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## Our Ottawa Letter.

MAY 31ST.—The most important  
feature in parliamentary proceedings  
of the past week was in the bringing  
down of the amended tariff resolu-  
tions. Sweeping changes were made  
along several lines of import, but, in  
the main, the tendency was towards  
the tariff for revenue. The modifica-  
tion of the preferential clause was  
deemed advisable in order to cover  
certain doubts which exist in respect  
to Belgian and German favored-nation  
treaties with Great Britain. The  
government, however, are emphatic  
in their declaration that the treaties  
do not apply, and although there is  
thought to be some good grounds for  
the contention that the goods of those  
countries must come in under the  
same terms as British goods, yet there  
probably is no great danger to be  
apprehended that such a contingency  
will ever materialize. If it should,  
then the amendment to the reciprocal  
clause in the tariff resolutions empow-  
ers the administration to make the  
proper provision to recognize the  
treaty obligations of Her Majesty's  
government. Although the opposition  
quite naturally, cannot see eye to eye  
with Liberals in respect to their policy  
of preferential trade, claiming that  
the liberal enunciation of it is imprac-  
ticable and lacks the element of sincer-  
ity, yet the amendment of Sir Charles  
Tupper, which was voted down by a  
large majority, was brimfull of favor-  
able declaration for and did not  
impugn the great principle embodied  
in the preferential tariff with the  
Mother Country. Both parties are  
now agreed upon such a tariff basis  
and are at variance only in its mode  
of application.

In the endeavor to get through the  
work of the session before the first of  
July, many important measures will  
have to be dropped. Some have gone  
so far as to hint that the prohibition  
plebiscite may be one of the bills to be  
dropped. This course would hardly  
give satisfaction to Temperance people  
in Canada. It has been confidently  
relied upon that the promised measure  
would be available this year and that  
the test of the prohibition sentiment  
would be made before '98 dawned upon  
the Dominion. A bill has been pre-  
pared and printed, I believe, but it is  
one which differs very materially from  
that at first proposed. It was origi-  
nally intended, it is said, to adopt a  
method patterned after the principle  
of the Swiss referendum, which would  
first pass a prohibition law and then  
invite the people to pronounce upon  
it. To those anxious to shrink respon-  
sibility and the fulfillment of pledge  
that plan might miscarry. The bill,  
when submitted to the decision of the  
electorate might be adopted and then  
there would be no alternative but to  
put a prohibitory law into force and  
afterwards wrestle with the serious  
problem of making up the deficiency  
in revenue which would result from  
the operation of prohibition legisla-  
tion. The decision has been arrived  
at to hold the plebiscite first, and then  
to be guided by the declaration of the  
people upon the question. Two  
questions are now said to be embodied  
in the proposed measure. The electors  
will be asked if they desire prohibition,  
and whether they approve of direct  
taxation as a result of its adoption.  
Certain it is that if the people were  
asked merely to vote upon the first of  
two propositions the measure would  
carry by an overwhelming majority,  
if one may draw that conclusion from  
the results of plebiscites taken in On-  
tario, the Maritime provinces and  
Manitoba. Yet equally certain is it  
that the specter of direct taxation  
looms up so ominously and threaten-  
ingly upon the temperance horizon,  
inspires a nameless horror in the  
breast of the average tax-payer, which  
will render the outcome of the vote  
upon the prohibition law decidedly  
uncertain. Apart from the \$7,000,000  
loss to the Federal treasury, and the  
added loss of \$2,000,000 more to pro-  
vinces and municipalities, there is  
another and a very serious feature to  
be considered. It is said that it may  
be found necessary to compensate the  
Brewers, Distillers &c., for loss of  
property and rights. In looking up  
some statistics on this point, I find,  
speaking in round numbers and within  
the mark, that there about 150 Brew-  
ing and malting establishments in  
Canada, of which the largest number  
is in Ontario, representing an invested  
capital of about \$9,000,000, employing  
2,000 persons who are paid in wages  
nearly \$1,250,000 per annum. Then  
there are eight distilleries, and fifty  
one wine-making establishments  
having a capital of \$8,000,000. There  
are also a multitude of minor estab-  
lishments of the wholesale and retail  
character which also represent a vast  
investment of money. The operation  
of a prohibitory law would at once  
sweep out of existence all these varied  
interests involving millions of capital.  
It is claimed that this condition of  
things ought not to be suddenly  
brought about unless compensation is  
also provided for the destruction of so  
much property. In view of all the

