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Our Ottawa Letter.

MAY 10TH.—The consensus of opinion seems now generally to be that Parliament will prorogue within six weeks at the latest, unless some unforeseen matter arises to alter the evident intention of both parties in the house to get away by the middle of next month. It is thought that business may be so expedited that prorogation can take place before the 10th of June which is about the date set for Mr. Laurier to sail for England. On every day of the week, except Mondays, government business will now be given precedence for the remainder of the session, and this step usually presages the nearness to prorogation. In carrying out the intention of the House to get away as quickly as is possible, there must be an unusual "slaughtering of innocents" in the matters of legislation now before the House. A good deal of the government programme will have to go over until next session. This will include the franchise bill and perhaps the prohibition plebiscite as well. I was told on good authority that there was a tacit understanding between the Premier and the leader of the opposition that parliament would be summoned early in the next year, probably in January, and thus give ample time for the consideration of deferred business, as well as the new matters then to come up. The next session, therefore will run five or six months.

The announcement of the lumber schedule as contained in the report of the Finance Committee of the United States Senate on the Dingley Bill has hit Canadian lumbermen harder than was anticipated. To the Ottawa men it has not brought one crumb of comfort. Should the Committee's report be adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives without any material modification in this item, it will deal a serious blow to the Canadian lumber trade. It is regarded as a deadly menace to that interest by lumbermen here, who say that the results of the operation of such a tariff will not be hard to foretell. In this lumber district I am told that it would not seriously affect the present year's cut, as all the big English contracts have been let and the market for the output has been practically arranged for the season. But if a radical change is not made towards modifying the lumber schedule, before the bill goes to the White House for executive sanction, the effect of the tariff, at its present high scale, will be disastrous in its operation upon the lumber interest, in this district during subsequent seasons. A member of the Hull Lumber Company said that it was impossible to force Canadian rough lumber on the English market to any great extent; and the home market, by reason of its limited demands is altogether inadequate to consume the output of Canadian mills. The United States is really the one great purchaser of Canada's forest products. Ottawa lumbermen are very apprehensive of the government being forced to the necessity of imposing an export duty on logs since, in the event of that step being taken, it would bring into operation the retaliatory proviso in the American tariff. Great pressure is being brought to bear, however, upon the government to levy this export duty only as a measure of self defence against the unconcealed hostility of American legislation; and it is now rumored, with much of the element of authenticity, that the government will place an export duty on logs and pulp wood before prorogation, or provide means for the imposition of such duty in the event of the American tariff maintaining, in its lumber schedule, the present high standard of duty. Should such prove the case Canadian lumbermen must patriotically accept the situation and plan to develop our foreign lumber trade.

What a satisfaction it is for liberals to feel that the Liberal cabinet is composed of men who are above corruption, and that those who hold the public trust are so capable of safeguarding its interests and hold so strictly true to the oath of office. The recent attempt by a large gold mining concern of British Columbia to bribe Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, and his dignified rebuff to the briber is but an apt index of the honesty of our liberal leaders in administering the affairs of the people. Here was the Gold property Co. of Victoria, B. C., about a fortnight ago, offering Sir Henri an allotment of 20,000 of its fully paid up and non-assessable shares in consideration of "lending his valuable influence" to facilitate the operations of the company. Then we can see this bold endeavor to corrupt the Comptroller of Inland Revenue, not only at once spurned with contempt, but the letter of the briber and Sir Henri's reply thereto sent to the press for publication. Eighteen years of tory rule have evidently led people to believe that the spirit of honesty and integrity of character was but a figment of the imagination in respect

to a Canadian Cabinet. Promotion shares and contractors' gifts were things that delighted the tory heart, and one can scarcely conceive it a possibility for him to refuse any such, even when accompanied by the "in consideration" proviso.

The Government has many difficult problems to solve, but, without doubt, that of immigration is one of the most important. A sound, feasible immigration policy Mr. Sifton is now promoting. That Canada, in point of population, has not progressed as rapidly as should have been the case is plain to anyone who has given the least attention to the matter. In considering what should have been the result of a natural increase the step has been retrogressive rather than progressive. Taking into account the million of people who were brought here during the past fifteen years, our population to-day should be 6,500,000 instead of 5,000,000, speaking in round numbers. It has been stated that each settler is worth to the country at least \$1,000, so that it does not require a very lengthy mathematical calculation to determine the enormous loss which the country has sustained. Mr. Sifton's idea is to populate the great Northwest, not at the sacrifice of the older provinces but by drawing from the congested districts of Europe the most desirable class of settlers which such districts are able to furnish. His plans are laid to attain this result. When we consider that the C. P. Ry. has been in operation for over 12 years and that the population of Manitoba and Territories is not half a million souls, it becomes painfully apparent that some very drastic measure must be adopted to solve this immigration problem, for in the speedy population and settlement of the country depends the success of this great highway from ocean to ocean.

A. V. W.

WANTED.

Men and Women who can work hard talking and writing six hours daily for six days a week, and will be content with ten dollars weekly. Address, NEW IDEAS CO., Brantford, Ont.

King City

The farmers have been rushing their seeding in at a great rate during the fine weather. A few more fine days will see all the seeding done in this section of country.

Quite a large number of the brethren of Robertson Lodge, A. F. and A. M. went to Aurora last Friday night and report an excellent time with the brethren of that place.

