

# OTTAWA LETTER.

## The Late Colonel Tyrwhitt, Member for South Simcoe.

### Sir Henri Joly Will Probably Be Seen No More on the Floor of the House.

### The Grit Majority on the Emergency Food Committee Doing All They Can to Conceal the Facts—Refuse to Order an Analysis by Government Officers.

OTTAWA, June 23.—Three seats in the house became vacant yesterday, two by members accepting office and the third by the decease of Col. Tyrwhitt. The member for South Simcoe had been ill during the greater part of the session and spent several weeks in the hospital. He was removed to his home recently, and his old friends here were deeply grieved last evening to learn of his death. He had been in the commons since then. Col. Tyrwhitt was not one of the orators of the house, but he had a sturdy and deliberate way of expressing his views, and was a man of exceeding accuracy. His sturdy honesty, and good comradeship were among the qualities which commended him to his friends and to his opponents.

Col. Tyrwhitt commanded a battalion in the Northwest rebellion, and had served during the Fenian troubles on the Niagara frontier. He commanded the Wimbledon team in 1888 and was one of the Canadian contingent to the Queen's Jubilee in London. He was one of the first to ask for an appointment with the contingents sent to South Africa last autumn.

In many ways Col. Tyrwhitt had the soldier's instinct. It is true that he broke away from his leaders here on certain issues, as in the Jesuit real estate bill and the Manitoba school question, but in general he was a regular fighter in the political rank. When he came to the first parliament he was under forty and a splendid specimen of physical strength and training. Inured to hardship on the farm he was capable of any amount of endurance. In his third parliament when he was still under 40, he was a pastime of his to swim the Galtineau, which is a rather wide stream and at the point selected pretty stiff. There are memories of a night swimming match between him and the Dean of Dalhousie Law School, and he was a strong swimmer. On the first burst of speed the professor is said to have held his own, but in the long pull the hard muscles of Col. Tyrwhitt got their work in and he arrived at the further shore several lengths ahead. In these days only Colonel Roy McLellan of Gleggry could match Col. Tyrwhitt in feats of strength.

Col. Tyrwhitt used to tell with some degree of content a story of his expulsion from a school in France to which he was sent at the age of seventeen to acquire the language more perfectly and to pick up other accomplishments. Matters went very well until the master who had charge of the history class, and he re-learned how the French had showed their superiority to the British on various battlefields. Col. Tyrwhitt was perhaps not the highest authority on history, but it was against his conscience to accept this doctrine, and he responded to the teacher with his vigorous expressions of dissent, probably more vigorous on account of unfamiliarity with the language. The verbal controversy was short, and the argument was concluded in a physical contest, in which the youth, fresh from the championship of the British athletic ground did great credit to his country and his race. The French master was hustled over the forms with a great burst of speed, and the historical point was won. The contest was so emphatically decided in favor of the pupil. But the same day he was invited to leave the school and cheerfully accepted the invitation.

Sir Henri Joly will probably be seen in parliament no more. He is over 70 and has a five years' term before him if he behaves himself in Victoria. His departure removed a picturesque figure from this house, for Sir Henri had many interesting qualities, even if he did obstruct his own bills by talking about them when everybody else wanted to make them law. The last scene in which he figured was two or three days ago, when his weight and measures bill got a third reading in the most sudden way, everybody shouting "carried" while he was on the floor trying to give reasons for its passage. The old man looked much disappointed, and will probably still cherish some feeling of regret at the loss of this last opportunity. We shall hear no more of the metric system, which had a habit of obstructing itself into Sir Henri's discourses on all sorts of subjects, like King Charles' head in the conversations of one of Dickens' characters. It was a remote subject which did not lead up to kilograms or hectolitres or millionsters. The schools through the country, which have called to get Sir Henri's regards with their boxes and their metric sticks and their decimal weights will now stand a poor chance.

It is not supposed that the mayor of St. Hyacinthe has any particular interest in kilograms. Mr. Bernier is a capitalist and a man of local influence, who gets elected by acclamation, and is said to be quite an orator along the St. Lawrence. In the house he is silent enough, but he does not follow that he cannot administer the inland revenue department with skill and vigor. It is not known whether he vindicates home industry by smoking native tobacco, as Sir Henri al-

ways did, but if he fails in that he will have before him the traditions of the Costigan regime. Mr. Costigan prefers the impetuous article.

