

up at public tender. The reason it was not put up at public tender was that the proprietor of the steamer Adino Paddock employed B. M. Tapley to construct the pier at Titus landing...

Replying to Mr. Melanson's enquiry with reference to the bonusing of J. D. Irving's flour mill at Buctouche, Hon. Mr. Farris said nothing had been given and nothing had been asked.

Mr. Robertson introduced a bill relating to the public library of St. John, and incorporating the Sisters of the Holy Child, Chatham.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie presented the report of the Harland Bridge Co. to Jan. 31st, 1903, also the expenses of the royal reception in October, 1901; also the financial statement of the town of Newcastle for 1901.

Mr. Furdy introduced a bill relating to the St. John water supply system. Hon. Mr. Tweedie, in the absence of the chairman of the commission, presented the report of that committee, recommending the bill relating to the board of trustees of the Century church and manse building fund of the Presbyterian church in Canada.

Mr. Lawson introduced a bill amending the act incorporating Perth Centre for water and fire purposes. The house went into committee, in consideration of bill No. 38, amending the Liquor Act of 1899, of bill No. 41, providing for the adoption of Atlantic Standard time, and bill No. 10, to abolish priority among execution creditors.

Bill No. 38, which relates to the parish of Beresford, and which was explained the other day, was considered and the bill was agreed to.

In reference to the question of adopting Atlantic Standard time in the province was under consideration. This time is one hour faster than Eastern Standard time, and there is a strong movement in the province for its adoption, the inconvenience caused by having no regular system of time having been experienced by the travelling public and others.

The bill to abolish priority among execution creditors was explained by Hon. Mr. Faggley. The object in doing away with priority was this: The present law is causing discredit to the business community, and outside business houses are backward about giving credit to our merchants because of the state of our present law, under which a debtor may allow a creditor to proceed against him and get judgment, thus debarring other creditors.

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those at a distance would get nothing at all. Progress was reported. Mr. Hazen gave notice of enquiry with reference to the Central railway. On motion of Mr. Appleby, the house went into committee on the bill to incorporate the Carleton County Operative Fire Insurance Association.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The crowning joy of motherhood is to have healthy children. But there can be no joy in motherhood without health, and without health for the mother there can be no health for the child.



There is a man who does know, and his name is Dr. Archibald Bell. He will not allow him to come, because he is not an officer of the road. Apparently it is not a man who knows that Mr. Blair wants. He prefers a man whom he can control and bully, and who does not say too much.

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OTTAWA LETTER.

Mr. Blair Losing the Respect of His Own Party. By Shutting Off Enquiry Before the Public Accounts Committee into Speculations.

Mr. Pottinger Lets Out That Twice as Many Ties as Were Needed and an Enormous Extra Stock of Coal Were Bought in Election Year.

OTTAWA, March 20.—From eleven in the morning until six in the afternoon yesterday was intercolony day. In the public accounts committee Mr. Pottinger continued his testimony, and in the chamber a majority of the members, supporting a majority of the committee, expressed their disapproval of Mr. Blair's establishment of a new precedent by refusing to allow a witness to be called who had been asked for by members prosecuting the enquiry.

Mr. Pottinger says on the witness stand that at the end of last June he had on hand 800,424 railway ties, which he valued at \$221,745. This is the biggest stock that the Intercolony ever had at the close of a year. It represents two years' supply at the ordinary rate of use. It is nearly double the quantity used last year.

Mr. Blair took pains in every branch of the enquiry to keep Mr. Pottinger from the minister's side. He also has an intense way of dismissing employees who displease him. Perhaps it would not be very safe for intercolony employees to give answers unsatisfactory to the minister, and it is somewhat remarkable that without any notice from the minister, the intercolony department, with rare precision, dealt with the very men who would be selected by Mr. Blair if he were making a choice among his personal and political enemies.

Mr. Pottinger says that he did not enquire the price of ties to other men, and he has already explained that he does not know the life of a railway tie, or the difference between one tie and another as to its value. Of course Mr. Pottinger is not an engineer, but he must have some knowledge of the length of time ties have remained on his own railway and how often they are replaced.

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What happened to ties happened also about coal. A year and a half ago the coal in stock was 15,000 tons, which appears to have been about the usual supply. Last July there was on hand 129,000 tons, which was an extraordinarily large supply, probably more than the railroad had at any previous July in its history.

BABY'S OWN TABLETS

Babies never cry unless there is some very good reason for it. The cry of a baby is Nature's warning signal that there is something wrong. Every mother ought to set to work immediately to find what that something wrong may be. If the fretfulness and irritation are not caused by exterior sources, it is conclusive evidence that the crying baby is ill.

because the quantity was larger earlier in the spring.

This is the story as told by Mr. Pottinger under examination by the minister and others: In May, 1900, and on through the summer there were signs of a strike in the coal mines, but the railway did not take advantage of the moderate prices and lay in a stock to provide against danger.

Mr. Palmer, the storekeeper, went to Nova Scotia and made an arrangement there about a certain coal. Mr. Pottinger gave no directions. The minister gave no directions. But the storekeeper, with that clear intuition which characterizes Mr. Blair's officers, went straight to the goal.

Mr. Clarke wanted to know what the effect of the importation was upon the Nova Scotia miners, whether it gave them more work or not, and the witness suggested that it brought the strike to an end and was of great advantage to all concerned.

There was a little testimony about new rails and capital account. Mr. Pottinger, who is accurate if he is cautious, swore that the new rails now being laid down and those put down last year were charged to capital account, less the value of the old rails for scrap.

Mr. Blair complains that Mr. Archibald is wanted "to coach the opposition," to give them information privately and generally to assist them in their enquiries. If this be true, there is no harm in it and nothing new

about it. Mr. Pottinger is here all the time giving private information to Mr. Blair and consulting with him on the matters of this enquiry. So is Mr. Schreiber. So are all the officers whom Mr. Blair may need. In every enquiry members who bring witnesses get the benefit of their knowledge. Mr. Blair had many talks with Mr. Greenfield over the Drummond Railway enquiry. The militia department was in consultation with Dr. Devlin while the emergency food investigation was going on, while Mr. Monk undoubtedly got what information he could from the real inventor of this emergency food. If Mr. Archibald can give information to the members of the committee which would be useful in bringing out the facts, that will be a benefit to the enquiry, though it may not be to the minister. The committee is there to get information from people who have it, and when the minister in one breath says that Mr. Archibald has no information, and in the next breath says that he appears here to give information to members, he is only showing that he desires concealment.

Besides it looks bad to have the minister whose department is under investigation heading off evidence. It is useless and not even misleading for a minister to rage and froth over a situation like this. Why should he not know a man who knows more about the intercolony track more about previous purchases of ties and rails and coal, more about the character and durability of railway ties, than any one else, to come here and tell what he knows? All Mr. Blair's talk about order and sobriety is vain and frivolous. If he wants the facts known he will permit the prosecutors of the enquiry to bring their witnesses. If he wants concealment he will permit only his own officers to come. Mr. Bell made his motion and his address with admirable moderation and without an offensive reference. Mr. Blair, who is defending his department, and whose position in view of the facts brought out is such as to create a considerable suspicion, has placed himself in a worse position than he was before. He was not too strong in the respect even of his own party before this enquiry began. He does not make himself stronger by what Mr. Haggart described as his methods of dragging the committee and the house.

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