the offer and the correspondence. There was no formal lease given, which struck Mr. Borden as a rather remarkable thing in view of the importance of the transaction. It is said that one of Mr. Sifton's officers made much money out of the transact Mr. Borden laid strong emphasis the consent of Mr. Sifton that Mr. Wade and the other officials should take up and deal in mining claims. The minister's defence that this was done under the late lovernment is not supported by the rules. That is not a matter of much importance, since the late government had very little to do with the Yukon as a mining company. Its administration as a mining district began with this government. And, as Mr. Borden says, the laws of all other mining districts forbid officials who have to do with miners' rights from staking claims. It is forbidden in British Co-



feet, and then his wings and his entire body.

That is the way with the dread enemy of mankind—consumption. It has a web—the web of trivial disorders neglected. When a man heedlessly stumbles into that web, conman heedlessly stumbles into that web, consumption first attacks his stomach, then his blood, then his lungs, then every organ in his body. Many doctors assert that when a man is once in this deadly web there is no escape. That is a mistake. Thousands have testified to their recovery from this disease by the use of the right remedy. Many of their letters, together with their names, addresses and photographs, appear in Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser. The remedy that saved them was Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It cures of per cent. of all cases of consumption. It cures the conditions that lead up to it. It is the great blood maker, flesh-builder and germ-ejector. Druggists sell it. builder and germ-ejector. Druggists sen it.

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nbia, in Ontario, and in Nova Scitia. When Mr. Sifton gave Mr. Wade and the rest of them a chance to earn lary and escape all risks, and at the same time to enjoy all the privileges of a mining speculator, with the immense additional advantage given them by their official knowledge and their official power, he laid the foundation for the greater part of the trouble which has since occurred. The worst charges are that men in the office were in collusion with men outside and were either rewarded in cash or in shares for the use of their influence or their knowledge. It is charged, for instance, that in a disouted claim one of the parties gave to an officer in the Mines' Office onethird of the property as a reward for his assistance. In other cases cash bribes are said to have been given for information as to vacant claims-information that ought to have been available to any prospector, but which could not be obtained without great loss of time and risk of being forestalled unless special inducements were given to the officers.

Those are among the charges made early last summer by a committee of 13 miners selected by a miners' meeting of 10,000 people. They were made by Miss Shaw in the London Times, and, as Mr. Borden says, were sent ringing over two continents. Yet rom July of last year to January of this year nothing has been done in the way of investigation, though Dawson was only 20 or 30 days distant from Ottawa, and Mr. Mulock claims that postal communication was never once disturbed. Even yet no judge has been appointed to hold proper investigation. No detectives have been engaged to unearth the cases of revelry and blackmail, the sale of influence, and the sale of justice. The investigation is placed in charge of Mr. Sifton's relative. who is also Mr. Sifton's subordinate officer, and who was sent to try charges against Mr. Sifton's lepartment, and es, ecially against Mr. Sifton's personal and political friend and favorite, his own especial mate and confidant. Mr. F. C. Wade, late crown officer in the Yukon. "I do not think." said Mr. Borden, "that Mr. Wade is trembling in his shoes." He was a few days ago in Manitoba writing editorials in praise of Sifton, whilst Sifton's relative and servant was investigating Wade's case in the Yukon. Even the Toronto organ of the gov ernment says that Ogilvie's enquiry while it may be useful, may not be sufficient, but that another kind of investigation may be necessary.

Mr. Sifton puts in the claim that here never was a Yukon before, and that no such rush into a mining country was ever known, but Mr. Border is able to show that there was just such a rush into British Columbia a generation ago, when the Cariboo country was more remote from travel than the, Yukon is now. But there were no such scandals in British Columbia as have arisen in the Yukon.

Mr. Borden made a very effective contrast between the surprising vigor shown by Mr. Sifton in investigating the Manitoba election charges with ing with the Yukon investigation. It will be remembered that the criminal charges made against 80 or 40 conservatives in Manitoba in regard to the election of 1896 cost the federal treasurv some \$15,000 or \$20,000, most of which went into the hands of Mr. Sifton's lawyer friends in Winnipeg. Mr. Borden showed that these proceedings, which belong properly the Manitoba government, were begun within three days after the aleged charges. Detectives were procured from New York and the whole energy of the department of justice was used in prosecuting a case which resulted in the conviction of only one person, and he was a willing witness n the interest of the grit party. All this was done in order to procure evidence to be used in election petitions. It was undoubtedly a scandalous abuse of power and an outrageous waste of money, but it showed great energy and activity and generosity with public money on the part of Mr. Sifton, who had the business in charge. In the Manitoba case, even if the prosecution were justified, no interests were suffering by delay. No miners were deprived of their rights, no system of oppression was going on, no discredit was gathering on the administration of the department. But was poured out profusely, much of it going into the hands of . this same Mr. Wade, who received the additional reward of an appointment as law officer in the Yukon. But it is another story when Mr. Wade is on the other side of the accusation. There was no money, then for detectives, or for lawyers, and above all, there was no

