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**Our Ottawa Letter.**  
There still appears to be very little desire on the part of the Opposition to stop the apparently inexhaustible flow of talky-talky and get down to business, for at the moment of writing it looks as though another week is to be wasted on the debate on the address although eighteen days have now been consumed in saying what might very easily have been put into eighteen hours. To the uninitiated it is not easy to understand why members are so ready and indeed anxious, to waste their own time and the country's money in repeating the same things over and over again. The reason is not so hard to find however, when it is known that all the statesmanlike utterances and words of burning wisdom have to be taken down verbatim by the long-suffering official reporters and printed in the pages of Hansard; that when so printed any number of copies can be procured by the members at a nominal cost and distributed free through Her Majesty's mails to the honorable members constituents. The opportunity therefore is a golden one to impress upon the electorate what intelligent activity and untiring energy their worthy representatives is devoting to their interests and in this way the aforesaid worthy representative hopes to secure personal advantage in his constituency while the long-suffering country uncomplainingly bears the burden and smilingly pays the bills.

**DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT.**  
I gave you such a heavy dose of Yukon last week that I hesitate to touch it again; I cannot however refrain from calling attention to the remarkable manner in which the subject has suddenly dropped out of sight. Through the long weary days and nights in the House this week there has scarcely been a reference to it. Mr. Foster and other prominent Oppositionists who are actively participating in the bye-election in Brockville have most carefully avoided the subject. Messrs. Allen and Semple, the American agitators, who, after publishing columns of libellous charges against the officials in their paper in Dawson turned tail when the investigation opened and came to Ottawa to assist in the scandalous crusade here, have folded their tents and silently stolen away, nobody knows whither; and the promised amendment demanding an investigation has so far entirely failed to arouse any enthusiasm. Moreover Mr. Thomas Fawcett the ex-gold commissioner, who has been one of the most thoroughly maligned of the entire staff, having met and completely routed his accusers before the Commissioner at Dawson, is now here to meet any further charges Messrs. Allen and Semple, or any one else may be prepared to bring against him. But there appears to be a remarkable lack of anxiety on the part of the Opposition to take any such action.

**PARTYISM GONE MAD.**  
The Opposition must indeed be in sore straits when they are compelled to adopt such tactics as were pursued by a member in the course of his speech the other day, when, referring of the promised redistribution bill he observed amid the approving applause of his colleagues on the Left of the Chamber, "If the Conservative members of the House of Commons hold the same opinion on the redistribution bill as I do they will be prepared to become summer residents of Ottawa for the purpose of fighting to a finish the iniquitous measure. Never was there a more abominable bill proposed, but little else is to be expected from the Government. The proposed measure will be one so unfair that if carried the Conservative party will not only be practically wiped out of existence but the interests of the country will be seriously imperilled."

What a delightedly judicial state of mind in which to consider any legislation. There has not so far, been the slightest indication of the provisions of this bill, further than the announcement made in both Houses, and in each case by the responsible leader of the Government, that the re-adjusted electoral divisions would, as far as possible, follow the present county boundaries. The truth of the matter is, that the Conservative party are so thoroughly conscious of the abominations of their own gerrymander bill of 1882, and of the utterly indefensible manner in which natural boundaries were disregarded therein, that they are anxious to minimise as far as possible the effect that will be produced upon the country when the enormities of that old masterpiece of partyism comes to be scrutinized once more.

