

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

"The campaign of bribery and corruption has proved successful, and one more servile supporter of the most corrupt administration that Canada has ever seen has been unrelaxed by the reckless expenditure of public monies and so forth and so on. Thus and thus does the old familiar paragraph do service once again as an introduction to the announcement in the Opposition press that Brockville has added her voice to the unmistakable chorus of confidence in the Government, and emphatic condemnation of irresponsible criticism and reckless fault-finding, which is being pursued with suicidal persistency by the Opposition. It is indeed pitiable to see a once great and historic party so miserably shattered as are the Conservatives at the present moment, without a policy and without a leader that will command individual and united support, torn by internal warfare, unable to agree to a common line of attack upon the foe, contradicting one another in debate, and mistaking abuse of one's opponents for arguments, the situation at this moment presents a spectacle that may well call forth the pitying compassion of the country.

"Pity's Akin to Love."

Indeed it is in that very fact that the chief hope of the Opposition apparently lies, for we are told on high authority that "Pity melts the heart to love." Taking Tuesday night's decision as a guide, but giving Hon. Mr. Costigan to his own party and allowing for the absentees on both sides the Government majority on a straight party vote is 56 without Mr. Speaker. This is a vast majority that has been in very many years, and it is significant how that majority has been steadily growing, from the 34 of the first party division of this parliament in September 1896, and the 40 on the Franchise Bill in 1898. Already Opposition papers are appealing for sympathy having apparently cast aside all the old stock-in-trade, in the frenzy of despair. "To an impartial mind," says the Ottawa Citizen for instance, "it must be apparent that this majority is too large for the safety of the public interest, backed as it is by a Liberal administration practically, in every Province of the Dominion. It is not good that a whole country should be in the hands of one Political party etc." Unfortunately for those who are once more taking up this contention, the same argument has been used in more than one provincial election in the last few years with no effect, but evidence has abundantly accumulated to testify to the fact that the country is apparently quite able to recognize good Government when they see it, and shows no inclination to tire of the same.

Figures From The Debate

The debate on the Address which has at length come to an end, is said to be the longest in the history of the

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Canadian Parliament. The session was thirty-three days old when the division was taken and no other business but the necessary routine had been disposed of, the debate itself occupying twenty full days with an average of about six hours each. No less than seventy-nine members took part, or more than a third of the entire House. Numerically they were fairly well divided between the two parties, thirty-seven speaking on the Government side and forty-two in Opposition, but the Oppositionists had a great deal more to say than the Ministerialists for the former filled 1101 pages of Hansard while the Government speeches required only 654 or little more than half.

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper heads the list for the length of his speech which filled 98 pages, though his venerable father, with two speeches, one on the first day of the Debate filling 58 pages, and one after the amendment had been proposed of 45 pages, leads his son by six pages, and the family had 202 pages between them, which at the average length of the daily sitting would have actually taken two days and a half to deliver.

On The Government Side

The Minister of the Interior delivered an address, filling 83 pages of the Hansard, the next in order being Messrs. Davin, 65 pages; Foster, 59 (2 speeches); Borden (Halifax) 52 pages; and Bergeron, 48 pages. Thus of the seven longest speeches, six came from the Opposition side of the house. Sir Wilfred Laurier himself required but 25 pages in which to compress an effort which has been freely recognized as one of the ablest expositions of a Ministerial policy ever placed before the country.

—The American army continues to have trouble in the Philippines. On Sunday last in a battle, they lost 7 killed and over 40 wounded, and though the enemy "retired," it is quite evident a depressed feeling exists over the situation in the American mind. Can you hear the average Spaniard chuckle? Every disaster is strengthening the hands of Bryan, who is dead against expansion idea.

—Britain is increasing her army at the Cape, and it appears that the Transvaal is being hemmed in. In the British House of Commons Mr. Chamberlain explained that this was being done as an offset to the tremendous forces the Transvaal is massing on the frontier.

—Michael Davitt, the most bitter of Irish Anglophobes, has been trying to rouse the ire of Germany against Britain by charging England with duplicity in Samoa. If Michael was in some countries he would have fewer occasions to vent his malice.

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Priceville.

Intended for last week, but delayed owing to bad roads.

