

IT PAYS TO BUY AT PERKINS.

**THE DAILY EXAMINER**

SEPTEMBER 20, 1898.

**PREMIER FARQUHARSON'S LETTER.**

The letter of Hon Donald Farquharson, published elsewhere in to-day's issue must prove a bitter pill to his associates in the cabinet, all of whom were members of the Warburton administration which let the college contract privately in accordance with Le May's plan. The letter shows the loose manner in which the matter was disposed of by the Government, and no excuse whatever is offered. However, the squabble is one which the members of the Government must settle between themselves.

The premier says the building is now being constructed along lines proposed by Mr. Chappell. But in reality Mr. Chappell's old plan was adopted, after it had been changed by substituting class rooms for the principal's apartments. Under Mr. Chappell's plan before it was changed, we understand, the present contractors offered to build the college for \$19,000. The change that has been made in the plan lessens the cost of erection, but the contract price is still \$28,000. The premier has nothing to say upon this point. The matter is one that certainly calls for some explanation.

**GREAT BRITAIN'S EXPECTATION**

The St James Gazette, one of the most prominent journals in London, recently contained an article that is full of significance to Canadians. The Gazette thinks that none of its readers need be told how intimately the future of the Empire is bound up with the progress and prosperity of Canada. We, it adds, look to her not only to breed loyal sons and daughters of the blood, but to form an ever-growing market for our manufactures, and in return to become our great source of food supply beyond the seas. It is a matter of mutual advantage. The more she can produce and the more we buy from her, the more she will be able to buy from us in return, proceeds the Gazette. Her capacity for production is virtually unlimited. The gold rush, which has recently turned attention to the Dominion in such a dramatic fashion, is merely an episode in its history though one that will have an important influence in attracting the men and money that are needed to develop the resources of the country. These are to be found in its soil, which is capable of producing all the staple foodstuffs that we need in abundance. At present a mere beginning has been made. A glance at the map will show that the cultivated land is just a narrow strip running from east to west. The amount of room that still remains for expansion runs into figures which can hardly be realized by those who are accustomed to the cramped limits and little distances of the Old World. The future of Canada, the Gazette remarks in conclusion, lies chiefly in the development of these magnificent agricultural resources, and it should be a matter of the greatest interest to us to know what is being done in this direction. By an intelligent appreciation of Canadian effort, and by spreading information with regard to its aims and results, we can all do something to assist on this side of the water.

The results of Grit rule are correctly summarized by the Bradford Courier as follows: "Grit organs are boasting that the Dominion Government will have a surplus for the last fiscal year of \$1,500,000. They do not dwell though on the fact that the people had to contribute \$2,466,000 more in taxes, and the expenditure was \$2,000,000 greater. The debt, too, now stands at the record-breaking figure of \$263,000,000."

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**LETTER FROM HON. D. FARQUHARSON.**

Sir,—I am decidedly opposed to appearing in print, but as you seem to be under a misapprehension in reference to the Prince of Wales College contract I desire that the public should know the facts as they stand to-day.

After Mr. Warburton had retired and the present government was installed we found a contract of this college let to McDonald & Schurman for \$28,000. The contract did not include seating or heating, neither did it include wainscoting or ceilings in any part of the building. There was no assembly hall, something that is considered almost a necessity in such an institution, neither was there any cloak or cap rooms on the first floor. The roof was covered with shingles and all outside finish of wood. The contract price as I said was \$28,000.

In looking over this plan it could be plainly seen that from the peculiar construction of the building, whilst of no advantage to the public was such as to make it cost unnecessarily more money than would a more compact structure. The architect, Mr. LeMay, explained by saying his first plan had an assembly hall attached, that his plans were made in view of the hall being there, but as that plan would cost about \$36,000 the hall was done away with. Hence the plan was not what he would have made it, if no hall had been asked for in the first place. This was a fair and honest explanation, and fully justifies Mr. LeMay's position. The Government, therefore, suggested to the contractors the propriety of changing the plan on lines proposed by Mr. Chappell—not Mr. Chappell's old plans as you asserted—but changes entirely new to meet the circumstances. We contended that by Mr. Chappell's changed plan the contractors could save in stone, brick and labor a very large amount, and that we would have a larger building with an assembly hall, besides cloak and cap rooms. We also suggested using brick in the basement wall to the first floor, instead of stone, thus saving \$1,500 more, besides several other changes. These, we contended should save to them \$5,000, which they should deduct from the price of their contract.

After some negotiations the contractors agreed to allow \$4000 off their contract in view of the change, as above, which the government finally accepted.

The Government therefore made a clear saving of \$4000, and had as they considered a more commodious building but had brick in basement wall instead of stone. The contractors also saved a certain amount in making class rooms of the professor's apartments.

After this was concluded the matter of slate instead of shingles, of iron eaves, spouts, conductors and cupulas instead of wood, of stone steps and concrete floors instead of wood, and of putting in grey stone in basement wall instead of brick and also of putting in ceilings and wainscoting in all rooms came up, when it was decided that in view of the permanency of the building and the saving in insurance and to give the contractor the amount of the original contract in lieu of these important changes.

We now stand as follows: We have a building under way which will cost us \$28,000, the same as the original contract. This building will have ceilings and wainscoting in all rooms and halls not in the first building; will have an assembly hall 66 x 43 not in the first contract; will have more class and cap rooms, and a slate roof instead of shingles, iron eaves, spouts, conductors and cupulas instead of wood, stone steps at all approaches



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instead of wood; also, concrete floors in basement where there was wooden floors.

The Government, also in view of creating a department of agriculture and having agriculture taught in our college done away with the principal's living rooms in the college and have ordered that part of the building to be made into class rooms.

Now, Mr. Editor, I am willing to leave our case with you in your sense of justice even to political opponents, and to a discerning and intelligent public to say whether or not the government has not made a change that even our most partizan critics must admit is in the interest of the tax payers of this province whose servants we are, and also in the interest of our children's children who have thus been given a building, long to remain after its builders have for ever passed away.  
D. FARQUHARSON.

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