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Our Ottawa Letter.

It does not require a political opponent to discover that in the ranks of the once happy Conservative family, who are now holding the fort at Ottawa, there is serious discord. Dissensions might have existed in the fold, but it would have been nothing short of treason to have breathed it in the good old days when Sir John Macdonald captained the team. Those days have gone, and the grip of the party leader is now nothing more than that of any of his colleagues, for there has been a division of influence and responsibility. Jack is as good as his master, and Jack takes mighty good care to let his nominal master know it.

They are fighting among themselves, and but little attempt is made to conceal this fact. What more humiliating scene could have been witnessed than the manner in which Foster, now leader for the government in the House of Commons, sat upon Sir Charles Tupper, Haggart and Caron a few days ago when he, Foster, informed the House that a report would be laid upon the table which his colleagues, Sir Charles, Haggart and Caron, had each a moment before declared should not be brought down. It was a scene without parallel in the parliamentary history of Canada.

Sir Hector Langevin told your correspondent that had he been subjected to the same humiliation he would have resigned. But after all may the country in the end not profit by the cut throat policy which appears to have seized upon the government, for certainly it is a cut throat game they are now playing against each other. May it not turn out that what is proving their misfortune will prove the country's gain, for when rogues fall out honest men stand a chance of getting their due. The simile may be rather a severe one, but really have they any claim for exemption from the rogue's gallery! Look at their record and say it is that of honest men. There is a record that has disgraced the past; is disgracing the present, and will disgrace the future political history of Canada if you facilitate their speculations by returning them in office.

It is interesting to read what one of their leading supporters in Quebec now has to say about the present government. In the recent election in Quebec West, finding the government candidate was to be Thomas McGreevy, Mr. R. R. Dobell, also a Conservative and a millionaire lumberman, determined to run against him as the most likely man to keep McGreevy out of parliament. Mr. Dobell was defeated, as you are aware, and this is what he has now to say about the folks who secured McGreevy his election:—"I am perfectly satisfied that we had to fight not only McGreevy, but the whole strength of the government at Ottawa, and I will not attempt to express the contempt I feel towards men who, with a full knowledge of the corruption that was practised, and for which Mr. McGreevy was condemned, still voted for him. Some of these occupy positions where they draw a government salary and pose as honest men."

The government had been forced to prosecute McGreevy, and he was sent to gaol, and this is the way they make reparation.

I mention this to show you that there are some of their supporters who are no longer prepared to hide their faults. Before the public accounts committee last week the fact was brought out that J. B. Mills, M. P. for Annapolis, a supporter of the government, owed the government \$994 for rent of military property at Annapolis. Col. Macpherson, of the militia department, who was examined under oath, said that since 1888 the department had been trying to get Mills to pay up, but not a dollar had they been able to recover since that year.

The impression prevails here that the Curran bridge swindle will be allowed to drift along until after the general elections are over, when the prosecution will be abandoned. Speaking on this matter last week Mr. Laurier said that in the prosecution of the charges against contractor St. Louis (a cousin of the Minister of Public Works), there had been a want of energy and a want of determination that was evident to a majority of the people and the country that it had been a sham prosecution.

During the discussion over the proposed increase in the judges' salaries, Dr. Sproule, who generally stands elbow to elbow with the government, said the government had not made out a case sufficiently strong to justify the proposed increase. This is another evidence of the spirit of independence that is crawling into the fold. After all the rank and file are only following the example set them by the rebellious ministers.

During the week McMullen moved the second reading of his bill to abolish the civil service superannuation system. He pointed out that while the total revenue to the fund last year was only \$63,974, the government in 1894 had paid out \$262,302 in that year on account of superannuation. There are 551 retired civil

servants who are now drawing superannuation allowance, while to the fund these are 4685 officials who are contributing to the fund. It is every day becoming more apparent that unless some means are devised by which the system superannuation may be made self-sustaining that the country will demand its entire abolition. As it is it is a fraud upon the taxpayers of the country, a political engine that has enabled the government to shove efficient officers to one side to make room for political favorites of their own.

Victoria Square.

That all signs fail in fine weather was well sustained on Saturday last. Those who read the almanacs foretold of cold and almost freezing weather. But as the almanac generally means the opposite to what it says, the weather prophets were wrong for once, and the friends of the Methodist Church of this place had queen's weather for their Sunday School Anniversary.