Mr. Borden produced yesterday a ew set of statements which the man who made them is ready to prove before a court, if called upon to do so, This man says that Mr. Wade was in the Yukon for Mr. Wade, that other officials were in the Yukon for themselves, that the gold commissioner, Mr. Fawcett, was probably honest in making his awards, but that he was a man of too little ability and tooweak a will to stand up against these other officers. The man who wanted to put a claim through had only to secure the assistance of the others, and they were able to work Mr. Fawcett. This informant tells the history of the so-called Discovery Claims on Dominion creek, where the titles became so confused that notice was given that no more permits would be given for three weeks till a new survey was made. It 'urned out afterwards that permits were peddled out secretly from the office during this interim, the officials bagging \$100 for each one. It is stated as another instance that a man who wanted seven abstracts, for which he ought to pay \$17.F0, could not afford to wait, and got them out of his turn by paying \$40 to an official, who pocketed the cxira \$22.50. It is a common thing, so this man says, for an official to say "give me \$10 or \$20 and I will tell you where you can get a claim." money is said to be taken at the side

door than at the front door, the side door being the place for bribes and the front door for legitimate fees.

of the Klondike Nugget, are here, and have made a statement to Mr. Borden which he took down as he would a statement for use in court. They tell of two doors beside the front door of the gold office. One is marked 'private' and costs \$10 to \$15, the other is marked "no admittance," and costs \$25 or over. Men who are tired waiting in line can go to the private door and get 'n by paying the price. but they have still greater priority by goirg to the "no admittance" door. where they get attended to at once. There are many other stories, and they would fill a large place, but these are fair samples. The men who make the charges are not always willing to have their names used as volunteering statements, but it is said that they would testify if they were summoned Mr. Sifton is not showing any great anxiety to have them make their statements before a court. S. D. S.

OTTAWA, April 7 .- To some members of parliament the British Empire League meeting is of very much more down stairs. Col. Denison is one of the Canadians who make the consolidation of the empire the most import ant function of their lives. He anpeared at Ottawa two days before the annual meeting, followed hard by Dr. Parkin, C. M. G., and they two sucseeded in infusing a fair measure of their own enthusiasm into the practical politicians assembled on this hill. So it came about that when Col. Denison began to deliver his annual address he had before him some of the leading members. Sir Charles Tupper was there, as he always is, ready to join with his opponents in pushing forward the cause for which he has done so much. Sir Sandford Fleming and other old federationists were present, and three ministers of the crown put in an appearance as soon as they could get there. Gen. Hutton, the commander of the forces, came to re ceive such instructions as the league had to give him about the military unity of the ration.

Col. Denison's annual address is more interesting, more impressive, more suggestive, and, on the whole, more important than the speech from the throne. There is something in it. Col. Denison dwelt particularly on the defence of the empire. During the last quarter of a century great changes have taken place in national relations and methods of defence. A nation's moral rights, according to Col. Denison are not much good now, unless backed up by men and guns. The recent history of China shows what may happen a nation, however industrious and peaceful its people, if it does not provide means to protect itself. The stong nations of the world are engaged in tearing China into pieces Canadians are following the example of the Chinese in trusting to the forbearance of their neighbours, instead of relyin; upon their own strength and in the strength of the empire. Our 38,000 militia, drilled spasmodically without the necessary equipment his extreme deliberation in proceed- without reserves, is no adequate contribution to the strength of the empire. So says the president of the league.

Turning to another familiar subject the chairman insisted that the food of the British empire should be grown on British soil, and that the route by which it is conveyed should be protected. He pointed out that at the time of the American civil war an alriost absolute embargo was placed on the sale of cotton, and England, though master of the seas, could not obtain one-hundredth part of what she had been accustomed to get. The cotton famine cost England £75,000. 000. Yet it affected only a small section of the people, while an embargo on the food supply would put the whole nation on short allowance. It is bad imperial policy for the country to depend upon the United States and Russia for the main part of its food supply, while a small preferential duty would cause it to be procured wholly from countries under the British flag.