**CONVINCED AT LAST.**  
It is evident that the Michigan lumberman has at last realized that the Ontario Local Legislature was in earnest when it passed the law requiring lumber cut in Canada to be manufactured before it is taken out of the country. If they have lost time or money from their refusal hitherto to believe that the Government meant business they are not very much to be

pitted. The experience, though costly, has probably taught them the folly of listening to the wild assertions of disgruntled Oppositionists. Having at last learnt the truth the Americans are making active preparation to get out the season's supply. Already one Bay City firm has closed a contract with a Midland mill-owner for the sawing of 20,000,000 feet to be afterwards taken over to Bay City. This one contract alone will mean the expenditure of from \$40,000 to \$50,000 and it is only one of many that will have to be made in the near future. A season or two under this new regulation will make the shoe pinch pretty tightly, and prove far more eloquent and effective than any other argument, to convince the American people and particularly the lumbermen of the Northern States of the fairness and justice of our proposition of free logs for free lumber. There never was such a dearth of lumber across the line than at the present time, and the famine will increase rather than diminish. On the other hand Canada's supply is practically inexhaustible, particularly if reforestry is systematically put into operation.

**Markham Council.**  
Council met at Victoria Hall, Unionville, on Tuesday, April 11. Members all present; the Reeve in the chair. Minutes read and confirmed.  
Communications read:  
From J. T. Lundy, clerk of Whitchurch, re grant on North township of \$150, provided Markham granted a like amount.  
Mr. Summerfeldt introduced a By-Law to appoint road overseers, which received its several readings and passed with the blanks filled in as follows:

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 H. B. Schmidt     | 40 John Jackson     |
| 2 Frank Pearey      | 42 Albert Smith     |
| w2 Ed. Martin       | 43 Hugh Canning     |
| 3 Jas. Coninsky     | 45 Jos. Eckardt     |
| 4 John Hart         | 46 Jno. McKenzie    |
| 5 Henry Leece       | 47 Jos. Steckley    |
| 6 Robt McLean       | 48 W. H. Meyer      |
| 7 John Bestard      | 49 Jas. B. McCaul   |
| 9 Jno. Brunwell     | 50 Wm. Harper       |
| 10 Geo. Robinson    | 51 Robert Walker    |
| 11 Henry Hopper     | 52 A. H. Crosby     |
| 12 Chris Brooke     | 53 J. B. Gould      |
| 13 W. Teasdale      | 54 Tilman Shank     |
| 14 Henry Bond       | s55 Jonas Rainer    |
| 15 Roger Dixon      | n55 Jos. Luman      |
| 16 Geo. Forrester   | 56 Peter Byer       |
| 17 Levi Hoover      | 57 M. Wideman       |
| 18 W. S. Fierheller | 58 John Mitchell    |
| 20 W. C. Ormerod    | 59 D. Connor        |
| 21 Jas. Walker, jr  | 60 Jos. G. Freeman  |
| 22 W. F. Nicol      | 61 Frank Raymer     |
| 23 Levi B. Heise    | 62 D. Clendenen     |
| 24 Ed. Forrester    | 63 G. Brownberger   |
| 26 A. Donaldson     | 64 H. C. Reesor     |
| 27 Jas. Payne       | 65 Samuel Boyd      |
| 28 John Smith, jr   | 67 Jno. Milroy      |
| 29 H. Patterson     | 68 Andrew Reesor    |
| 30 Jas. Watts       | 69 Frank A. Reesor  |
| 31 Walter Scott     | 70 Wm. Grant        |
| 32 A. Wideman       | 71 W. J. Ramsay     |
| 33 Jas. Duncan      | 72 J. F. Burkholder |
| 34 Wm. Brown        | 73 Isaac Reaman     |
| 35 Robert French    | 74 W. C. Pilkey     |
| 36 Joram Eckardt    | 75 Jas. Boyd        |
| 37 Henry Miller     | 76 Ben Hagerman     |
| 38 H. F. Wilson     | 77 J. Medill        |
| 39 Robt. Monkman    | 79 Ira Brown        |

Quantz—Dimma—that the following accounts be paid by the treasurer:—  
T. F. McMahon, 4 sets Revised Statutes Ontario 1897, \$6 . \$ 24 00  
C. W. Crosby, 13772 ft. round cedar per J. Eckardt com. . . 72 03  
Quantz—Dimma—that the clerk get 50 cards "No Thoroughfare," printed for the municipality.  
Mr. Quantz introduced a Bylaw to amend 547, appointing a grader operator, and the by-law passed with the blank filled with the name John Hickson.  
Summerfeldt—Eckardt—that when the Council adjourns it stands adjourned to meet on Friday, 26th May next; council at 10 o'clock a. m. for general business and as a Court of Revision at 2 o'clock p. m.  
Dimma—Eckardt—that the treasurer pay the amount of judgment re Mustard vs. Markham Township.

