



OTTAWA LETTER.

Discussing Whether the Territories Shall Receive Provincial Rights.

Mr. Charlton Rapidly Becoming the Chief Protectionist in the House.

Time Has Come When Canada Should Take Efficient Measures to Get the Full Benefit of Her Great Nickel Wealth.

OTTAWA, April 19.—Nobody seems to remember having seen a quorum in the house of commons. Twenty members constitute a quorum, which is less than one-tenth of the whole number. But small as it is, this quorum was not on hand during a good part of yesterday's discussion on the important question whether the territories should receive provincial rights.

The substance of Mr. Sifton's objection appears to be that the people in the west are divided on the question whether they should be grouped into one province or two, and that the immense amount of land and other resources in the territory would be an incentive to extravagance and the accumulation of a large debt.

The real objection at Ottawa to western autonomy is probably a desire to control western expenditure and western resources. There is no lack of money made by people who have a "pull" in the Northwest, and the importance from a party point of view of the patronage of the department of the interior would be greatly diminished if the business which Mr. Sifton controls were handed over to a local government.

It is an interesting circumstance that while the subject was under discussion the government interest in it was so small that there were never more than three ministers present, of whom two were engaged in writing letters or asleep, until they went out and left the minister of the interior to wrestle with the question alone.

Mr. Charlton is developing rapidly into the chief protectionist of the house. Yesterday the nickel interests and the binder twine industry received his attention. On both subjects, he stands out for better protection than our present system affords.

The United States people take care of their own interests. They get the ore into their country and manufacture it, and do not allow nickel products in an advanced condition to be admitted except under very high duties. The result is that the manufacture of nickel products in this country is impossible, and we are giving to a foreign country the control of an industry wherein we have a natural monopoly.

the government has been thinking about it, but has not yet been convinced that such action is necessary.

While we have control naturally of the world's supply of nickel, the United States, by the ownership of the Philippine Islands, controls the world's supply of manila hemp. Our friends across the border do not follow the Canadian example. There was always an export duty on manila, collected for the benefit of the Philippine administration, but it was applicable to all countries.

When Mr. Gourley offered the suggestion that the opposition should pay less attention to small government speculation and more to larger speculation, he may have had in mind the comparatively small steel achieved in the Grose Isle expenditure. It is small enough compared with the Intercolonial jobs or with the operations in the Yukon.

OTTAWA, April 21.—When Mr. Brock declared his conviction that Mr. Tarte was not master of the administration, he said he was sorry for the fact, because if Mr. Tarte was master we would have a better tariff and more dignified relations with the United States.

Yet I venture to think that though the budget was delivered a month ago, and though Mr. Fielding then declared that there would be no tariff changes until next year, the session will not conclude without at least one important change by taking binder twine from the free list.

Moreover, when once a duty is imposed upon binder twine it will stay there. It is absolutely essential in the manufacture of armor plate and is used in the best steel rails and structural iron for various purposes, and of course in many articles of the war in common use.

Mr. Sifton has been obliged to beat a retreat. The Treadgold deal in the Yukon may still be bad, but at least it is changed so far as to satisfy the delegates who came here pledged to fight the government on the subject. Whether there is anything left in it for the original dealers is not known.

posed to be politicians rather close to the government at Ottawa. It is the commonly received opinion that more than one or two or three ministers have large interests in the Yukon which did not cost them much money, and that in certain transactions they take place in regard to them they stand to profit by the principle of "heads I win, tails you lose."

But if Mr. Sifton has not succeeded in completing the transaction as originally planned he need not be despondent. He is quite prosperous in his own goods, and this is a very good thing in the administrative department. The latest bank statement shows that he holds two hundred shares recently acquired of Bank of Ottawa stock, which is good in the market for about \$40,000.

To go back to Mr. Tarte. It will be remembered that a few days before the session Mr. Mulock's organ in Toronto opened up a discussion of government ownership of telegraph lines. The writer in the Toronto Star and also one in the Toronto Globe suggested that the government telegraph line, and those which should be established under the Marconi system, ought to become a part of the post office service.

OTTAWA, April 22.—Members of the public accounts committee who undertake to get the truth concerning Intercolonial railway management have a pretty hard contract. In the first place if there is a witness desired whose information is supposed to be accurate and important and may be damaging to the government, the motion to call him is voted down.

Mr. McManus appeared in the committee yesterday as Mr. Blair's witness. He has been inspector of ties on the Intercolonial, but was displaced from those duties nearly a year ago, when complaint was made that he was accepting bad ties. A reinspection was ordered last May, and has not yet been completed.

Mr. Blair examined Mr. Manus on these points. Mr. McManus cannot believe that the latest inspection is correct. He thinks that Mr. Williams, who was sent by Manager Russell to go over his work, made a mistake, and that the ties which Mr. Williams said were fir were really white spruce.

the ties accepted were under the proper size, and that some were popular.

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Just here I will insert the evidence given by Mr. Pottinger as to the relative value of ties. Mr. Pottinger was asked on the first day of his examination why he was not called by the undertaker to get the information, and a week or two later he appeared with a memorandum on the subject from his engineer. The examination was by Mr. Heggart.

This evidence is interesting in the light of the prices paid and of the qualities of the wood accepted. It appears that Mr. Culligan and Mr. Ulickan were paid for white spruce, cedar, and hemlock, the same for one as the other, and that white spruce was accepted from both.

To return to Mr. McManus. Closely examined by Mr. Blair he stated that he was authorized to pass certain ties, and that he made his examination of public works ready, and the motion to call him is voted down.

This leads us back to the first day of the inquiry, when under the "intense" examination of Mr. Blair, Mr. Pottinger was made to say that the minister did not interfere in any matter of purchasing supplies.

So Mr. Blair's examination of Mr. McManus came to an end, and if Mr. Barker had not by some means learned of the private communication given by the minister to Mr. McManus, the whole subject would have been left there.



Mr. Burpee who had charge of the matter, sent for him, took him away from the inspection, gave him something else to do, and sent another man to go over his work.

It took Mr. Barker a good while to find out where these instructions came from. Mr. McManus was very reluctant to testify on this point.

Why did you reject them? he was asked. He rejected them because they were white spruce, and his instructions were to accept only black spruce.

It was after this that Mr. Burpee attacked the inspector for accepting white spruce, and the inspector told Mr. Burpee what authority he had for doing so.

Mr. Burpee next took the witness in hand and obtained from him a statement that previous to this note he had accepted white spruce from Mr. Ulickan.

Mr. Emmerson, who thinks it is quite to the point to show that some contractor, who seems to have been favored, is a conservative, asked Mr. McManus whether Mr. Ulickan was not a liberal and Mr. Culligan a conservative.

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with Mr. Blair obtained from him a note of instruction to that effect addressed to Mr. McManus. Mr. Pottinger could not have been present at the transaction or he would have remembered it.

Mr. Emmerson's statement was heard with amazement. He seemed to be rather merry at first over his achievement, but afterwards the seriousness of the position appeared to impress itself upon him as it certainly did upon others.

There is no reason to suppose that this paper would ever have been heard from again by the public if the facts had not been previously brought out at the examination.

Children Cry for CASTORIA.

(Springfield Republican.) Citiman—"Yes, I'll be glad to run out and see you some time. What's your number?"

MONCTON, N. B., April 26.—Mrs. Gibson's residence, situated just north of Main street crossing, was destroyed by fire this afternoon.

CHICAGO, April 27.—Hon. J. Sterling Morton, former secretary of agriculture, died this afternoon at 11 in his 62nd year.











