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### Our Ottawa Letter.

One hardly knows what construction to place on the commotion now going on within the conclaves of our rulers at Ottawa, nor can we interpret the meaning of all these missionary trips of the ministers of the crown and their lieutenants. The whole aggregation is at work and it only falls short of being the "Biggest show on Earth," as the circus man shouts, by leaving home McGreevy, Langevin, Senial, St. Louis and the rest of the gang, who for years have been the "pals" of the government in doing you up. The show is not complete without them. I believe that although you have paid pretty dearly for the experience you have had with these gentry, and others through whom the government has operated upon you, you would just give an extra quarter to have a good square look at the gang. Well, if the government has not taken us into their confidence and told us the cause of this unusual excitement among themselves and stumping tournament throughout the country, there is one thing we can rest assured of, and that is that we will have to foot the bills; and what is worse the burden falls alike upon Liberal and Conservative.

Is there to be a general election soon? Some say yes; others no. Who is right? The Tupper-Quimet-Wallace combination have just returned from the Maritime provinces and now Foster has gone down to look over the land. Paterson, Haggart and Foster will shortly talk in the west while Tupper starts to day for a trip along the line as far as British Columbia with the two controllers, Wood and Wallace, following close behind. Sir John Thompson is in England, Paris and Rome alternately, according to the government organs, and while it is generally admitted that his visit is mainly for the purpose of talking over prospective elections with the old war horse, the High Commissioner in London, it is understood that his visit to Rome was at the request of the Vatican. This, however, is a private matter between the Premier and His Holiness Pope Leo. It is with public affairs we are concerned.

It has been the desire of the government that the impression should go abroad that the House would meet the last week in January. A member of the Cabinet, however, told me to-day that at this moment it was impossible to say when parliament would be summoned and that in fact the question had not yet been discussed in council. Now, there is something up and what is it? Foster's "big loan" of \$12,500,000, and the government's equally "big promises" of drill sheds and post offices, and railway subsidies and government contracts galore, may be accepted as very strong circumstantial if not positive evidence that they are planning mischief, for these are the implements of war we always find them sharpening when they are getting ready to measure swords.

There are many reasons why they would avoid meeting parliament before another session if possible. There is the report of the Prohibition Commission to be dealt with, and that is a question not altogether free from embarrassment. The report so far has been withheld, but that is not the only instance we have of suppressed reports where the evidence they are likely to afford is damaging to the government. The tariff question will have to be taken up again and not in the farcical way it was tinkered last session. If they can avert a further discussion of their tariff policy they will do so. They have run their expenditure up to such a figure that they cannot do with less revenue.

Then there is "Bob White," M. P., waiting for the collectorship of Montreal, and to open up Cardwell before a general election would just now be a very dangerous experiment. There is evidence enough before the people of what is coming without volunteering more. For the same reason they have not issued the writ for the seat in Quebec West that has been vacant since last session. Ross, of Lisgar, wants the governorship of Manitoba, and he has been promised it, but they are afraid to open that constituency.

While pointing out why the government may possibly decide to go to the country before the House meets again, I must not be lost of the fact that their record is not likely to be improved in the country by the search-light the Opposition have promised to throw upon some of their misdeeds. The shadow of the big St. Louis steal still hangs over the country; folks yet talk of the way they were robbed by the McGreevy-Langevin combination; nor have they forgotten the Printing Bureau scandal under Chepleau. Even the Pacific scandal is remembered by many who saw in it what was to follow—an uninterrupted record of bribery and corruption under Tory rule. The fear of having anything else revealed before they go to the country may cause them to hesitate before they give the Opposition fresh opportunities to investigate. But would Lord Aberdeen consent to a dissolution? Should he give

his assent it could only be interpreted as a desire on his part to help the government out of a hole.

You often ask where all your hard earnings you send to Ottawa goes to. Well, wake up and you will find that a good share of it goes to pay for the enjoyment and pleasures of those who are administering your estate here. Now here is an illustration in a small way although the same principle is involved as if there were millions in it. Did you ever hear of Sir Adolph Caron? Well you are paying for lots of fun for him. When Haggart ran the Post Office Department his travelling expenses for which you paid were \$183; Sir Adolph's for the same department last year, cab hire and travelling expenses, \$1,258. They were higher than those of any other minister except Foster who had to visit England in connection with a loan. Yes, Sir Adolph spent \$1,258 of your money junketing about the country, and perhaps more. It would be interesting to know how often he used the annual passes with which the railway companies always supply him. But now we are told that he has been visiting New York to inspect the electric postal car service. There was, however, a big "horse show" on in New York at the time, and there were many who thought that there was more "horse show" in the trip than postal card service. The New York Recorder does not abuse this opinion, for it says: "At the Brunswick are a number of Canadians who came on for the "horse show" and who form gay dinner parties every evening. Among them is Sir Adolph Caron." Will Sir Adolph please tell you how much you have paid for "horse show" and "gay dinner parties," as the Recorder puts it, and how much for electric postal car service.

And still you wonder where your money goes. If our old friend Col. Silvers could have been a member of a Tory government he could truthfully have said "there's millions in it."

Ottawa, Dec. 1.

If you want to buy or sell a farm advertise in the Toronto Weekly Mail. That paper reaches 100,000 farmers homes every week, and your advertisement should meet the eye of some one who wants to purchase. Advertisements of this class are inserted in the Toronto Weekly Mail for five cents a word for each insertion. Twenty cents a word for five insertions. Address The Mail, Toronto, Canada.

