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Our Ottawa Letter.

A great outcry has been made in a section of the press during the last couple of weeks on account of the discrimination enforced by Germany against Canadian wheat, as an outcome of the denunciation of Great Britain of the German and Belgian treaties at the instigation of the Canadian Government. This discrimination is alleged to have seriously affected the wheat trade between Canada and Germany and the disadvantage thus occasioned to Canadian exporters is of course instantly placed to the credit of the Government.

The fact appears to be entirely overlooked that the action of the Imperial authorities in this matter was received with loud acclamations and every indication of approval at the time it occurred. The Imperial Federal League, now the British Empire League, an institution which stands for all that is ultra-loyal and imperialistic, approved the denunciation with almost extravagant enthusiasm, and Sir Charles Tupper, himself a past President of the Canadian branch of the organization, Mr. McNeill and other prominent imperialists in the Opposition ranks joined hands with the supporters of the Government in approving of the denunciation. It is not complimentary to the intelligence of these gentlemen to suppose for one moment that they did not foresee the very natural attempt at reprisal with which Germany would meet the action of the Home government.

A GREAT MATTER TRULY.
After all the item is a small one in the sum total, and while no market is too insignificant to be wantonly cut off, the small sum of \$128,000, which was all Germany took in wheat from the Dominion last year, is not worthy of the prominence that has been given to it, particularly when there is a ready market elsewhere for all the wheat that Canada has so far been able to supply. The immense improvement in Canada's position in the markets of the old world more than offsets this slight disadvantage a thousand times, and it is in consideration of the years national business as a whole that the results of a policy must be considered. Viewed in this practical, and only fair, way the Government has no occasion to fear the verdict, nor the country the results of the changed tariff conditions.

TWO EXCELLENT APPOINTMENTS.
The appointment of Mr. A. E. Forget, for many years Indian Commissioner in Winnipeg, to the Lieutenant Governorship of the North West Territories in succession to the late Hon. M. C. Cameron, while it has come somewhat in the nature of a surprise to the country, will be received with more than the usual satisfaction by that portion of the Dominion most concerned. The new Lieutenant Governor has made a study of the requirements of the country over which he is now called to rule, for over twenty years, having been secretary to Hon. David Laird when he was Lieutenant Governor and Indian Commissioner in the Mackenzie regime. Later on Mr. Forget was made assistant Commissioner of the Indian Department by Sir John Macdonald and when Mr. Laird returned to the East his former secretary became Commissioner. His long residence in the district has made him very popular with all classes of the community who realize that it would have been difficult for the Government to have found a more thoroughly competent and qualified incumbent of the gubernatorial office.

THE NEW INDIAN COMMISSIONER.
The same observations apply with equal force to Hon. David Laird who now returns to the West as Indian Commissioner. His knowledge of Indian affairs, like Tony Weller's knowledge of London, is "extensive and peculiar," for no man understands the habits, peculiarities and needs of the noble red man better than he does and when he was Lieutenant Governor and Indian Commissioner under Mr. Mackenzie he made a treaty with the aborigines which stands to this day as a model for its class.

The wisdom of the Government in appointing men so peculiarly qualified for the special duties of their office is strongly emphasized just now by the serious difficulties that the United States is experiencing with the Indians in the Northern States. The troubles which are at this moment passing through such an acute stage have arisen, like most similar troubles in the history of the continent, through the incompetency and lack of practical and accurate knowledge among the officials charged with the Government of the Indians, and no surer guarantee can be given for the good conduct of this people and the general peace and safety of that section of the Dominion than the qualification and practical knowledge of those placed in authority among them.

THE MAJOR'S EMPHATIC DENIAL.
The long expected official report of Major Walsh, ex-Administrator of the

Yukon, has been submitted to the Minister of the Interior, and its contents made public. The most interesting section of it just now, is that which deals with the gist of charges against the Government Officials in the gold fields. Of these Major Walsh speaks tersely and emphatically:—"These reports are absolutely false. During my stay in Dawson I several times requested the public to send in any charges they had and also the request was made at a mass meeting but not a single charge was presented." Further down he repeats "I sent out enquiries everywhere, asking the people if they had any charges against officials to hand them in to me, and they would be thoroughly investigated. Not one charge was laid against any official of the Government." Continuing the Major points out that this experience of restiveness under the restraint of law and authority, is the usual experience of a country where the oldest residents, were unaccustomed to that sort of thing, and the new comers—of whom he says, 20,000 of all nationalities flocked in, in a few weeks time—were dissatisfied with that which was different to what they had been accustomed in their own country, continuing, when regulations could not be made to suit all of these varied elements of population, the officials and the law had to be abused and hence the crusade which was started against both.

PROOF STILL LACKING.
The confirmation of the mass of nebulous charges scattered broadcast over the world by aliens abroad and Oppositionists at home is tantalizingly tardy in materializing. In the meantime those papers and men who are busy trying to injure their country that they may embarrass the Government, should occasionally pause to realize the harm they are doing to the fair name of the Dominion. The Government papers, headed by the Globe, have from the beginning very properly declared that investigation thorough, practical and complete, should be had. The Government itself, represented here by the Minister of the Interior and in the Yukon by Commissioner Ogilvie, has from the time of the first intimation of alleged wrongdoing striven to get at the facts. The net results of every request for definite information so far, has been nil. If the aforesaid papers and men who are so very anxious for the discovery of the truth, would come to the assistance of the Government and submit their charges in the manner in which they would proceed in any other imaginable case under the sun, they would do more in one day to accomplish their ostensible desire than they have in all the months of indefinite insinuation and reckless generalities.