**Elgin Mills.**  
Mr. Thos. Newton is on a western trip for the firm of Newton Bros.  
Since the attempted robbery at Jefferson some of our citizens are more careful to lock their doors when they go to bed.  
Mr. Andrew Carson, who injured himself lifting a couple of weeks ago, is recovering under the skilful treatment of Dr. Shaw.  
Mr. R. Joyce is registered as a licensed victualler for another year.  
The spring has been very backward, but farmers expect to be seeding in earnest in a few days. Although the fall wheat has looked yellow and weather beaten, it is now picking up and a nice tinge of green is quite perceptible.

A change of venue has been granted for the Ponton trial. The case will be tried at the May assizes in Toronto.

**East York Licenses.**  
The East York License Commissioners met at The Clyde Hotel on Tuesday, and had a busy day. The members of the Board were all present, viz. Messrs. Fletcher Morgan, David Lynett, Christopher Harrison and the Inspector, Mr. Jas. Eckardt. A good part of the day was taken up in listening to deputations pro. and con. relative to granting a license for a hotel opposite Munro Park. The commissioners finally decided not to grant the request for the license. The following hotel licenses were granted:—  
East Toronto—Samuel Harris, John M. Lambert.  
Richmond Hill—A. E. Plummer, John Ellston.  
Markham Village—James Torrance, Charity Pitts, Frederick Duff.  
Markham Township—Newberry Button, Hughes Bros., Moses Hemmingway, William Meek, Redmond Joyce.  
Scarboro Township—Wm. O'Leary, Edward Sanderson, Robert Andrew, John Maxwell, Albert Middleton.  
York Township—David B. Birrell, John Gamble, John Evans, Frederick H. Schmidt, Sarah Hackett, Mrs. T. Wall, George Empringham, Michael O'Sullivan, R. H. Crew, Andrew J. Tymon.  
Henry Einboden of East Toronto, was granted a renewal of a shop license for 3 months, in order to give him time to dispose of his stock.  
The applications of J. T. B. Scott of Markham township, and of Richard Irving of York township, were laid over until the next meeting which will be held on the 27th inst.  
The Inspector will be at The Clyde Hotel on Tuesday, the 2nd of May to issue licenses to those to whom they have been granted.

**Victoria Square**  
The semi-monthly shoot of the Victoria Square Rifle Club was held on the afternoon of Saturday, April 15, with scores as follows:—  
200 yards  
W. Scott . . . . . 84  
C. P. Reid . . . . . 80  
L. G. Stoutenburgh . . . . . 79  
Wm. Mustard . . . . . 78  
R. Frisby . . . . . 75

**A. J. HUME,**  
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**Toronto Markets.**  
PRICES AT FARMERS' WAGGONS.

Wheat, white, per bush	\$ 0 71	\$ 0 66
Wheat, red, per bush	0 71	0 66
Wheat, goose, per bush	0 65	0 66
Oats, per bush	0 33	0 30
Peas, per bush	0 61	0 60
Barley, per bush	0 43	0 40
Turkeys, per lb	0 11	0 13
Dressed Hogs, per cwt.	5 20	5 40
Cheese, per lb	0 08	0 08
Chickens, per pair	0 49	0 50
Ducks, per pair	0 60	0 60
Butter, in pound roll	0 14	0 15
Eggs, fresh	0 11	0 12
Potatoes, per bush	0 85	0 90
Apples, per tub	0 00	0 00
Hay, clover	6 00	8 00
Hay, timothy	8 00	10 50
Straw sheaf	5 00	7 00

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