The emergency food discussion investigation goes on rapidly. Mr. Neilson, the medical director, re-appeared yesterday to the committee. The committee was done with him apparently, but it seemed to him that something else ought to be said, so he came back and said it. Dr. Neilson solemnly informed the committee that the goods from Devlin had taken twice as much precaution as a wholesale house would take in making a similar purchase. This led up to another enquiry, as to the nature of these precautions. He could remember only two precautions that were taken in regard to the contract. One was that the department took a sample, and the other was that they obtained an analysis. But he had to admit that the sample taken was not put to any use until after the contract was made and the goods delivered. It would be interesting to carry out Dr. Neilson's theory of what a wholesale firm would do, but the only process available is to divide Dr. Neilson's precaution by two.

We may suppose a wholesale house is desirous of procuring a patented food which had been previously tested in a way satisfactory to the firm. They may imagine an agent coming to the head of the house to furnish a supply. He is not a man who manufactures the goods that he has tested. The goods he offers have a different name from those which the firm wants to buy. The agent represents a different concern from the one which supplied the approved article. The head of the firm would naturally satisfy himself that he was getting the goods he wanted, and not some cheap article would he take? According to Dr. Neilson, he would not take more than half the precautions which the department took. The precaution the department took was to ask the contractor for a sample of the goods he intended to supply. There was no sample obtained or preserved of the food which had been tested, and which was supposed to be the standard required. The only basis of comparison was with a powder contained in an envelope, which he obtained from Dr. Devlin, or some one else, before the Kingston test, and which, it was stated, was intended to be used in the test. But the department did not even make a comparison between this alleged sample and the sample of goods offered. Dr. Neilson said he tried to compare them by taste and feeling and sight, which, he admitted, was not an adequate test, but had no analysis made for comparison of the constituents. This was the only precaution taken before the other supplies were taken. He stated that he was struck by him as being twice as much as would be taken by the head of a firm making an important purchase. It may be remarked that Dr. Neilson was never in commercial life.

Another statement made by the doctor was that he considered the food purchased was a good substantial ration, and that he liked it better than that furnished to any other army. The value of this opinion was seriously discounted when in answer to a series of questions by Mr. Clarke the worthy director explained that he knew nothing of the emergency rations furnished by any other nation to its army. It would seem that the medical stores department of the Canadian army is administered in the most happy way. If all the other supplies are purchased in the same haphazard fashion there is no happier hunting ground for adventitious contractors on this continent than the western block. It should be stated that Dr. Neilson explained that he was an expert. In answer to the question how he became an expert, he stated that it was "from my position," which shows that experts can be made off-hand any time at five minutes' notice.

There is still a good deal of mirth over the Neilson test of the Devlin alleged protein food on his own person. That awful day in which the director existed for several hours between breakfast and dinner on these powders will always be cherished in the literature of parliament. It seems to have no parallel except in the experience of the old lady of whom he read long ago:

There was an old woman, and what do you think she used to do for breakfast? She used to eat nothing but victuals and victuals and drink were the chief of her food, and the old woman would never be quiet.

Dr. Neilson seems to have lived all day on nothing but a good breakfast, a good dinner and Dr. Devlin's proteins.

We had yesterday Hospital Sergeant Cotton, whose experience confirms that of Dr. Neilson. He subsisted on the Devlin proteins, which have only 15 per cent. protein, for 30 days in St. Johns. He carried out his tests all by himself, his wife providing a supplementary allowance of broth, milk and other substances. When Sergeant Cotton had taken his first meal of Devlin's

powder, after having breakfasted on other things, he gave a certificate to Dr. Devlin, addressed to Dr. Neilson. This was the certificate which the minister of militia read in the house, and which stated that Sergeant Cotton had tested the Devlin powder, and found it the same as Hatch's Protein. Dr. Borden's statement in the house left the impression that Cotton's tests were exhaustive and complete, after the Kingston style. The statement would naturally have been taken very carefully if the house had known that it was made at the beginning of the test and at the conclusion of the first meal.

The rest of Dr. Ruttan's testimony was a discussion of the merits of the food purchased by the government. Bearing in mind that the department bought this food on the assumption that the four ounces would furnish one day's emergency ration, the figures given are somewhat startling. Dr. Ruttan said he would not call a food containing 18 per cent. of proteins a concentrated food. Soldiers could live on it a month if they took enough of it, but they could not do so on 24 to 28 ounces. Later Dr. Ruttan said that it would take about eight of these cans to supply proper rations for men engaged in hard work. Of course a man could get along on this if he had the strength to eat it, but it is not such as beef tea, milk, soup, or broth. But a man could live on these things without the Vitalein.

positions on the supreme court, which if one were vacant, but in spite of all rumors there is no present or prospective vacancy which is regarded as belonging to Eastern Canada. It is true that Sir Louis Davies is technically eligible for Judge Gwynne's position, and Judge Gwynne is more than 30 years old. The custom has been to replace Ontario judges with men from that province. Sooner or later, however, these geographical arrangements must be let alone, for the whole was entitled to representation as well as Ontario. Moreover, there is no particular reason why Sir Louis should not replace a judge from Ontario as well as one from Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. The statute only provides for permanent representation of Quebec by two judges, and this provision is made on account of the difference in legal systems.

