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Our Ottawa Letter.
A great deal of interest is being
taken in the North West just now in
the question of transportation, and an
active agitation is in progress for the
establishment of a railway commis-
sion having power somewhat along the
lines of the present Railway Commit-
tee of the Privy Council, only with
less complicated and expensive ma-
chinery, that would, it is hoped, bring
its good services within the reach of
any, be they individual or corporation,
who might be in need thereof.
Some attention was given to the
matter during the last session of par-
liament, when a lengthy debate took
place upon a resolution moved by the
late Mr. Jameson of Winnipeg, to the
effect "That the public interest de-
mands that the railway companies of
Canada should at the earliest possible
moment be brought under the control
of a Board of Railway Commissioners
clothed with full power to enforce the
provisions of the Railway Act and to
prescribe and enforce observation of
such regulations that may be neces-
sary in the public interest."

THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE WAY.
A strong case was made out in favor
of a change from the existing condi-
tion of affairs and the situation was
fairly discussed by members on both
sides of the House, but the govern-
ment was not able at that time to see
its way to offer much encouragement
to the promoters of the scheme. The
Minister of Railways and Canals put
the matter clearly and concisely be-
fore the House, explaining the reasons
—not for lack of sympathy with the
project, for he was deeply sensible of
the reality of the difficulties complain-
ed of—but for his inability to support
the proposition at that time.

Referring to the contentions of a
supporter of the measure, Mr. Blair
remarked: "Now the honorable gen-
tlemen has said that all we would
have to do to afford substantial relief
to the people of this country would be
to constitute a Railway Commission,
and to confer upon it the same powers
which are now vested in the Railway
Committee of the Privy Council. I
must say that I do not agree with him.
My view is that, as regards providing
a remedy for the more serious griev-
ances, you would absolutely fail if you
simply invested a Commission, no
matter how able, with the powers
which have been conferred by statute
upon the Railway Committee of the
Privy Council."

AN IMPRACTICABLE SCHEME.
As by a member of the House
whether, with such a commission, it
would be possible, for instance, to se-
cure running powers for the Inter-
colonial Railway, say, to Winnipeg,
Mr. Blair pointed out the tremendous
extent of the field such a proposal
would open up, as, for example the
necessity of making provision for
using all the various intervening lines
of railway, the necessity of utilizing
the services of the employes of
these railways, of using their
station houses and other buildings and
so on through an interminable mass of
intricate detail and then when all this
minutiae has been satisfactorily ar-
ranged, and the right obtained to run
the cars through, there would still be
no power to take a solitary passenger
or a single pound of freight at any in-
tervening point along the hundreds of
miles of road to be travelled.

NO RAILWAY COULD BE RUN
upon such a basis except under heavy
loss. This instance is given simply as
a sample of the thousand and one diffi-
culties, which are in the way of a
Commission that would be of practical
value, and so far as the discussion has
at present gone in the Western papers
these and other objections do not
appear to have been met.

Of this however, not only the West
but the entire country may rest
assured, that in place of the Govern-
ment which practically handed the
country over to the monopolistic grip
of the C. P. R., they have at present
an administration that is both able
and ready to do all that is possible to
ease the burdens which exist to-day,
exists in spite of the protest twenty
years ago—an ability and a willingness
of which they have already given
sufficient proof, in the manner in
which they have dealt with the Crow's
Ness Pass Railway Construction sub-
sidy and other matters of a like char-
acter.

York W. C. T. U.
A most successful convention was
held by the York W. C. T. U. yester-
day and last evening. The number of
delegates was large and the papers
and discussions on temperance work
were very instructive. The women
who wore the white ribbon came from
all parts of the county, and several
Dominion and Provincial officers were
present.
At the afternoon session the pro-
gramme as previously announced was
carried out almost to the letter, and
was as follows:
Opening exercises,

Duties of Supts. of Depts., by Mrs. Cavers, Vice-Pres., Ont. W. C. T. U.
Franchise, by Mrs. Wiley, Cor. Sec. Ont. W. C. T. U.
Discussion.
Solo, by Mrs. Mason.
Parliamentary Drill, by Mrs. Thorn-
ley, Pres. Ont. W. C. T. U.
Finances, by Miss MacArthur, Treas. Ont. W. C. T. U.
Discussion.
Public School Work, by Mr. A. B. Davidson, P. S. Inspector.
Solo, by Miss Ethel Switzer.
Question Drawer, conducted by Mrs. A. O. Rutherford, Dominion Pres.
The evening session, which was held in the Methodist Church, was well at-
tended, and the programme was in-
teresting and practical. After open-
ing exercises by Rev. Mr. McCulloch,
and an anthem by the choir, Mrs. Thorn-
ley, Pres. Ont. W. C. T. U., gave an
address. She expressed her disap-
proval of the Dominion Govern-
ment's intimation that they would not
introduce a prohibitory measure at
the request of 23 per cent. of the
electorate, and stated that the present
Reform Government went into office
on only 27 per cent. of the total vote.
Sir Wilfrid Laurier had himself ad-
mitted that the 23 per cent. in favor
of prohibition was a clean vote, while
Mrs. Thornley went on to show that
even in her own city, London, the
deputy returning officer in one booth
was caught stuffing the ballot box,
presumably in favor of the anti-
temperance side. The speaker expressed
disapproval of high licenses, and gave
the testimony of the late Frances Willard
and Neal Dow as authorities against the
proposal. She pleaded for active, con-
tinuous service in the cause, and hoped
to conquer in the end.