Everybody are loud in their praises of Mr. Wm. Fisher's beautiful plants and flowers in his greenhouses. Many people daily visit his place, and all say he has an eye for the beautiful. He likes to receive visits from his friends, and invites an inspection of his tomatoes, celery and other plants before purchasing elsewhere.

Our Methodist friends at Temperanceville are making arrangements for a Garden Party to be held there early in June. It is proposed to run an excursion on the Metropolitan Street Railway from Toronto to Richmond Hill, and convey the visitors from the northern terminus to Temperanceville by busses. The congregation are very enthusiastic over their new church which is about to be erected.

Cultured Ladies with force of character, needing to earn money, can learn how to do so in a good cause. Address, JABEZ GALLOWAY, Toronto, Ont.

Nashville

In the death of Mr. Samuel J. Arnold, which occurred on Saturday last, Vaughan township has lost a conscientious reeve, and this vicinity has lost a good neighbor. Forty-nine years ago deceased was born on lot 22, 9th concession, on which farm he resided all his life. He had been troubled with a severe cough for a number of years, and at last was taken off by that treacherous disease, consumption. He entered the municipal council in January, 1891, as councillor; was afterwards made deputy-reeve, and last January was elected reeve by acclamation.

The funeral took place from his late residence to the little church burying ground a short distance away, on the following Monday, and was very largely attended. His late colleagues in the township council were all present as well as a large number of the members of York County Council, and many prominent residents of the township. The Sons of Scotland, from Woodbridge, of which lodge deceased was a member, also attended in a body to add their tribute of respect to the relatives of their deceased brother.

Deceased left a wife and two children who have the sympathy of the surrounding section of country in their recent bereavement.

Langstaff

A member of THE LIBERAL reporting staff, having received a complimentary ticket, attended on Arbor Day the last of a series of entertainments given in the Langstaff School House during the past winter. Although the concert was given under the auspices of the pupils of the school, yet the members of the O. R. T. did much to add to the pleasure of the evening's entertainment.

The chair was occupied by Mr. W. H. Chubine, who presided in a most satisfactory manner.

The first part of the programme consisted of recitations, songs and dialogues by pupils of the school, all of which were highly appreciated. Two kindergarten exercises given by a junior class reflected great credit on Miss F. Chubine whose untiring efforts brought forth such splendid results.

The second part of the programme was opened by Miss G. Darling who gave a reading which was well received. A solo entitled "The Fairies," by Miss Evans of Carrville, called forth much applause. She was accompanied on the piano by Miss Trench of Richmond Hill. A recitation by Miss Lane, given in her accustomed good style, pleased all. A solo by Miss Andrews of Thornhill, convinced the audience that her musical talent was of no mean order.

One of the most delightful features of the evening's entertainment was the selection given by the orchestra under the leadership of Miss Houghton of Thornhill, who was accompanied on the violin by Miss Langstaff and Mr. Houghton, while Miss Eva Wilson presided at the piano. Seldom have we had the pleasure of listening to such delightful music.

While the gathering was breaking up many gave expression to the wish that next winter's entertainments may be as successful as those of the past winter.

WANTED. Industrious persons of either sex with good character and common school education, can obtain employment for two months in this community. S. M. FRY, Toronto, Ont.

Maple

Arbor Day was duly observed at the Public School here. A number of trees were planted and the yard cleaned up.

The creamery buildings in this place are to be used as a cheese factory; Mr. Noble of Gormley, is to have the management.

The Presbyterian Church is undergoing repairs, and service will be held in the Masonic Hall on Sabbath next.

The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, who lately moved here from King, was buried at Coleraine on Sunday.

Rev. Geo. Peacock of Victoria University, will preach in the Methodist Church next Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Franks of Woodbridge, and Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Cousins were visiting friends here on Sunday.

Mrs. Stone of McKeesport, Pa., spent a few days with her friend, Mrs. H. C. Bailey.

Mrs. David White of Aurora, is visiting friends here and at Hope.

Public Library

A meeting of the Public Library Board was held in Savage's store on Tuesday evening, the 11th of May.

Members present, Messrs. Crosby, Brydon, Nicholls, Savage, Sanderson, Coombs, and McMahan. Also the librarian, Mr. Lav.

Minutes of meeting held April 13th 1897, were read and confirmed.

The Annual Report to the 30th of April, 1897, showed the receipts to be \$300.06; expenditure \$239.60; leaving a cash balance in the treasurer's hands of \$60.46.

The librarian's report showed that the number of books issued during the year was 4372, being an increase of 864 over last year. The number of readers was 180.

The Reading Room is also well patronized by the young people and by a considerable number of older persons.

Both the above reports were adopted by the Board.

The Book Committee reported on one of the library books, objection to which had been taken.

Moved by Mr. Crosby, seconded by Mr. Coombs, that the book in question be not returned to the library. Carried.

An account from the secretary for one hundred post cards, and fifty cents for printing same was on motion ordered to be paid.

The board adjourned to meet at the call of the chairman.

WANTED. Teachers, Barristers, Physicians, and others of similar training, for high class soliciting. Will pay forty dollars weekly and railway fare on demonstration of necessary ability. THE BRADLEY-GARRETTSON CO., Ltd., Toronto.