After finishing the formal part of his discourse Col. Denison gave some amusing details of the unfitness of the militia equipment for actual service. He told of his own experience at the time of the Fenian raid. He had information beforehand of this invasion and told the government about it, asking for a better cavalry equipment. He vas informed that the question of Spencer carbines would be considered and that the government hoped they would not be needed. Within a week after that he and his corps were hurrying to the border without proper arms, with no haversacks, no blankets, no camp kettles. ro water bottles. In fact they went



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as they sat on their horses, and at the front they toasted their bacon before the fire and ate it out of their hands. It was almost the same in the Fort Carry campaign. They had nothing but condemned blankets, and he asked them that each man might have three, in order that one might cover the holes in the other. Their water bottles would not hold water, and they threw them away at the Lake of the Woods, so that they would never be issued again. Having these lively recollections, Col. Denison strongly endorses Gen. Hutton's recommendations for a more adequate army equip-

Hon. Mr. Dobell, seconding the doption of the report, discussed the history of the federation movement, and went on to offer objections in a good natured way to Col. Denison's food supply argument. He was sure that England would rule the seas and be able somehow to capture all the food that the British people wanted, either in peace or war. Mr. Dobell used to be a protectionist, and apparently is yet, for he says that policy has done good work and has built ur Canadian industries. But he thinks t must by and by disappear as beween different sections of the empire. The forecastle minister expressed his regret that the harmony which prevailed in the league neeting of the Rille Association could not be carried into the chamber downstairs, where he had been pouring gallons of oil on troubled waters for some years without stilling the waves.

Sir Charles Tupper, in moving a resolution asking for prompt measures for the establishment of a fast line service, laughingly informed Mr. Dobell how peace might be obtained in the commons chamber. If, said he you will take up these great Imperial questions and other matters necessary o our national progress and prosperity, you will find the house a unit n your support. All that is necessary is to drop your redistribution hills and other measures of that kind and join us in these matters of large statesmanship. Then you will not disturb the delightful harmony which you se m to desire. Sir Charles says that he never thought a suitable fast line service could be established for less than a million dellars a year, including the imperial contribution. He had been willing to assist the riesent government in their efforts to get it for less, but was never very hopeful that they would succeed They saw now, as he did at first, that their scheme was impossible, but he still believed that the amount provided by the late government would be adequate to establish a thorough service, as superior to any now carried on between Liverpool and New York, as the C. P. R.'s Pacific service is superior to any other on the Pacific coast. He could not congratulate Mr. Debell on his success so far, but he would hope for better things in the

Mr. Bertram, of Toronto, a National Policy liberal, himself a ship builder, has ideas on this fast line service. In seconding the motion he insisted that the whole scheme should be reconsidered in the light of recent industrial development. Mr. Bertram says that England cannot compete with this continent in furnishing materials for ships. He had been himself asionished to find how .nuch higher the English prices were than the American prices. He thinks that the fast line ships ought to be built on this continent, and in this dominion. The time has come, in his opinion, when a large shipbuilding industry should be established in eastern Canada, either in Montreal or Quebec, or St. John or Halifax. In a short time the work will be done cheaper here than in England, and his great national service would be an excellent commencement. Mr. Bertram seemed to favour Nova Scotia as the scene of these operations. This ambitious programme was well received by the audience, though it was not discussed further by other speakers.

Dr. Russell, M. P., for Halifax, moved the naval reserve resolution, and in doing so, paid a high tribute to Dr. Parkin, who was to follow him. He declared that outside of the practical statesnien. Dr. Parkin had done more to popularize the Imperial consolidation than any other man in the empire. He could only be compared in this respect with Rudyard Kipling. There was a time wan it thought to be dangerous for a Liberal politician to attend an Imperial Federation meeting. He did not share the fears of his friends, who thought this was a device of Sir Charles Tupper, with some sinister end in view, and that Dr. Parkin was a secret ally working out an occult party purpose. Dr. Russell was never disposed to allow the Tories a monopoly of imperial sentiment. He shared the views of John Wesley that the devil should not be allowed to have all the best