After a solo by Mrs. Wilkinson of
Toronto Junction, Mrs. Rutherford,
Dominion President, followed with
another address. She also reviewed
briefly the situation in Canada, and
showed her faith in the watchwords of
the W. C. T. U. by recommending the
members to continue to educate, agi-
tate and organize. Mrs. Rutherford
would like to see more Bands of Hope,
and greatly favored the circulation of
temperance literature. The speaker
made a strong plea for woman fran-
chise, for Sabbath observance, and
touched on several other features, all
of which point in the direction of total
prohibition. Before closing she re-
ferred in touching language to the
late Frances Willard who gave her
life for the uplifting of humanity.
Miss Trench and Mr. Hume each
sang solos, after which Mr. McCulloch
spoke briefly, speaking of the honor
the distinguished ladies had done the
village by their visit here. He referred
to the W. C. T. U. as one of the
most potent forces in the work of
temperance reform.
The chair was ably filled during the
evening by Mrs. Cane, County Presi-
dent.

Jefferson
Report of S. S. No. 4 Markham and
21 Vaughan for the first three months
of the year.
Sen. IV—Thora Fisher, Ella Gamble,
Harry Newton.
Jun. IV—Geo. Jefferson, Aggie
Gamble, Alex. Newberry, Mary
Gorman, Betram Newton.
Sen. III—Gladys Legge, Louis Ker-
well, Ella Casely, John Grady.
Jun. III—Ethel Clubine, Sadie
Fisher, Willie Olivant, John Mortson.
Sen. II—Joe Jones, John Hearn,
Eddie Gamble, Geo. Hart.
Jun. II—Georgie Brown, Frank
Grady, Jennie Gamble, Victor Jones.
Sen. Part II—Stella Clubine, John
Kerswill, John Bales.
Jun. Part II—Stella Casely.
Part I—Stella Murphy, Lorne
Clubine, Leonard Duncan, Eli Bales.
No. of pupils enrolled from Mark-
ham 13.
No. of pupils enrolled from Vaugh-
an 30.
Average attendance 31.
Ethel and Stella Clubine have at-
tended every day during the term.
H. J. SAIGEON, Teacher.

Carville
The following is a report of Car-
ville Public School for the month of
March. Names in order of merit:—
Class IV—Willie Tyndall, Fred
Graham, Florence Wright.
Class III, Sr.—Ethel Patterson,
Willie Patterson, Lucy Reaman.
Class III, Jr.—Percy Schell, Mary
Winger, Kate Winger, Stanley Tynd-
dall, Charlie Blake.
Class II, Sr.—Howard Cook, Walter
Bone.
Class II, Jr.—Annie Wood, Bert
Gordon, Mercie Cook, Spencer Bone,
Ross Prentice.
Class Pt. II, Sr.—Ralph Schell,
Harvie Blake.
Class Pt. II, Jr.—Lydia Patterson,
Sidney Baker.
Class Tablet II—Evah Sheppard,
Maggie Prentice.
Class Tablet I—Pearl Reaman.

Division Court
His Honor, Judge Morgan, held Divi-
sion Court here on Tuesday. Claims
amounting to over \$800 had been
entered with the clerk, but of the 15
cases only 6 came up for hearing, the
balance being undefended, or settled
before the day of court. The follow-
ing were heard:—
Dobson, P. C., Chapman, P. D., and
Elliott, Garnishee—Claim for money
loaned and half lawyers fees in a form-
er suit, \$32.39. Judgment for plaintiff
\$13 and costs.
Dean vs Cook and Cook—Judgment
summons, \$30.63. Order against each
defendant for \$4 a month.
Lane vs Graham—Claim \$56.40.
Graham as tenant left Lane's farm and
did not pay taxes or do fall plowing.
Judgment for plaintiff \$30 and costs.
Lloyd vs Mortson—Claim of \$119.19
for rent. Judgment in full with costs.
Scanlon vs Stong—This was a case
transferred from Weston division.
Stong sold Scanlon a horse for \$65.00.
Scanlon claimed that Stong guaran-
teed horse sound. Veterinary pro-
nounced him unsound at time of sale.
Plaintiff had witnesses to prove that
defendant guaranteed horse sound.
Evidence of Stong and another wit-
ness went to show that no guarantee
as to soundness had been given.
Judgment reserved.
Snider vs Wright—Claim \$21.84, bal-
ance of blacksmith bill. Defendants
had counterclaim of \$10.30, and dis-
puted plaintiff's claim to the amount
of \$11.50. The case was adjourned to
allow the parties to endeavor to settle
the matter out of Court.
The solicitors who had cases were
Messrs A. G. F. Lawrence; Lennox, of
the firm of Lennox & Morgan; Kyle
of Grierson & Kyle; Skeins, of Dun-
can, Grant and Skeins; and H. E.
Irwin, Clerk of the Peace.
The next sitting of the court will be
held on the 16th of June.

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The undersigned begs to thank his
customers for past favors, and to
say that he will be found in
his shop,
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