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Our Ottawa Letter.

The business of Parliament has not progressed very rapidly this week in spite of the fact that the proceedings have been marked by the longest continuous sitting since the memorable six days anti-remedial session of 1896. The week has however been occupied by several matters of more than ordinary interest as for example the Alaskan boundary controversy and the Grand Trunk trackmen's strike.

In the first of these the House and the country has been put into possession of a vast amount of official information as to the progress of the negotiations up to the time of the last adjournment of the High Joint Commission, and since that time up to the present time. From the documents brought down, and from the statements accompanying them, in both the Imperial and Canadian Houses, it appears that the British Commissioner had, from the first desired a reference of the dispute to a board of arbitration constituted in accordance with the principles accepted in the Venezuelan dispute. The Americans however wanted a different system adopted, and required moreover as a sine qua non, that certain concessions should be made by Britain which both the Imperial and the Canadian Governments considered were matters for arbitration.

THE OUTLOOK IS BRIGHTER.

This was the insurmountable difficulty which caused the break in the progress of the work of the Commission, and it has frequently been declared by all parties that if this were removed the discussion of all other parts had so far advanced, and with such excellent effect that a satisfactory settlement on almost every question was practically assured if only the Alaskan boundary difficulty could be got out of the way.

Since the announcement by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the beginning of the week, cable dispatches from London have been most encouraging, indeed the latest advices announce with an assurance almost official, that a settlement has been arrived at between Lord Salisbury and Mr. Choate, the American Ambassador, and that the long-standing obstacle exists no longer. This being the case the Canadian Commissioners will go back to complete their labors with the confident expectation of realizing to the full the bright anticipations which so many feared were too sanguine, and which some sections of politicians ridiculed as impossible and absurd.

THE TRACKMEN'S STRIKE.

The trouble between the Grand Trunk Railway, and their striking trackmen still continues, though it is generally admitted that a satisfactory settlement would have been arrived at before this but for the ill-considered interference of amateur mediators. Long before the matter came up in Parliament at all, Sir Wilfrid Laurier was exerting his strong personal influence in an effort to bring the disputants together, while the Minister of Railways was giving proper attention to that aspect of the situation which came under his special notice, and was taking every necessary step to protect the lives and property of the travelling public. All this was being done without any parade, or public announcement, but it was being done none the less effectually, and a happy termination of the difficulty appeared to be in sight, when Messrs. Taylor and Powell, Opposition members of Parliament, conceived the idea of covering themselves with glory, and incidentally advantaging their party, by intervening in behalf of the men.

AN UNFORTUNATE INTERFERENCE.

Their services were not sought after by either the company or the men, but the self-constituted mediators doubtless felt that the situation was too serious for their movements to be hampered by a close observance of the strict rules of ordinary procedure. Unhappily their conduct of the negotiations throughout was equally hasty and ill-considered, with the result that they advised the men to terminate their strike without having first obtained a perfectly clear understanding with the Railway authorities. As a consequence the whole business has been badly bungled, and the men placed in a far worse position than they were at the start. The Government, however, has not relaxed its efforts to secure better terms for the unfortunate trackmen, and there is good reason to hope that those efforts will yet result in a permanent improvement in existing conditions.

Address and Presentation.

The June meeting of the Woman's Missionary Auxiliary, held in the school room of the Methodist church, Thursday afternoon last, was particularly interesting, not only from the business transacted but from a social standpoint. Each member of the

Auxiliary had the privilege of inviting a friend, the result being that about 50 were present at the enjoyable event, including a small number of gentlemen. After routine business an interesting programme was given, including the presentation to Mrs. McCulloch of a Life Membership Certificate, a gold pin and a lovely bouquet of pansies, accompanied by an address. The address was read by Miss Trench and Mrs. Crosby made the presentation. Needless to say the recipient made an affecting and appropriate reply, referring to the happy associations with members of the Auxiliary and others during the past three years, and the regret experienced in leaving so many kind and true friends. Refreshments were afterwards served and a pleasant time spent together. Members of the Auxiliary also conducted the prayer-meeting held in the evening. The following is the address:—

DEAR MRS. McCULLOCH:
Inasmuch as this is the last time that you will meet with us as a member of our auxiliary, and as the time of your departure draws near, we feel a deep and sincere sorrow that we are being deprived of one of our most active workers.