The story that Judge King was about to retire seems to be entirely without foundation. Like other judges, he is liable to ask for retirement should his health fail, but he has not done so. He has no members of the bench who have done his work more regularly or been more constant in his attendance on the court, or more thorough in the discharge of all his duties than Mr. Justice King. With the possible exception of Judge Sedgewick, he has been absent less than any other, and he has been able, outside of his regular duties, to take part in the Bar's arbitration. Judge King is in the prime of life and of his intellectual powers. It would be surprising if Sir Louis Davies serving as acceptably as Judge King in a position requiring knowledge of law and of constitutional principles. The rumor seems to have been started and kept in circulation for certain political purposes. It may go with other foolish things that are circulated for the comfort of aspiring politicians.

Last week the prospect of another vacancy available for New Brunswick aspirants to the bench is held out by way of consolation for the defeat of Gregory, while Mr. Emmerson gets the position that is already vacant. Mr. Gregory is not looking after prospective positions. The position now available is good enough for him, and Mr. Gregory's attainments and capacity recommend him for the appointment. But everyone supposes that Mr. Emmerson will be judge and that Mr. Tweedie will be premier. The minister of railways is settling all this, and Mr. Pugsley is supporting Mr. Emmerson. Old line liberals protest against the advent of Mr. Tweedie and Mr. Pugsley into controlling positions at Fredericton, while Mr. Blair retains the control at Ottawa. But the old line liberals have very little to say just now. This is the reign of opportunists.

It is significant of the signs of the time that our ministers are rapidly getting under cover. Sir Henri Joly is already safe. He is the fourteenth member of this parliament who has taken office. Sir Louis Davies is seeking shelter from the stormy blast. Mr. Blair will remain in the ministry while it remains, and even aspires to a higher position in the cabinet. Yet he is prospecting the whole province for a safer constituency than the one which he fled when he left York. Mr. Tarte, who was beaten by Mr. Bergeron in the last election, will probably retain the safe constituency in which he took refuge after he left Beauport. In making the new appointments at Quebec, Sir Willfrid is apparently selecting Mr. Bernier, who was one of the two or three members who were elected without opposition in 1896. So we may assume that he has a safe seat. Sir Willfrid himself had a majority of 2,300, so that he does not need to travel. Mr. Blair, when he first went into the senate talked of his position there as a temporary abode, and boasted of his intention of recapturing a seat in the commons. He has now abandoned that idea and is minister where he is. Mr. Ferguson, minister of customs, who was defeated in South Brant in 1896, made his escape to North Brant. But he is not sure of that seat to which he was elected in the days when the Preston machine was in full activity, and has accepted a nomination in North Brant and Wentworth. In this constituency Mr. James Somerville has held his seat since 1888, and he has 703 for the conservative candidate. Mr. Somerville will obtain an office when this parliament has expired, and Mr. Ferguson has accepted nomination in the hive. Mr. Mulock and Sir Richard Cartwright have seats which are also described as hive seats. The Ontario ministers have all shown great caution and prudence in seeking or retaining protection in the coming storm. There is no evident place of refuge for the minister of the interior. His low constituency has already condemned him, but he may have to stay there because there is no other in Manitoba which offers a much better prospect.

The curious enquirer may read with interest at this stage of the emergency food enquiry the statements made by the ministers when the matter was first brought up in the house. On the 6th day of June Mr. Monk introduced the subject, and at that time the question was debated through the greater part of the afternoon and evening. The opposition members did not know then what documents the ministers had and what proof they would offer in their defence. They were obliged to accept whatever statements the minister of militia and his colleagues chose to make.

Dr. Borden made this declaration: "Now, sir, I want to put out to the hon. gentleman who is in charge of the department of militia did I sent to Africa and I will prove it by the papers which I have before me." The food to which he referred was that which had been tested at Kingston, which, it is now known, was not the food sent to Africa. Dr. Borden went on to say that Dr. Devlin, when he came to Ottawa, brought letters from Dr. Ruttan, whom he described as one of the leading chemists in Canada, and a professor in McGill University. Dr. Ruttan has since given evidence stating that he gave Dr. Devlin no letters to be used for any such purpose. Again, the minister stated that "Dr. Devlin furnished the food with

which those tests were made at Kingston, and from time to time Dr. Devlin visited Kingston." It is now known that Mr. Hatch with his own hands, made this food and shipped it daily to Kingston, where Dr. Devlin remained as his agent and employe, and under his pay.

