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Our Ottawa Letter.

Public interest in the progress of affairs in the Transvaal has been considerably augmented this week by the publication of a report to the effect that the Government had made an informal offer of men and money to the imperial authorities, and that the Home office had accepted the same with every expression of satisfaction. The statement turned out to be inaccurate, but it nevertheless served the usual purpose of demonstrating the wide-spread enthusiasm with which any step would be supported. It appears, however, that there is no constitutional power vested in the Government by which they could make any such offer. As Sir Wilfrid has very plainly put it, under the laws of Canada our militia is enrolled solely for the defence of Canada. It does not follow that they cannot leave the country, for at times it is better to meet a threatening foe before he can reach the country he would invade.

Moreover, no such offer could be made without the approval of Parliament for even in imperial matters one of the very first steps taken when active operations commence is to summon Parliament that the necessary means may be provided.

READY IF NEEDED.

As the Premier observed, "there is no doubt as to the attitude of the Government on all questions that mean menace to the British interest but in this present case our limitations are very closely defined, and so it is that we have not offered a Canadian contingent to the Home authorities. The Militia department duly transmitted individual offers to the Imperial Government but the Government has not discussed the question of furnishing a contingent for the reason I have stated, reasons which I think must be easily understood by everyone who understands the constitutional law on the question."

In face of such a simple and intelligible statement of the case, can anyone imagine more unmitigated twaddle than the following editorial comment in the Ottawa Citizen:—"Sir Wilfrid Laurier pledged Canada's military assistance to the empire in the event of war. The opportunity has arrived and he repudiates his pledge. This time it is not the Liberal party that is disgraced by a breach of faith it is the whole of the people of Canada." The writer of that paragraph is either too dense to understand an exceedingly simple proposition or too dishonest to state it fairly to his readers; I suppose he is at liberty to choose which ever 'orn of the dilemma he pleases.

CLEARLY A MISCONCEPTION.

During the recent annual meeting of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress in Montreal it was stated by delegates from Winnipeg that the western labor market was being overstocked by the great influx of foreigners. This assertion is scarcely borne out by the experience of Mr. Alex. Calder, the C. P. R. employment agent whose head quarters are at Winnipeg. Mr. Calder has been spending the last three months in the States in Eastern Canada engaging as many men as he could get hold of for railway work on the C. P. R. and Rainy River roads. All he was able to procure was a hundred and fifty, and he stated to a Winnipeg newspaper as his deliberate opinion that, "if all the men now on the western prairies working on farms, railroads, &c. at other manual labor remain here this winter, I guarantee that they will not wait for work. Never have wages been so high or the work to be done so extensive as it is to-day.

THE INDICATION OF SUCCESS.

This being the case the latest returns of the Immigration Department are of special interest, for they give some idea of the progress that has been made in the all-important work of opening up the country by the introduction of new settlers. From the beginning of the year to the end of August the total number of arrivals at Canadian ports who declared their intention of settling in the Dominion was 26,986, while 2,068 registered in Winnipeg as coming in from the United States. Reckoning 100 as the number registering from the South at other points in the North West, a total of 30,062 is reached for eight months as compared with 17,535 for the whole of last year, 21,251 for 1897, and 17,535 for 1895. Of this 30,000—and with profound respect I would particularly call the attention of the Opposition to this fact—of this 30,000, nearly two-thirds speak English as their mother tongue. With two-thirds speaking English and the remaining third composed of Galicians, Doukhobors, etc., admitted by all who have had a chance to judge by personal observation to be rapidly developing into the most useful settlers, it would appear as if the new immigration policy of the present Minister is receiving abundance of that most satisfactory of all indications—unqualified success.

THE WELSHMEN ARE DELIGHTED.

The Welsh delegation which I referred to last week have got back to Ottawa, and, as I predicted, they speak with unqualified enthusiasm of what they have seen in their travels. They will upon their return home talk to their compatriots in terms of warm commendation of the opportunities the Dominion offers to the thrifty hard working settler and an appreciable increase in the already not inconsiderable number of Welsh immigrants may be looked for as a result. An interesting feature of the Welshmen's report is a request that they should be given a location at some distance from other settlements, in order it is supposed that they may preserve their own language, but while the Department is quite ready to concede to this request, there is small doubt that the colony itself, when it becomes established, will follow the example of nearly every community of foreigners that has settled among us and seek special facilities for instructing the children in English.

Oak Ridges

Mr. Granger of Willow Vale has rented Mrs. Thompson's farm that her son worked last year, and Mr. Wm. Harper the one where she is living.

Mrs. Eynon and family have moved to Aurora where she bought a house and lot the property of the late Mrs. Terry.

Mr. Geo. Jefferson who has lived here for the past six months has bought a farm north-west of Aurora on the third of King and moved there with his family.

Mr. T. Crawford of Kettleby visited his brother last week.

Miss Horner is visiting her sister, Mrs. Crawford.

Several ladies from Newmarket have been visiting at Mr. I. Thomas' also the Misses Case of Aurora and Mr. Wm. Street of Toronto.

Mrs. Spencely is visiting in the city. Miss May Thompson of Bond's Lake returned from visiting friends.

Three families have moved into the vacant houses at Bond's Lake.

Bond's Lake is now enclosed along the street with a wire fence. This will add much to the appearance but is a disadvantage to people getting water as they have for very many years in the past.

Several friends from this place attended the funeral of the late Mrs. Henry Machell of Aurora on Monday of last week.