Throughout your residence among us we have critically watched you and have recognized in you one who used her gifts to God's glory. How you, burdened with numerous household cares, could be so zealous for our society has caused us to wonder, yea, and feel ashamed of ourselves for our dilatoriness. What sacrifices you must have made, sacrifices of pleasure, recreation and much needed rest. The zeal and enthusiasm shown by you in God's service have been an example to us to do with a will whatever we are called upon to perform. It can be truly said of you "By their fruits ye shall know them." The ways indicate the character of, or represent the doer. The energy of will which you have shown in all your undertakings has made your work a success and we pray that Heaven may assist you and support you with its strength in all that you may undertake for the dear Master's sake. We are told that one thing is as great as to be a missionary and that is the missionary spirit that makes missionaries of others by the contagion of our zeal. We have been helped by the evangelical piety which breathes through your work. You have always been willing to assist every commendable cause, whether by the use of your talents, the giving of money or of your precious time. Be assured that we will ever watch your efforts of usefulness with the keenest interest and thankfulness, and we pray that wherever your field of labor may be you will be the "Shining Light" you have been among us. Because of our appreciation of your merit we have unanimously chosen you to be the first Life-member of the Richmond Hill W. M. S. We therefore beg permission to lay before you the Life-membership certificate and this gold star pin as an expression of gratitude and enthusiasm we all feel toward you. In selecting you to bear the Life-symbol, we know that we have selected wisely.

T. R. PROCTOR, Pres.
ANNIE TRENCH, Sec.

Lacrosse.

The following items bearing on the game of lacrosse have been handed in for publication.

MATCH WITH STOUFFVILLE.

Many of our citizens, even those of optimistic nature foretold defeat for the R. H. Lacrosse team when they journeyed to Stouffville on Saturday last to play a friendly game. But the expectations of the majority were to be joyfully disappointed for the team came home all safe and sound, singing and shouting triumphantly. The Hill boys had several disadvantages. They were playing on a strange ground with several new and untried men and were also handicapped by the absence of two old reliables off the defence. The Stouffville aggregation were even a stronger team than that which played here last year as they were reinforced by Pennock and Graham of the '97 team and felt confident of their ability to defeat the visitors. When all arrangements had been made the teams lined up as follows:—

STOUFFVILLE—Goal, Sanders; defence, Sanders, Graham, Urquhart, Cook, Macklem; centre, Wideman; home, Peny, Smith, Yake, Pennock, Scott.

RICHMOND HILL—Goal, Glover; defence, Sanders, Graiger, Glover, Glover, Cooper; McKenzie; home, Trench, Hooper, Trench, Clifford, Ellston. Capt., Mr. Savage; Umpire, Mr. Lynett; Referee, Mr. Button.

In the first game Richmond Hill secured the ball and after two or three passes in the centre Stouffville secured it and passed it toward the Hill goal and scored and the crowd cheered, time 2 min.
The 2nd, 3rd and 4th games were all

Richmond Hill's. The home got the ball on the face and played hog for 5 minutes never allowing their opponents to touch it once. After some fine combination the Hill boys tallied in 2 and 3 minutes respectively had two more games, score 3-1 for R. H.

Stouffville saw it was a game of now or never to clinch the game and worked like Trojans. This was the longest game of the day. It went to Stouffville after 20 minutes hard play. During the rest of the match R. H. had decidedly the best of it. With a little over an hour to play 10 games were scored, 8 of which went to Richmond Hill and the game was won by 11 games to 4.

The game throughout was of an interesting nature. Good combination was put up by both sides and while Stouffville had an abundance of chances their passing was not nearly so clever as the Hill's. Their men could not field as well and could not get away from their checks. The work of the Hill boys was the best of the year. It was a pretty sight to see the ball pass from stick to stick from one end of the field to the other and Stouffville was beaten not by weight but by a better and neater quality of lacrosse.

THE STARS COMING.

The lacrosse team are putting in hard practices and are fast getting into shape for the game with the Mimico Stars on June 24. This is a league game and both teams can be depended upon to do their best as it will decide the intermediate championship of the York district. The best team that can be had will be put on that day and the Hill boys feel confident that they can defeat the team which played them such a close game on May 24. A month's hard practice has worked a great change in the condition of the team. Let no one miss this game. A garden party in aid of the Lacrosse Club will be held in the evening, in the Park.

ACCIDENT.

Norman Mahaffy met with a nasty accident while playing lacrosse on the park Monday night. He and Charlie Johnston were struggling for the ball when Johnston's stick came in violent contact with Mahaffy's head, stunning him for the moment. Mahaffy retired from the field to the town pump where by the application of plenty of water his head was reduced to its normal size.

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