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Letter from Mr. Nicholls.

DEAR SIR,—We arrived in London on the 12th and have been resting to a certain extent this week. We spent a day at Wallington with a cousin and saw some of the farming country near London. Lavender and peppermint are cultivated here to a large extent. The lavender grows very much like sage and is picked at certain times. The plants are good for three years; the lavender is dried and sent to factories where the extract is taken therefrom and we thus obtain our lavender water. One day this week I went to Holloway and saw E. J. Cable's uncle who is in comfortable circumstances. Holloway Jail is very near here which probably accounts for Cable coming to Canada at such a tender age. On Sunday morning we paid a visit to Rag Fair and Petticoat Lane which is situated in the Whitechapel District and is essentially a Jewish quarter. On entering the Fair we came upon covered ways very much resembling the structures they have for covering bricks for drying at the kilns, where hundreds of Jews are seen trying to dispose of second hand clothing. On one hand you see a youth trying on a vest decidedly too big for him which the Jew finally persuades him is a quick fit and a great bargain. In another corner a pair of pants is held up before the buyer which are a good foot too long but are exhibited in such a way that the purchaser is convinced they are just the thing. Going a little further we come into the open shed where all along men are bawling at the top of their voice the goods for sale and cursing and swearing all the time at the crowd because they do not hold the same view as himself as regards his wares. Here we also have the ice cream and soda water vendor, stewed eels, oysters, greens, &c., are also disposed of to the hungry mob. We saw what is called the "ha' penny ordinary"

which is operated as follows. You plank down your halfpenny and ask for a ha' penny ordinary when about a good teaspoonful of greens are given you and a piece of fat pork. After eating the greens you place the pork in your mouth and after greasing your throat with the same you are surprised to find it leaving your mouth in a manner very quickly, the fact being that a string is attached to the pork and as soon as it enters the receptacle known as the mouth it is as suddenly withdrawn and acts again in the same capacity to the next hungry soul. We passed through about a mile of such performance as these and finally came into Whitechapel street. Before leaving home we left all our jewelry behind; and only sufficient money to pay our bus fares and incidentals was taken along. In the evening we went to the Queen's Hall and heard "The Messiah." The chorus and orchestra consisted of 350 persons and probably 12000 people were there to hear it. My friends wanted to know if you could hear such a performance in Canada and of course I told them in Toronto it would only be called ordinary.

On the 19th we left for Hull which is a very dirty city and noted only for its shipping. We expected to see some relatives here. We found where their business formerly was but they themselves had gone to their last home. So we left next morning and took tickets for Edinburgh where we arrived the same evening at 6.45. The country through which we passed I might say from London this far appears to be a fine agricultural district. It was a beautiful sight to see the fields neatly and evenly divided by hedges and on each farm a rick yard with from 10 to 50 stacks according to the acreage of the farm. These stacks are all built in a line and the tops are all as even as if they were levelled with a spirit level. The farmers are just finishing up harvest and are busy hauling in oats. We saw Mr. Moodie's sister last evening and spent a pleasant hour with her. Today we went down Canongate St. to Holyrood Palace so noted in Scotch History and explored it. We visited John Knox's house in Canongate and proceeded on to Edinburgh Castle where we saw the Crown Jewels, Queen Mary's apartments, &c. From here we obtain a fine view of the city and we had the pleasure of seeing the Gordon Highlanders parade. In the afternoon we drove to see the Forth Bridge, at Queen's Ferry, the finest structure of its kind in the world; it is 1.5 miles long and has two wide spans of 1700 ft. each beside smaller ones. Its greatest headway above high water is 150 ft. for sailing purposes and its greatest height at any point is 354 ft. The weight of the steel used was over 42,000 tons and the whole structure cost over £3,000,000. The distance of the bridge from Edinburgh is about 9 miles and the drive takes us through a magnificent country and along a beautiful road; indeed all the country in both Scotland and England through which we have passed are macadamized and well kept up, the dirt being regularly carted off and leaves the road as smooth as pavement. We passed by Lord Rosebery's estate which is considered the finest property in this section. In one of the fields on this estate we saw an immense herd of Galloway cattle and I had a great inclination to get out and endeavor to purchase a couple to send out to Mr. Palmer. In both going and returning from Queen's Ferry we drove the length of Princess Street which is considered the finest in the world. This may be the view of Scotchmen but I think there are many handsomer streets in America and even in Paris and London. In fact after having seen so many handsome buildings and viewed such sights in other parts what we see here fall into insignificance. We are anxious to get home and hope soon to be once more in the little town on the Hill. We expect to sail by the Gallia on October 1st. We leave Edinburgh on Friday and proceed to Glasgow and then on to the Giant's Causeway.

Kindly remember me to all enquiring friends.
Yours &c.,
H. A. NICHOLLS.

Agents.
Our memorial edition, "Life and Work of Mr. Gladstone," brings kind words of appreciation from H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, His Excellency Lord Aberdeen, The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of Lorne, Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, Sir Oliver Mowat, Sir Charles H. Tupper, Hon. David Mills, Rev. Prin. Caven, Rev. Prof. Clark, Rev. Prin. Burwash, Rt. Rev. W. B. Bond, Rev. Dr. Potts, Archbishop O'Brien, Sir J. Wm. Dawson, the late Archbishop Walsh, and others. This will convince the most sceptical that ours is the genuine "Life" of the G. O. M. Send for outfit. BRADLEY-GATTESON, CO., Limited, Toronto.