circumstances, moderate temperance  
men will hesitate and perhaps be  
forced to vote otherwise than their  
natural inclination would dictate.  
Of the two evils, choose the least, and  
there is no questioning the fact that  
the drink evil is immeasurably the  
greatest, but it will be found that the  
ghost of direct taxation will have more  
alarming proportions than the too  
familiar proportions of the rum fiend,  
and so prohibition may not yet be in  
sight. At all events there is one com-  
forting fact for temperance people to  
reflect upon, and that is that the con-  
sumption of liquor is not on the in-  
crease in this country, but quite the  
reverse. If statistics are worth any-  
thing they go to prove beyond the  
shadow of a doubt, that there has  
been a material and steady decrease  
during the last twenty-five years.  
According to the report of the Depart-  
ment of Inland Revenue, the con-  
sumption of spirits, wine and beer per  
head for 1896 was: Spirits, 1.99; wine,  
0.29; and beer, 3.01. Last year it was:  
Spirits, 0.67; wine, 0.09; and beer,  
3.47. It is less all round than five  
years ago. It is not possible to obtain  
any accurate figures regarding the  
actual consumption in each province,  
for the province which has the largest  
number of breweries and distilleries  
will show the largest consumption  
entries owing to the fact that the duty  
has been frequently paid within the  
province, while the material is export-  
ed to and consumed in other prov-  
inces.  
It has not yet been decided whether  
a majority of the votes cast shall be  
deemed sufficient to pass a prohibitive  
law, or a clear majority of the total  
voting strength of the whole country.  
The Premier has said that the Govern-  
ment desires to stand by the will of  
the people, and the law, to be effec-  
tive, must be on the basis of the popu-  
lar will.  
A. V. W.

**WANTED.**  
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hard talking and writing six hours  
daily for six days a week, and will be  
content with ten dollars weekly. Ad-  
dress, NEW IDEAS CO., Brantford,  
Ont.

**Village Council.**  
The Council met on Tuesday even-  
ing, June 1st. The Reeve in the chair.  
Councillors present: Messrs. Innes  
and Wright.

The minutes of the 17th of May and  
of the Court of Revision were read  
and confirmed.  
The following accounts were read:—  
Henry Marsh, lumber for streets, &c.,  
\$43.50; Wm. Gibbs, work on Mill St.,  
\$1; Harry Griffith, work on Mill St.,  
\$15.38.

Moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by  
Mr. Innes, that the treasurer do pay  
the said accounts.—Carried.  
Communications read:—  
From Messrs. Garvin & Garvin, Bar-  
risters, Toronto, dated 29th May, on  
behalf of Mrs. Tyrrell, complaining of  
the drainage on Dufferin St., in the  
vicinity of her dwelling.

From Mr. John Palmer, dated June  
1st, saying "I hereby tender my resig-  
nation as Councillor."  
Moved by Mr. Innes, seconded by  
Mr. Wright, that the resignations of  
Councillors Sanderson and Palmer be  
accepted, and that the Clerk be in-  
structed to take the necessary pro-  
ceedings to hold an election to fill the  
vacancies occasioned by the resigna-  
tions of Messrs. Sanderson and Palmer.  
—Carried.

The Clerk read a letter from Messrs.  
Beaty, Snow & Smith, dated 29th of  
May, relating to the proposed loan  
from the Confederation Life Associat-  
ion for High School permanent im-  
provement.  
Mr. Innes asked leave to introduce  
By-law No. 154, "to authorize the bor-  
rowing of \$3000 for the purpose of  
erecting a new High School Building  
in the incorporated Village of Rich-  
mond Hill," and that it be read a first  
time.

Mr. Innes moved, seconded by Mr.  
Wright, that the Clerk do read the  
"Agreement" referred to in by-law  
No. 154, after by-law had been read a  
first time.  
Mr. Alexander Moodie, a ratepayer  
of the village, presented the following  
petition of certain ratepayers, which  
was ordered to be read:

To the Council of the Village of  
Richmond Hill:—  
SIRS,—We, the undersigned free-  
holders of the Village of Richmond  
Hill, hereby petition your honorable  
body to reconsider your motion of  
May 17th to issue debentures for \$3000  
to erect a High School on the Hopkins  
lot, and amend the same so as to pro-  
vide \$1500 to erect High School on old  
site or Park, and submit the same to  
the freeholders for ratification. We are  
of the opinion that if building was  
erected on old site or Park there would  
be a saving of at least \$1500 in prin-  
cipal besides the accruing interest on  
debentures; and further we consider  
that if you are determined to issue  
debentures without submitting same  
to a vote, that 20 years is sufficiently

long for debentures to run, and your  
petitioners will ever pray.

