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Our Ottawa Letter.

OTTAWA, JUNE 26th.—Immediately after Sir Charles Tupper had left the city, last week, en route to England, the vague but doubtless well-founded rumor again became current in the lobbies of the House that the venerable leader of the opposition had issued, prior to his departure, to his followers the probability of his early retirement from active political life. In the same breath it was whispered that Sir J. A. Chapleau, whose term of office as Lieut-Governor of Quebec will terminate with the close of the present year, was likely to be called to lead the opposition forces. Hon. J. C. Patterson, the Manitoba Governor, has also been spoken of, but as the latter gentleman has several years more before him of gubernatorial sweets of office, it is not probable he would leave them to accept the unrenumerative honor of opposition leader, did he possess the necessary qualifications of that post. However, all speculation of this character in the event of the retirement, is mere idle report while George Eulas Foster sits and talks in parliament. Then there is Sir Charles the Younger, who also conspires to fill his sire's shoes. His aspirations in this direction, too, are backed up by the aforesaid sire. Here is the real sticking point. The insatiable ambition of the Tupper family blinds each member of it to the real situation of affairs. The country has plainly rejected the Tupperian dynasty and will have none of it, while many of the tory rank and file, in and out of Parliament, secretly rejoice thereat. It was the towering and unscrupulous ambition of G. Eulas on the one hand, and of Sir Hibbert on the other, which led to the Weyler-like treachery perpetuated against their erst-while leader, Bowell; and it is the same dominating spirit of these two, which now keeps the tory camp aflame with its internecine warfare. I have often wondered why the irrepressible Davin—he who represents a prairie returning officer of tory predilections—has not also been spoken of as a possible leader of the tory opposition. He certainly takes the coin for that preponderating tory qualification for leadership—wind. It is said that the task he undertook this session, to make a volume of Hansard for himself, has been a remarkably successful achievement, for, it has been remarked, that the pages of Hansard which he has filled, would if placed side by side, carpet the broad territories and leave several pages to spare. But that's a tupperian story.

THE CROW'S NEST PASS BILL.

At this hour of writing the bill providing for the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway has not passed the House. It will be the fault of the opposition if it is dropped this session. Sir Charles Tupper, while he took occasion to criticize the government's proposals in relation to the railway was heartily in favor of its construction at the earliest possible moment. The government have, on their part, not been over-anxious about the matter, but recognizing the necessity of the road being built in order to develop the region through which it passes, and that the project should be undertaken not by government but by private enterprise, made the terms with which we are now all familiar, with the C. P. R. for the purpose of obtaining the desired end. The interests of the Dominion have been carefully guarded by the bill brought down by the Minister of Railways, yet in order to pose before the country as opponents of the government's proposals, Mr. Foster, who leads the opposition in the absence of Sir Charles Tupper, has seen fit to put up a very strong kick which Mr. Blair said today, may result in defeating the bill. The government is not disposed to allow the specious criticisms of Foster and his colleagues to go before the country unchallenged and unanswered and as the life of the present session of parliament is expected to finally ebb out on Monday next, no time will be afforded for that purpose. To have the bill dropped just on the eve of its passage through the House would be a severe set-back for Mr. Foster, whose fondness for hearing the sound of his own voice and whose double attitude of sympathizer and bitter critic of the measure, will be the sole cause of its failure to pass, if so it should transpire. Governmental ownership and control of the line of railway has been urged by many among whom are the members from the far West. The fear of that vast monopolistic corporation, the Canadian Pacific Railway, has prompted many to advocate this course. But ownership by government and by it operated has been demonstrated in the case of the Intercolonial as an inadvisable alternative, and so it is regarded by Sir Charles Tupper as well as by the government of the day. Such management cannot bring the same measure of success and profit to railway enterprises as when operated under the management of private corporations. Such a proposition is particularly applicable to the

ownership and management of the Crow's Nest Pass road by the C. P. R. Company which has been so pre-eminent successful in its vast trans-continental system. This Company, too, having control of the lines east and west of the pass, must therefore influence, to a greater or less degree, the traffic expected to flow over the proposed new road, and are best calculated to work the new line to the best interests of the whole region which they have done so much to develop.

INTERCOLONIAL EXTENSION.

With a thoroughly partizan Senate at their backs the Tories in the Commons are very cocky of late. They know right well that their overwhelming host of political sympathizers in the Upper House can always be depended upon to make a sensational coup when an opportunity presents itself. The recent display of subservient partizanship in that irresponsible body, in respect to the killing of the bill relating to the extension of the intercolonial railway from Levis into Montreal, bears out the assertion fully. It seems to me that this expected coup was undertaken more for the purpose of working upon the credulous and timid portion of the electorate throughout the country, by giving them the false impression that there must be some truth in the suspicion set on foot by G. Eulas and the rest of his ilk, that there was something corrupt in the plan of the Ministry to lease the Drummond County railway in the manner and under the terms proposed. By the aid of the servile tory machine in the Upper House, the weight of the semi-somnolent Senate has been lent to aid the opposition leaders in endeavor to make political capital, in the shape of a scandal they eagerly hope, out of the government's scheme in the public interest to change the annual Intercolonial Railway deficit into a substantial surplus. The Senate now proposed to investigate the Drummond County railway affairs. Mr. Blair on the floor of the House to-day threw out his defiance and invited a most thorough inquiry. The result will explode another tory fallacy and reveal the sham of the opposition charge.