The minister stated several times in the course of his speech that the sample of the food tested at Kingston had been preserved by the department and compared with that sent to Africa. This statement was repeated by the premier and by the solicitor general. But the evidence shows that it was not true. It is supported by a statement that had been made by Dr. Neilson and which was read in the house. Yet Dr. Neilson's own evidence contradicts the testimony. Among other things, the minister said "Now I want to furnish a comparison and satisfied himself that the foods were identical." It is now shown that Dr. Neilson had no samples of the food sent to Kingston. The only sample that he had was one of a powder which he thinks Dr. Devlin gave him as representing the food which he intended to use at Kingston. He did not even institute a comparison between that sample and the goods sent to Africa, except by taste and smell, which is a perfectly ridiculous test.

In his speech in the house, Dr. Borden said that he knew nothing about Mr. Hatch. "I have only known Dr. Devlin," he said, "from the first." Yet he now admits on oath that he twice met Mr. Hatch to discuss this question, and Mr. Hatch says that on a third occasion they talked three hours about it, but there is a discrepancy of evidence, as to this third interview. After the two admitted interviews, Dr. Borden had the assurance to stand up in the house and say: "I do not know where the hon. gentleman got his information. Presumably, from Mr. Hatch, if there be such a gentleman."

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Every one of these statements made by the solicitor general has been made by sworn evidence to be inaccurate. Dr. Ruttan has given sworn testimony to show that the food sent to Africa was entirely insufficient as an emergency ration and that it has no such value as was paid for it and that it will take eight pounds to furnish the ration which one pound was recommended to supply. The director general has admitted that his test was practically no test at all, that his examination was valueless and the recent examination mentioned by the solicitor general proceeded entirely different results from those he claimed.

Dr. Dobell appeared on the scene in a ridiculous kind of speech in which he ridiculed what he called the "eek and bull story of a box being bought and taken to some chemist." Mr. Dobell scouted the analysis obtained in this way, which showed that the Devlin food contained only 17 per cent. of protein. While he did so, the department of militia and the department of inland revenue had in their possession the analysis of the government, which showed that the quantity of proteins in the Devlin food was only 18.5 per cent. While the ministers were denouncing Mr. Monk for relying upon this 17 per cent. test, they had in their own possession and were keeping back from the house a report of their own, showing that Mr. Monk's figures were well within the mark.

It is now plain that the emergency food was never intended to be a concentrated article. Yet Sir Louis Davies, in this same debate on June 6th, spoke of it as a food "which would enable soldiers to sustain life for a great length of time on a small package of condensed food." This same minister has stated that "the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) seems to be mad on the subject of Hatch. Nobody else ever heard of Hatch." And yet the minister of militia had negotiated with Hatch, had several interviews with him, knew him to be the inventor and manufacturer of the goods tested at Kingston, and had received a letter from him, which he secretly kept from the knowledge of his subordinate, warning him that the Devlin goods was not the genuine article previously tested. When the minister of marine was speaking of a test and report made by Dr. Neilson as to the Devlin food, and the food used at Kingston, Col. Prior interrupted by stating that the Kingston food had not been analysed. Sir Louis demanded "how does the hon. gentleman know that?" But the minister of militia was there and knew that what Col. Prior said was true, though he did not take the trouble to say so.

No one can read this discussion without seeing that the minister distinctly mis-stated the case over and over again, partly by carelessness and ignorance, partly, it may be feared, by intention, but in one way or the other on every essential point.

### A NOVEL IDEA.

(Montreal Witness, May 30, 1900.)

Mrs. Egerton, an English lady, who did nursing work in Dawson City, carried out an original idea in London, which greatly gratified the C. P. R. people. Mrs. Egerton had been much struck by the scene along the line of the C. P. R., as well as with the service which the company rendered across the continent, and she determined to let the folk in England know something about both. For this purpose she availed herself of a fancy ball at Covent Garden, to appear in a costume which took the first prize for originality, and which illustrated Canadian scenery and the C. P. R. in a highly striking manner. The lady's hat was trimmed in a manner to show the C. P. R. trains in motion; her cape set forth Lake Ontario, Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains, while the front of her dress showed a train rushing at full speed through the wonderful ravines in the far Northwest. In the lady's hand was a banner which contained the coat of arms of the several provinces constituting the dominion. The trout emblem, as the London press remarked at the time, was wonderfully striking and impressive, and gave at a glance an idea of a country of which Londoners, previous to the jubilee, knew very little. Mrs. Egerton, as Mr. Baker, the C. P. R. agent in London, pointed out, did all this "off her own bat," and solely with the patriotic view of making Canada known. The lady is coming out again, probably this summer, when she will make an extended tour of the country. Photographs of Mrs. Egerton in her unique costumes are at the general offices of the C. P. R.

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