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Our Ottawa Letter.

The introduction of the resolution providing \$2,000,000 to meet the expenses of the Canadian contingents for South Africa has given the Opposition an opportunity of withdrawing its ill-advised and inopportune antagonism to the Government and it has hastened to take advantage thereof. In spite of the fact that he had been assured again and again that our Government had done everything that the Imperial authorities would permit in rendering aid to the empire, Sir Chas. Tupper had persisted in declaring that they should have done more, reiterating his opinion in most unmistakable terms not many days ago, in his speech during the debate on the Address, when he had all the facts before him and was in possession of the correspondence which had taken place upon the subject. More mature consideration, however, has enabled him to see that the Government was right in what it had done and that his criticism was ill-advised. He admitted that the colonies had, by the deliberate decision of the Imperial authorities, been all placed on the same footing, that the Dominion was doing exactly the same as the other colonies, and that there was no difference in the treatment to be extended to our volunteers from that which the representatives of the colonial empire would receive. He therefore withdrew further opposition to the Government's policy. It is of course satisfactory and gratifying to receive even this tardy acknowledgement, but it is difficult to avoid the impression that Sir Charles might easily have arrived at this conclusion much earlier, had he not imagined that political capital could be made by the antagonistic attitude he has up to this time assumed.

SATISFIED THEIR THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE.

The order paper of the House of Commons is often loaded down with all manner of frivolous questions by members of the Opposition, who do not appear to consider it beneath their dignity to waste the time of Parliament by making inquiries of the most trifling character upon subjects which cannot be of the slightest public interest or value. While many of the enquiries made are no doubt for the honest purpose of eliciting useful and necessary information, they are often undoubtedly put down simply in the hope of embarrassing the Government, but sometimes the inquisitive member gets a Roland for his Oliver. An instance of this kind occurred on Thursday afternoon when chief Opposition whip Taylor of Leeds wanted to know how many copies of Sir Richard Cartwright's recent Toronto speech had been printed, how they were paid for, if government stationery was used and departmental employees occupied in addressing envelopes and franking privileges utilized to send them through the mails. Sir Richard promptly replied that he believed several hundred thousand had been issued, but as there was so much valuable information therein he regretted the number had not been larger, that no government employees had been engaged in addressing or mailing the same, and that only a very small proportion, if any, had been franked through the mails. Recognizing the anxiety of the Opposition for the fullest information, Sir Richard proceeded amid ministerial cheers and laughter, to quote from the Auditor-General's report during Conservative regime a number of items where civil servants had been employed in preparing and sending out Conservative campaign literature and paid for out of public moneys.

PARTY CAUCUSES.

Each side has held a caucus since the session opened and in each case important business was transacted. The Opposition led the way on the second day of the session when they decided that it would be inadvisable to offer an amendment to the Address, but that it would rather be the part of wisdom to assume a Micawber-like attitude and wait, with what hope and patience they might, for something to turn up. The first Government caucus was held on St. Valentine's day and was mainly for the purpose of filling the vacancy of chief Ministerial Whip created by the retirement of Hon. Jas. Sutherland. The choice fell upon Mr. William Gibson who has represented Lincoln for the past nine years, and than whom a more popular man is not to be found on either side of the House. The local whips selected to assist Mr. Gibson were Messrs. Calvert (West Middlesex), and Frost (Leeds and Grenville), for Ontario, Flint and Logan for the Maritime Provinces, Savard and Bourassa for Quebec, and Bostock for the West.

STRATHCONA'S HORSE.

The first detachment of Strathcona's Horse has arrived at the Capital, and in spite of the inartistic, though in some cases picturesque, costumes which many of the men arrived in, a distinctly favorable opinion has been

created. They are without exception men of magnificent physique and as hard as iron, and in the course of a week when their new outfits have been supplied, and Col. Steele has had an opportunity to lick them into shape, we shall have in our midst a body of men which will not only do splendid credit to the Dominion, but be unexcelled for the particular work that will be assigned them.
Ottawa, Feb'y 17, 1906.

Maple

Two large loads from here attended the concert at Vellore last Friday evening. The programme, which was lengthy, was well carried out. The debate proved very interesting. The subject was "Resolved that Canada is a better country to live in than the United States." The speakers for the affirmative were Messrs. J. W. McDonald, J. G. McDonald and W. Sanderson of Vellore, while Messrs. R. S. Thomson, C. H. Byam and J. R. Campbell of Maple upheld the States. The judges, Mr. Farquharson, Dr. Sisley, and A. Carley gave their decision in favor of the affirmative, the side winning by one point.

The Monthly meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary was held at Mrs. H. Jackson's on Tuesday evening. Quite a large number were present.

A very pleasant time was spent at the oyster social at Mr. G. J. Cook's on Wednesday evening of last week. The proceeds amounted to over \$28. This is to be used to purchase an organ for the Sabbath School. Dr. Norman of King City occupied the chair and an interesting programme was given.

Rev. W. Dean of Sunderland has accepted the call to become pastor of the Maple circuit, subject to the approval of the stationing committee in June.

Miss Annie Glass of Jefferson, is visiting with friends in the village.

At the last meeting of the Quarterly Board of Methodist church, Maple circuit, motions were made and carried expressing entire confidence in, and appreciation of the services rendered by the pastors during their respective terms.

Eglinton circuit has extended an invitation to Rev. J. W. Stewart of Maple circuit to be their Pastor for the next term and Mr. Stewart has accepted the invitation subject to the customary approval.

Markham Council.

The Markham Township Council met on Tuesday, 13th inst. Members all present, reeve in chair. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed.

Communications received:—From M. Teeffy, clerk Richmond Hill, re share of rent from toll-gate houses.