Prin. Parkin modestly disclaimed his title of pre-eminence. It had been his duty, he said, to reveal as well as he could in plain words to plain people the relations of each part of the empire to the rest. He had been brought into contact with some of the great thinkers, and had communicated to the multitude, as well as he could, such ideas as he had absorbed. Dr. Parkin thinks that these are great days. The United States is changing its relations to the world, and this changes all other relations of other nations. It is now known how near Great Britain and the United States were to a war three years ago. The people of the United States having since discovered how unready they were for action, now admit that they would have got well licked. But Canada would undoubtedly have suffered, and Mr. Parkin thinks that we ought to have a more effective force ready for such emergencies as these a century ago, when every farmer had a gun in his house and knew how to use it. The training in shooting that our pioneers had, that the Americans had at the time of the revolution, that



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the Boers had, must be given now

in another way. The only other address which had much significance was that of Sir Louis Davies, the substance of which has already been telegraphed. Sir Louis is grappling with the question of naval defence, and whether he establishes a trading training ship, as he at first intended, or provides training stations on land, or establishes a system by which the coast fishermen may serve two or three seasons with the flag and afterwards become members of the reserve, it is probable that something will be brought forward during the session. The small vote passed last year was not expended, and it may be taken for granted that the vote of this year will be larger.

As Mr. Dobell anticipated, the harmony established in the forenoon upstairs did not last through the day. The debate on the address was resu ned and the same disagreement on political matters was discerned as had been noticed the day before. Col. Prior of Victoria followed Mr. Fraser. Col. Prior is not quite sure whether the exodus has entirely stopped, and is a little afraid that the ministers put incorrect language on this subject in the mouth of the governor general. He observed among the exports recorded were \$850,000 worth of settlers' effects, and the Bangor papers were telling of the arrival of 150 immigrants from across the line in one

But Col. Pricr devoted his attention

mainly to the Yukon scandal, of which he has personal knowledge, since it is a part of his husiness to deal in miners' supplies and outfits. He has seen and talked with hundreds of miners and others who have been in the Yukon, and they all agree that the government there has been bad. One particular statement he made which he said would be substantiated on oath if the government required it. A man went into Dawson in August, 1898, and was informed that the best way to secure a claim was to go to the office of Wade, Clarke and Wilson Mr. Wade was the crown officer a legal adviser of the government in the Yukon. He went and had an interview with Mr. Killam, stenographer of the firm. He gave Killam power of attorney, who prepared it after consultation with the firm. Killam instructed him to go to a claim which he designated and which had been located, but would be forfeited. The applicant was told to put up false stakes and false names on this claim, and leave them, there till midnight. August 31st, to set his watch by the time in the gold commissioner's office, and to be at the stakes at the witching hour of midnight. At the right moment he was to change the stakes, putting in others with his own name on them, and the claim would be his. That is, the half of it would be his. The other half he assigned to Killam as the price of the assistance of himself and the firm.

Mr. Prior stated also that affidavits could be furnished to show that A. D. Bolton, one of the government officers, who held a claim, was never on the spot on the day in which the law required that he should have personally staked it. In a general way, Col. Prior says that the miners all agree that it has been almost impossible to get anything in the Yukon without a bribe, and Ogilvie himself has said that miners had come to him and offered to accept a government position without a salary, leclaring they could make enough money out of the chances it would give them.

As to the postal service, Col. Prior ells that the office at Glenora was two feet deep in letters on March 4th; that when the postal department could not carry the mail in, a private person picked it up and carried it forward, gathering as he went one ton of mail which was cached along the road, and carrying it all himself. A friend of his in Dawson expected a number of letters from home. He knew they ought to be there, but could not get them. Someone said: Why don't son pay your dollar and get thent" He paid his dollar, not in the post office, but to someone in a restaurant, and received one letter. He found that by paying another he could get another letter, and finally he got the whole five by paying a dollar apiece, though they had all been there when he first enquired.

Charles Beam of Seattle says that he carried in United States goods on which the duty would be \$30. He gave an offi-cer at the border \$5 and a bottle of whisky and was let off with \$150 duty. Col. Prior discussed this matter, and closed with a reference to the fact that members of parliament from British Columbia had liquer permits in their possession which were hawked about for sale in the towns on th coast.

Leighton McCarthy, the new mem-ber who succeeded his famous uncle, is a young man in more senses than He made his maiden speech yesterday, and it was mainly devoted to lecturing the older members on the

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