As the games of the day commenced at 1 o'clock, people began to assemble on the grounds to witness the cricket match between the Bachelors and the Benedicts. Both sides went enthusiastically into the game, but the benedicts proved more than a match for the bachelors, who were vanquished with a score of 51 to 40.

After the cricket match was over the foot-ball contests took place. Ellesmere and King City teams were the first to play. This was the game of the afternoon. Ellesmere played the finest combination game, but King seemed to possess the faculty of scoring. When time was called the result was in favor of King City by 1 to 0. Gormley and Cashel then took the field to try their strength. Both sides did some good playing, but Cashel proved too much for our northern suburb, and when the referee's whistle blew Cashel won by 2 to 0.

While the games were being played the Richmond Hill band arrived, and headed the procession of Sunday School scholars to Mr. Jennings' orchard, after which all sat down to the well spread tables, and commenced the attack upon the delicacies served by the ladies. During the afternoon and evening the booth drove a brisk business, ice cream, lemonade, &c., being in great demand. Rev. Mr. Vickery took the chair, and after a few introductory remarks, introduced the performers, Mr. A. E. Eccleston, tenor soloist, of Toronto, sang "The Death of Nelson," and "Mother's my Sweetheart." Mr. Eccleston possesses a fine voice which shows careful training. It is needless to say his songs were well received. The Stouffville Quartette's rendering of "Where are the Old Folks" was excellent, and as the quartette consisted entirely of ladies, one of whom—Miss Hoover—sang bass, the audience were delighted with the performance. Another selection was given which was well received. Miss Cross and Miss Brodie gave excellent recitations. The Richmond Hill band also entertained the entertainment, and a trombone solo by Mr. A. Shierk was well rendered. After the National Anthem had been played the large crowd dispersed, well pleased with the day's amusements. Proceeds \$160.

The Sabbath School fully appreciates the kindness of Mr. T. Klink for giving a sod field for the afternoon games, and of Mr. A. Jennings who placed his orchard at the disposal of the friends for the entertainment in the evening.

The following is the cricket score:

BENEDICTS.		BACHELORS.	
J. Frisby	3	W. Mustard	0
W. Scott	6	J. Rennie	1
W. Frisby	12	H. Thomson	15
T. Frisby	2	H. McKenzie	6
G. Henrick	6	C. Forester	1
R. Frisby	5	Ed. Forester	0
J. Mustard	3	C. Wellman	2
G. Forester	1	E. McKenzie	1
J. Vickery	5	H. Brown	1
C. Read	7	Ed. Dixon	3
J. Trudgeon	0	H. Brown	3
Byes	1	Byes	7
	51		40

Sherwood

What might have been a very serious accident occurred near our town. Some boys attempted to blow some frogs out of the water with a can of powder. The powder exploded and one of the boys got his fingers badly burned. When will boys learn that powder is dangerous?

Messrs. M. Watson, J. Lyons and J. Kinnee are each building new barns this summer; the boys are expecting raisings soon.

Rev. Mr. Rankin, of Brampton, paid a visit to his brother, Thomas Rankin, of this place, on Sunday last.

Mrs. Jackson and Miss Campbell, of Elia, paid a visit to Mr. John Campbell on Saturday last.

Mr. Hiram Keffer, of this place, and Mr. J. Keffer, of Concord, took in an ice cream social near Vellore one evening last week.

The bike driver who is after the scalp of the Sherwood correspondents had better be careful, as we have a new constable in our town. We would advise him to bury the war hatchet and take up the pipe of peace with the citizens of this town.

We are very sorry to notice that the Recorder scribbler gives some very untruthful information; it is not very well received in this place.

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Wheat, red, per bush	1 03	0 03
Wheat, goose, per bush	0 83	0 83
Oats, per bush	0 42	0 43
Peas, per bush	0 65	0 00
Barley, per bush	0 50	0 00
Turkeys, per lb	0 09	0 10
Dressed Hogs, per cwt	0 07	0 09
Geese, per lb	0 07	0 09
Chickens, per pair	0 50	0 00
Ducks, per pair	0 50	0 00
Butter, in pound rolls	0 14	0 15
Eggs, fresh	0 10	0 00
Potatoes, per bag	0 45	0 00
Apples, per bbl	1 75	3 00
Hay, clover	7 50	8 50
Hay, timothy	8 00	9 00
Straw, sheaf	7 00	7 00

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