From J. C. Lundy, clerk of Whitechurch, re cedar on Town Line.

From L. E. Rice, M. D., re sanitarium for the poor.

Dimma—Eckardt—that the clerk communicate with the clerk of Richmond Hill offering to pay that municipality one-third of the net amount of the rent that has been received in the past and that may be received in the future from toll-house No. 2, Yonge St., as a settlement of dispute re toll-houses, on condition that Vaughan Tp. concurs in this resolution.

Summerfeldt—Eckardt—that Treasurer pay the following accounts:—T. F. McMahon, for adv. council meetings, \$5, adv. road machine, \$1.50, printing financial statements, \$12; F. Padget drawing and levelling gravel put on road opposite lot 29, con. 3, \$111.25; Hart & Riddell, stationery supplies, \$16.61; E. Heisey, stripping gravel pit, \$5; Carson & Son, letter heads, cards and adv. \$6.75.

Dimma—Sisley—that the treas. pay half the accounts for labor, material &c. furnished for Yonge St. \$114.35.

Summerfeldt—Sisley—that the collector's rolls for 1899 be accepted by this Council and that the collectors be relieved of the following amounts of taxes:—West half, D. Brooks, \$12.39; Salem Eckardt, \$11; Thos. Humberstone, \$10; A. Linton, \$1; Mrs. C. Press, dog, \$1; Albert White, \$1.24. East half, E. Cole, \$2.96; Mary Doherty, 90 cents; J. Paxton, dog tax, \$1; Wm. Size, 2.23; S. Wideman, dog \$1. Eckardt—Summerfeldt—that treas. pay the following accounts:—H. Leech, 270 yds. gravel, \$27; Geo. Tooley, 124 yds. between York and Markham, half amount, \$6.20; B. Weldrick, 20 yds, \$2.

Sisley—Dimma—that the treas. pay Glass & Co., Richmond Hill, \$12.90, for sheep worried by dogs.

Sisley—Summerfeldt—that clerk be instructed to write the clerk of York county to remit the amount due this municipality from unpaid taxes returned during the pleasure of the council.

Dimma—Sisley—that Mr. Summerfeldt be commissioner to act in conjunction with a commissioner appointed by Whitechurch Council to take such

action as they may deem advisable in regard to the trees growing on town-line in 8th, and confer as to the advisability of straightening the road at this point, and that the Clerk is hereby instructed to notify the clerk of Whitechurch of this resolution.

Sisley—Dimma—that the Medical Health Officer receive \$15 for services for 1899, and that treasurer pay same.

Dimma—Eckardt—that whereas it is considered advisable to establish the survey of the township, be it resolved that the reeve and Mr. Dimma be commissioners to take such action as the law directs to establish the survey and plant monuments at the intersections of side roads, concessions and townlines, and report progress at the next meeting of the council, and that the seal of the corporation be attached to this resolution.

Summerfeldt—Sisley—that when this council adjourns it stands adjourned till Tuesday, 13th of March.

Mr. Summerfeldt introduced a by-law to define the duties to be paid for tavern and shop licenses. The by-law makes tavern licenses \$80 and shop licenses \$200.

Mr. Sisley introduced a by-law to establish road divisions in the municipality which also received its several readings and passed.

Dimma—Sisley—that the treasurer pay J. F. Davison and H. P. Crosby \$5 each for auditing township accounts for 1899.

Sisley—Summerfeldt—that it being reported that certain legislation affecting this municipality will be introduced at the Legislature this session that the reeve, Jas. Dimma, D. James and W. Scott be appointed a deputation to meet the legislative committee when such matter comes up.

Council then adjourned.

Thornhill.

The curlers have arranged for a series of matches to be played for a silver trophy between rinks of the club. On Saturday a rink skipped by R. Clark defeated F. J. Gallanough's four by a score of 23 to 10. The next match will be between J. Morgan and Dr. Nelles.

Another auction sale of farm stock, implements, &c., will be held at Hughes' Hotel on the last day of this month, when another large crowd of buyers and spectators will likely be on hand.

A Fancy Dress Carnival will be held in the rink to-morrow evening. Prizes will be given for gent's, lady's and girl's best representative costume, and for comic character. Thornhill band will furnish music, and a good time is expected.

Willow Vale

On Friday evening, the 9th inst., a very pleasing event took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wiles, when their eldest son Albert celebrated his 21st birthday. A number of relatives and friends were present. The most noteworthy event of the evening was the presence of Mr. John Peterman of Sheboygan, Mich., great grandfather, at the advanced age of 86 years; also a great aunt, both taking part in all the games, and apparently enjoying the fun quite as much as the younger ones. The early part of the evening was spent in vocal and instrumental music. Supper being prepared, 25 partook of a sumptuous repast, after which games were indulged in until the wee sma' hours, when adieus were said and all repaired to their respective homes, apparently well pleased with their evening's enjoyment.

Mr. Ernest Tyrrell of Richmond Hill, spent a couple of days last week with his cousin at Apple Grove Farm. He returned home Monday.

Vellore

On Friday evening, Feb'y 16th, the Vellore Literary Society held their second annual concert in the Township Hall. The evening was decidedly fine, so that about five hundred people assembled to see the fun. The debate between Vellore and Maple Societies was the principal feature. Mr. Farquharson, B. A., of Richmond Hill; Dr. Sisley of Maple; and Mr. A. Carley of Strange, acted as judges. After careful deliberation the decision was given in favor of Vellore Society.

On the evening of March 3rd, Kleinburg Literary Society purpose visiting Vellore, providing a programme and engaging in a friendly debate on the subject, "Resolved that the works of Nature are more beautiful than the works of Art." This will give the wise men of the East an opportunity of crossing swords with the wild men of the West.



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