A. V. W.

"THE EARTH GIRDLED" by Dr. T. Talmage. We need intelligent men and women as agents for this great work. It sells so rapidly that we can afford good pay to workers. The greatest book of world wide travel ever published. The people, customs, habits, religion and government of the countries and tribes of the world, as seen and described by the keenest observer and greatest word painter of the century. Prospectus \$1.00. Books on time. THE BRADLEY-GARRETTSON CO., Ltd, Toronto, Ont.

Thornhill

Very pretty, very picturesque, is this little hamlet; and so quiet that if it were not Thorn Hill it might well be called Sleepy Hollow, especially as people sometimes say very strange things in their sleep. Particularly is this true of those who cultivate the acquaintance of the eldest daughter of dear old Mr. Representation—a lady known also by a briefer and more expressive appellation.

At the last regular meeting Patterson Lodge of A. F. and A. M. was visited by several brethren from Acacia Lodge, East Toronto. After labour came refreshment, when the usual toasts honored by the Craft were given and responded to in the admirable manner for which Masons are noted. The officers for the ensuing year were elected at this meeting, and will be installed on St. John Baptist's Day. As many readers of THE LIBERAL "meet on the level" these lines may interest them:

"The world is in pain our secrets to gain,
But still let them wonder and gaze on;
They ne'er can divine the word or the sign
Of a Free and an Accepted Mason."

It is no very long cry from Masonry to the Church, seeing that several of the saints of the earlier centuries are enrolled in the glorious list of Grand Masters. Well, on Wednesday of last week Right Rev. Dr. Sullivan, formerly Lord-Bishop of Algoma, administered the Apostolic Rite of Confirmation in this parish. The furniture of the chancel looked very pretty in its festive white frontals; and the beautiful floral cross, flanked by vases of flowers, was very effective. But the best ornamentation of all was the large congregation—all of them attentive listeners, many of them devout worshippers. When the candidates were presented the Bishop gave them a short address, and spoke to them at greater length after the ordinance had been administered. The latter part of the second address was for the parishioners in general, and was excellent. It could not have been more suitable had

the Bishop known this place most intimately. Though, as he said, he had never spoken to any one about the parish, nor had any one ever spoken to him, the counsel that he gave was exactly what was needed. It must have been very cheering to the faithful to hear his words of advice and encouragement; and it was certainly worth going miles to hear his scathing rebuke of the others—those who, as he said did least for the Church, but talked most, grumbled most, and made most mischief. But one must not be too hard even on such people as these; for those who are cursed with an inordinate love of money will grumble a great deal sooner than give any of it to the Church, will say and do almost anything by way of justifying themselves for robbing God, for committing sacrilege. Surely such a person is a miser, a miserable one, a person to be pitied. At the same time one can hardly help exclaiming, "From all such people 'Good Lord, deliver us!'"

The annual parochial festival, held the next day, would have been a great success had the weather been favorable, as the workers were very enthusiastic and had spared neither time nor labour. There was just enough rain to keep the people away. However, as things were, the receipts amounted to nearly forty dollars; and the expenses being light, there was a balance on hand of between twenty and thirty. Everything in the "fish-pond" was sold, and the refreshment tent was well patronized.

On Sunday last a short office was said in the church at four o'clock p. m. The prayers used were taken from the Accession Service, suitable hymns were sung, and there was a short address. But the unique feature was the singing of the National Anthem at four o'clock (Solar time) by those present in common with all the people on this meridian, as part of a jubilee service which for twenty-four hours never ceased throughout the world, and was conducted under the auspices of the Sons of England.

(TOO LATE FOR LAST ISSUE.)

The following officers for Patterson Lodge, A. F. and A. M., for the current year were on the evening of St. John's Day installed by R. W. Bro. John Fisher of North Toronto:—

I. P. M., R. Thompson,
W. M., J. C. Steele,
S. W., G. Fisher,
J. W., W. Richards,
Secy., G. A. Langstaff, M. B. Treas., J. E. Francis,
S. D., D. B. Birrell,
J. D., W. Edey,
S. S. D., A. Nelles, M. D.
J. S., M. White,
Chaplain, H. B. Schmidt,
D. of C., Rev. W. W. Bates, M. A.
I. G., W. T. Clay,
Tyler, H. Horne.

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THE JULY NUMBER

of The Delineator contains a resume of the latest styles of hot-weather attire, with especial reference to the needs of sojourners at seaside and inland resorts. Mrs. Reginald de Koven discusses the social life of Chicago with refreshing candor. Various aspects of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee are entertainingly considered by Mrs. Alec. Tweedie, whose books of travel have made her name familiar on both sides of the Atlantic. In her talks on Health and Beauty Dr. Grace Peckham-Murray this month deals with the digestion. Mrs. A. B. Longstreet begins a serial description of Domestic Problems. The season of Canning and Preserving is taken note of by an article describing the latest and best methods of these processes. In fiction the Adventures of Clive Racer begins promisingly with "The Eye of Buddha," a short story of strange happenings in Tibet, while Jessie Beene Winston contributes a pathetic dialect sketch of life in the South. The subscription price of The Delineator is \$1 per year, or 15 cents a copy.

DOMINION DAY AT THE LAKE.

Large posters will be distributed tomorrow announcing a grand picnic to be held in the grove at Bond's Lake on Dominion Day. The attractions will be dancing, boating and fishing. Buses will meet the electric car on its arrival here at 11 a. m., to convey passengers to the picnic grounds, and in the evening will connect with the 7 o'clock car. A good quadrille band will be in attendance both afternoon and evening. For particulars see bills,