### Mr. J. K. Falconbridge's Death.

Although it was known for some time past that Mr. J. K. Falconbridge was gradually sinking, when the news was spread around on Saturday morning that the old gentleman had passed away, a feeling of sadness came over many of our residents who had known him as one of our oldest and most highly respected citizens. His wife and daughter were constantly by his bedside, and during the past few weeks his two sons spent much of their time with their beloved father. The funeral took place on Monday afternoon from his late residence to the village cemetery, and was largely attended by residents of the place and many from a distance. On the casket were several beautiful floral mementos which had been sent by friends in the village and from Toronto. Leaving the residence the funeral cortege walked to St. Mary's (English) church where a short service was conducted by Rev. W. W. Bates, M.A., rector, of Thornhill. The pall-bearers were: Messrs. J. Brown, M. Teeffy, D. Boyle, P. Crosby and W. Atkinson of Richmond Hill; H. Quetton St. George of Oak Ridges; and C. W. Bunting and James Macdonald of Toronto.

The mourners were: Mr. Justice Falconbridge, Messrs. J. D. Falconbridge; Henry Lyne, of Thornbury, W. J. McMaster, A. C. McMaster and A. W. Anglin of Toronto.

Among those who attended the funeral from a distance were: Messrs. W. Mullock, M.P., H. J. Wyckham, W. Macdonald, Q.C., W. Dickson, G. B. Nicol, S. Wilcocks, R. Milburn, Rev. Father Teeffy and Dr. L. H. Evans.

We append the following obituary notice from Monday's Mail:—

During the early part of the present century there reached this country from the British Isles a few men of good family, rare attainments, and high moral character, resolved to carve out for themselves homes and independence in the New World. One of these was Mr. John Kennedy Falconbridge, J.P., who died on Saturday last at his residence at Richmond Hill, and the announcement of whose death will be read with deep sorrow by those who have had the privilege of knowing him intimately. He had been ill for several weeks, but it had at first been hoped that his fine constitution, the result of his regular life, would enable him to successfully combat the disease. His advanced age, however, told

strongly against him in the struggle, and it became apparent a few days ago that recovery was impossible. He had passed by several years the allotted span of human life, and died honored and beloved by all who knew him. Kind of heart and broad of mind, courteous in demeanor, and a most interesting conversationalist and writer, he was well fitted both by character and education to attract the admiration and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. He was a fitting representative of the highest type of an English gentleman, bearing himself throughout his long and useful life with a dignity which was at all times tempered by kindness of spirit and delicacy of thought.

Mr. Falconbridge was born in the north of Ireland in 1819, and came to Canada in December, 1837, taking up his residence with his uncle, Mr. Samuel Falconbridge, who occupied the position of postmaster and carried on a mercantile business at Drummondville, Ont. He soon established a business of his own at Bradford, and subsequently at Richmond Hill. In this he was eminently successful, and retired early in life with large means, his tastes leading him by preference to engage himself in literary and artistic pursuits, which he followed with the ardor and singleness of purpose natural to his character, and in which he attained an honorable distinction in the community. He was an excellent critic, and a connoisseur of more than ordinary ability. His work in oils and water colors entitled him to a place above mere amateurs, and had he continued himself more exclusively to the study of art he would without doubt have been as successful with the palette and brush as he was in mercantile pursuits. He was an extensive reader and a careful student, but that did not prevent him from being a keen and ardent sportsman. He possessed all those qualities which make a man popular in social life, and was well known in club and society circles in Toronto, where he was a frequent visitor, never having ceased to take a strong interest in the welfare and progress of the city, though he did not care to mix closely in its concerns or to indulge in active city life. In politics he was a thoughtful Conservative of the old school, but he could not be induced to enter upon a public career, though often solicited to do so. He was a member of the Church of England, and by his death the parish in which he so long resided loses one of its most worthy and estimable adherents.

Mr. Falconbridge's first wife was Miss Sarah Fralick, of Drummondville, and his second, who survives him, Miss Eliza Dugan, daughter of the late Mr. James Dugan, of Articlave, Coleraine, Ireland. His surviving children are: Hon. Mr. Justice Falconbridge, of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice; Miss Etta Falconbridge, and Mr. Jas. D. Falconbridge, who is in the Imperial Bank in this city.

### Sale Register

FRIDAY, Dec. 7.—Credit sale of farm stock and implements, on lot 11, rear 3rd con. Vaughan, the property of Charles White. Sale at 12 o'clock. Terms 11 months on sums over \$8.

J. T. Saigeon, auctioneer.

MONDAY, Dec. 10.—The undersigned has received instructions from Chas. R. Koffer to sell by public auction on Lot 10, rear 3rd con. Vaughan, (1 1/2 miles north of Thornhill Station, G. T. R.), 200 cords hardwood and 60 cords second-class wood, in lots to suit purchasers. Sale at 1 p.m. sharp. Terms: All sums of \$5 and under, cash; over that amount three months' credit on approved joint notes. J. T. Saigeon, auctioneer.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 12.—Credit sale of farm stock, implements, &c., on lots 33 and 34, 1st con. Markham, near Thornhill, the property of Henry E. Carr. Sale at 11 a. m. Terms 11 months on sums over \$10. Salem Eckardt, auctioneer.

Parties getting their Bills printed at this Office will receive a notice similar to the above FREE OF CHARGE

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