Richmond Hill, May 31st, 1897.  
J. H. Sanderson, A. L. Skeele, Alex.  
Moodie, A. C. Soules, D. Gray, H. A.  
Nicholls, Lucy Nicholls, John Palmer,  
C. S. Skeele, W. A. Sanderson, J.  
McC. Sanderson, Mrs. E. G. Falcor-  
bridge (per J. D. F.), H. Blanchard,  
George Robinson, John T. Empring-  
ham, William Furey, Charles Rollin,  
Wm. Teel, Jas. Freck, Francis Cook,  
Thomas Riley, Levi Gaby, Mrs. Eliza  
Gaby, Mrs. Stockdale, Wm. Bricknell,  
Elizabeth Powell, John R. Arnold,  
James McKenzie, John J. Cook, D.  
Pugsley, A. E. Pugsley, Henry J.  
Newbery, Wm. H. Pugsley, J. Mort-  
son, F. McConaghy, C. J. McConaghy,  
John Ellston, Albert Albin, J. Coulter,  
Will T. Storey, T. H. Trench, B. H.  
Lyon, W. R. Proctor.

The "Agreement" referred to in  
By-law No. 154 was read, and on mo-  
tion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr.  
Innes, it was ordered that the Reeve  
and the Clerk do sign the same and  
attach the corporate seal thereto.—  
Carried.

The Reeve and the Clerk signed the  
"Agreement."  
The By-law No. 154 was then read a  
second time.  
Mr. Innes moved, seconded by Mr.  
Wright, that By-law No. 154 be read a  
third time and passed, and that the  
Reeve and the Clerk and Treasurer do  
sign the same and attach the seal of  
the corporation thereto.—Carried.

The By-law was read a third time  
and passed, and the Reeve and the  
Clerk and Treasurer signed the same.  
Mr. Innes introduced By-law No. 155  
"to raise the sum of three thousand  
dollars for the purpose of building a  
new High School in the Incorporated  
Village of Richmond Hill, and to  
authorize the issue of Debentures  
therefor," which was read a first and  
second time.

Moved by Mr. Wright and seconded  
by Mr. Innes that the By-law No. 155  
be read a third time and passed and  
that the Reeve and Clerk and Treasur-  
er do sign the same and attach the  
seal of the corporation thereto.—  
Carried.  
The By-law (No. 155) was then read  
a third time and passed and signed by  
the Reeve and Clerk and Treasurer.  
The Council adjourned.

M. TEEFY, Clerk.  
**Vaughan Council**

The Municipal Council of the Town-  
ship of Vaughan met at the Town  
Hall on Wednesday, the 26th day of  
May.

Deputy-Reeve Bryson in the chair.  
Members present: Messrs. Watson,  
Kirby and Boyle.  
The minutes of last meeting were  
read and on motion approved.  
The following claims for sheep killed  
and injured by dog or dogs were pre-  
sented: From John Dobb, for 4 lambs  
killed and 1 sheep wounded, \$16.65;  
from James Neil, for 2 lambs and 1  
sheep killed, and damage to flock,  
\$22.65.

Watson—Boyle—that the treasurer  
be and is hereby authorized to pay to  
Mr. George Jackson the sum of \$20,  
for damage to horse, being settlement  
in full.—Carried.  
Kirby—Boyle—that the treasurer be  
and is hereby authorized to pay the  
following road accounts:

District No. 1—  
W. Mellich, bridge, lots 15 and  
16, con. 1, and 1 keg spikes \$15 50  
John Young, repairing bridge .. 1 00  
Robert Rumble, teaming .. 3 00  
Jas. Marshall, 2000 ft. oak plank  
at \$15 per M .. 30 00  
John Waldron, filling washout,  
opening drain, hauling plank  
and building culvert .. 6 00  
District No. 2—  
L. Maynard, hauling plank and  
repairing bridge at Murray's  
hollow .. 4 50  
John Nattress, for temporary  
repairs at bridge on sidewalk  
between lots 10 and 11, con. 3 1 00  
Woodbridge Council, plank and  
timber recovered from  
Thompson's bridge .. 3 00  
James Marshall, 5012 ft. of oak  
plank at \$15 per M, 160 ft. of  
pine for stringers at \$15 per  
M, and hauling same .. 78 08  
District No. 3—  
John L. Card, for bridge near  
Wardlaw's .. 80 55  
John L. Card, for bridge near  
Burlington .. 17 15  
G. J. Lawrie, repairing bridge .. 3 00  
David Green, 8 days' work on  
9th con. breaking stone .. 6 00  
Jas. Marshall, 3000 ft. lumber at  
\$15 per M .. 45 00  
—Carried.

By-law No. 668 dividing the interest  
arising from the Municipal Loan Fund  
among the several School Sections  
and Union School Sections in the  
township for the year 1897 was passed.  
The Council then adjourned until  
Tuesday, the 15th day of June to meet  
at 10 a. m.  
Ripans Tabules cure headache.  
Ripans Tabules cure bad breath.  
Ripans Tabules cure indigestion.