Maple

Mr. E. Caldwell, with his family, has removed to Toronto, where he is going to carry on the tailoring business on Queen St. E. Several more families are going to leave here for Toronto shortly, and quite a number of houses will be vacant.

There was no school in the junior division of the public school on Friday last as the teacher was attending a convention at Newmarket.

A juvenile surprise party was held at Mr. Caldwell's last Friday evening as a farewell to his children from their school mates. The boys and girls had a merry time.

Beech-nut parties are quite popular just now. Quite a large one was held in P. McNaughton's grove on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. W. Richards is at present seriously ill.

The Twentieth Century Thanksgiving fund was the subject of discourse in the Methodist church on Sunday. Evils were distributed for the amounts to be contributed.

Patterson

Report of S. S. No. 10, Vaughan, for the month of September.

Sr. IV—Ethel Rumble, Russel Rumble, Alice Othen, Mabel Othen, Bert Morton.

Sr. III—Annie Rumble, Vera Hislop.

Jr. III—Charlie Johnson, Heber Rumble, Jim Rumble, Archie Savage.

Sr. II—Bruce Othen, Ida Keith, Stuart Charles, Frank Rumble, Maggie Fagan.

Part II—Olve Othen, Johnnie Keith.

Part I—Josie Rumble, Alice McNair, Jessie Rumble, Raymond Rumble, James Hislop.

Division Court

Division Court was held on Friday 1st, at the 6th inst., His Honor, Judge Morgan, presiding.

Of 20 cases entered since last court all were settled before court day with the exception of 7. The following is a synopsis of the cases tried:

Dean vs. Cook & Cook—Judgment summons after default. Commitment for 20 days against Arthur Cook, but stayed on payment of \$3.00 per month. First payment in two weeks.

Miller vs. Rankin—Claim of \$6 for overcharge on cow. Judgment for plaintiff \$5 and costs.

Chamberlin vs. McNair—Balance of wages due \$14.00. Judgment for plaintiff \$12 and costs.

Mager vs. Cosgrove & Fahey, executors for Kelly Estate—Claim of \$87.00 for work, implements and interest. Counter claim of \$44.55. Judgment for plaintiff \$21.15 and costs.

Wm. Trench Estate vs. Baker—Claim \$61.35 for note, interest, &c. Judgment for plaintiff \$37.65 and costs.

Spider vs. Wright & Wright—Blacksmith bill \$21.84. Judgment for plaintiff \$8 and costs and \$1.50 for plaintiff's witness fees.

Oster vs. Dobson—Note for \$50 and interest for two years. Judgment for plaintiff \$56 and costs.

The solicitors who had cases at the court were Messrs. A. G. F. Lawrence, T. H. Lennox and Grant.

The next court will be held on Saturday, the 2nd of December.

PERSONALS.

Mrs. Chas. Sarney, Parry Sound, is a guest of Mrs. R. A. Farquharson.

Miss Ida Glass has returned home after several weeks' visit with friends in Toronto.

Rev. R. S. E. Large will preach anniversary sermons on the Queensville circuit next Sunday.

Mrs. (Rev.) J. A. Grant and children have been visiting friends at Burford for a week or ten days.

Mr. Ben. Nixon of Unionville, has been appointed issuer of deer licenses for this district for the year 1899.

Mrs. E. McMahon and Mrs. C. A. Petch and little daughter, Miss Gladys, spent yesterday with Mr. T. F. McMahon.

Rev. J. M. Simpson of Islington, a former pastor in the Methodist church has been in the village a couple of days and is the guest of Mrs. A. Wright.

The Misses Redditt made a three weeks' visit with their brother, Mr. T. H. Redditt, Principal of the Barrie Collegiate Institute, and returned home Saturday.

Mrs. Derry and Mrs. J. H. Sander son have been appointed to represent the local W. C. T. U. at the Provincial Convention to be held in Guelph Oct. 30th to Nov. 3rd.

Mr. W. Eyer left Tuesday evening for a week's visit with relatives and friends in Clarence Centre, N. Y. While away Walter expects to assist as best man at a marriage ceremony.

Mr. Graham Klinck, a former resident of this village, now of Princeville, Ill., U. S., is visiting his niece, Mrs. Amos Wright, and other friends. It is fifty-four years since Mr. Klinck moved to Illinois. Twelve years ago he visited his sister, the late Mrs. Law.

Mr. F. H. Kirkpatrick, who took a position a few weeks ago as teacher in Hiram University, Ohio, was suddenly called to his home near Bradford the latter part of last week. The unwelcome news was the serious illness of his mother, who died shortly after his arrival. Mr. Kirkpatrick has the sympathy of many friends in his serious bereavement.

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Wheat, red, per bush.....	0 70	0 69
Wheat, goose, per bush.....	0 73	0 75
Oats, per bush.....	0 33	0 30
Peas, per bush.....	0 62	0 60
Barley, per bush.....	0 47	0 50
Turkeys, per lb.....	0 08	0 11
Dressed Hogs, per cwt.....	6 00	0 00
Geese, per lb.....	0 05	0 07
Chickens, per pair.....	0 30	0 25
Ducks, per pair.....	0 40	0 39
Butter, in pound rolls.....	0 18	0 22
Eggs, fresh.....	0 17	0 18
Potatoes, per bag.....	0 45	0 65
Apples, per bbl.....	1 75	2 50
Hay, clover.....	11 00	13 50
Hay, timothy.....	60 00	60 00
Straw sheaf.....	8 50	0 00

Land Plaster

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