The snow is disappearing fast now and in a few days we expect to be able to commence doing something in the way of making the ground ready for seeding. The waters are very high, in fact higher than we have seen them for years. The mill dam at McGowan's is in danger of being taken away as the large quantity of ice that comes down from the pond above the race is rushing down at a furious rate thus endangering sweeping everything along that comes in the way. The water is level with the bridge at the old manse, and it is with difficulty that the inmates find their way out as they are surrounded by water nearly on every side. Mr. McGowan has a gang of men at work breaking up the ice in small pieces. We hope he will be successful in saving his mill dam.

The sale at Mr. Walters' on Saturday went well under the hammer of Auctioneer Dugald McCormick.

We hear complaints made that the sap is not running good this spring. Well, we hope to hear of it in a few days being a total failure.

Rev. Mr. Darroch, of the Baptist church, had special meetings during the last couple of weeks, and as a result we hear a few have identified themselves with that body.

Rev. Mr. Matheson, of the Presbyterian church, preached for Rev. Mr. Harrison on Sabbath last as Mr. Harrison has not been able to preach for the last couple of months on account of sickness. Rev. Mr. Humphreys occupied Mr. Matheson's pulpit on Sunday last as he often did on previous occasions. Mr. Humphreys is a gentleman who is always ready to render assistance whenever it is required.

Mrs. Allan McLean, of this place, is again prostrated low on the bed of sickness. We hope she will get over her severe attack again and will soon be able to attend her household duties.

Mr. Neil Elder left for Duluth a week ago. He was to remain in Toronto for a few days. Neil will be missed in the several societies of which he was a member, as he was a young man who won the favor of all who formed his acquaintance. We hope he will be successful wherever he may be.

There is an old lady who resides with her daughter, Mrs. McNulty, called Mrs. Batchelor or Black, who lives one mile south of this place who danced a Scotch reel the next day after the Battle of Waterloo, and she was then a young woman of fifteen years of age. The old lady is getting somewhat deranged in her mind and when she gets the chance she wanders away in the fields and woods.

Mrs. Alex. McLean, of South Line, at present with her daughter, Mrs. Barnhart, of Mount Pleasant. Mrs. McLean is always a dutiful mother to render aid where assistance is required.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. McLean, Durham Road Glenelg, was beautifully adorned recently by the arrival of a fine big sea. Just in good season when his assistance is required to help his father in with the spring crops. We are pleased to hear that all concerned are getting along well.

The timber and lumber are all on the grounds at the Presbyterian Manse for a new stable for the pastor's convenience. Much credit is due to Dugald McCormick for the trouble he has taken in getting teams to haul the timber to the grounds.

Miss Flora McIntyre, of the South Line, is spending awhile in Toronto at present. She intends to be back in a short time.

We are sorry to hear of Miss Maggie McDonald's illness as she is we are informed in the Toronto hospital. Miss McDonald until recently was a resident of this village, but now of Toronto. We hope to hear of her recovery.

Mr. Thos. Nichol bought the 30-acre farm alongside of his own from the executors of the late Wm. Watson's estate, a little west of this village.

The McLachlin boys, of the North Line, are making preparations for a large frame barn early in the summer on the late James Henderson's farm, which was recently bought by Mr. Dugald McLachlin. The farm at present is rented to Mr. John Pierson for a few years.

We are pleased to say that Mr. Duncan McDonald, who was operated on a month ago, is getting along well, but is not able to do much hard work this summer.

Mr. and Mrs. David Hinks will be moving this week to their own house.

Miss Stonehouse, of Hamilton, came home on Saturday last to her father's residence, Mr. Stonehouse, Glenelg.

Mr. John Cockburn keeps poorly.

Mr. Mathew Scott left our village and is now a resident of the South Line, Aramesia. Mr. Alex. McLean comes in his place in this village.

Rev. Mr. Matheson visited on the South Line one day last week and took the old conveyance with him on foot, on account of bad roads. He again footed to the Station on Saturday evening while going to Dundalk.

Our doctors were kept busy for the last few months, and although we don't wish them any harm we hope they will get a rest for awhile when the warm weather comes.

Old Mr. Ginn, who was sick for a time, is again able to be out and enjoying the rays of the warm sun.

Mr. Dugald McLean's service is constantly called for these times, for everybody that comes to town has a boot or a shoe under their arm asking for Dugald if he is not in the shop. He can hardly get time to read "MacTalla" these times.

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