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## Our Ottawa Letter

Naval Bill Through Commons—Government Will Build Interior Storage Elevators—Budget Speech—Few Tariff Changes

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Ottawa, May 16.—This has been a busy week in Parliament. On Monday morning sessions commenced and with the three sittings a day and a real desire on the part of the members to reach prorogation, business has been put through with a rush. The features of the week have been the third reading of the Naval Bill, Hon. W. T. White's budget statement, and an announcement by Hon. George H. Perley, acting minister of trade and commerce, regarding the government's policy in respect to interior storage elevators.

### Navy Bill Passed House

Contrary to the general expectation subsequent to the exciting scenes which occurred on Friday night last, when the naval bill was taken out of the committee stage under the new closure rules, that measure passed through its final stage at midnight on Thursday without the new rules having been invoked. The opposition were satisfied that they had drawn the attention of the country to the fact that the bill was being put through as a result of the introduction of closure which, apparently, was the object of the demonstration of last Friday night. As a result of the agreement to finally pass the bill without closure the ending to what has undoubtedly been the greatest parliamentary struggle since 1896 was comparatively tame. The final vote gave the government a majority of thirty-three, the division list standing 101 to 68. Five Nationalists, Messrs. Boulay, Guilbault, Achim, Bellemere and Barrette, voted with the opposition while Col. H. H. McLean, the Liberal Imperialist from Queen's Shelburne, supported the third reading, as he had formerly supported the second reading of the bill. An amendment moved by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the form of the six

months' hoist had previously been voted down by a government majority of thirty-four, the Nationalists and Col. McLean voting as they did on the main motion. When the House rose there was some cheering from the ministerialists, who sang "Rule Britannia," but there was no great excitement and the members seemed to be relieved that the fight had at last come to a finish. The bill now goes to the Senate where consideration of it will be commenced next week. Opinion is much divided as to what action the upper house will take, although the preponderating view at the present moment undoubtedly is that it will not be passed by that chamber.

### Interior Storage Elevators

The announcement of the government's policy in regard to interior storage elevators was made by Mr. Perley in connection with consideration of the bill to amend the Grain Act. Mr. Perley reviewed at some length existing conditions as to the storage capacity of western elevators and commented on the necessity of everything possible being done to increase it. "The government," he said, "realize that everything possible should be done to assist in marketing the northwest grain crop and have decided to build as soon as possible a few interior terminal elevators in order that it may be possible to know definitely to what extent they will be used and how great a benefit they will be. These elevators will be built and controlled by the government, through the Board of Grain Commissioners, and, as they will be declared terminal points under the act, there will have to be a regular staff of inspectors at them and all grain will be weighed and inspected in the same way as is done at Port Arthur and Fort William.

The grain can then be sold on its inspection and as the owner will get a warehouse receipt for it this will become immediately negotiable and the owner will be in a position to sell his grain or borrow money on the warehouse receipt. I need hardly say that it is quite evident that this will be of immense advantage to the farmers of the northwest, and especially in the autumn when everything is so congested. A transfer elevator will have to be built on the Pacific coast so that it will be ready for use by the time the Panama canal is opened, and also one at the terminus of the Hudson Bay Railway, in order that we may get the full benefit of the building of that railway and the facilities for transport which it will afford. These interior terminal elevators will have to be equipped with cleaning and drying apparatus, which will no doubt lead to the erection of hospital elevators and, in the case of damaged grain, will enable a large proportion of the grain to be saved and put into a marketable condition."

Hon. Frank Oliver said that the proposal to establish interior elevators will be accepted by the people as an evidence of the desire of the government to assist in the marketing of the principal product of the Western country. As to how much assistance will be rendered time alone will show. He said there were incidental advantages likely to arise from the establishment of these elevators but it was to be remembered that the carrying of grain to the interior terminal point, the storing of it there and the rehandling of it, would necessarily involve some expense. He said that the establishment of these elevators is not a response to the demand that was placed before the late and present government, nor is it an implementing of the promise made definitely by the head of the present government as to the action the government would take towards relieving the recent and existing situation. The demand of the grain growers was for government operation of Lake Superior terminals. It was not for partial government operation of these terminals.

Dr. D. B. Neely, W. E. Knowles and Levi Thompson spoke along somewhat similar lines, while the proposal of the minister received the warm endorsement of Hon. Robert Rogers, J. A. M. Aikins, George Bradbury and Dr. Schaffner.

### Mr. White's Budget

Neither the farming community nor the consuming public of the great cities will find much relief in the tariff changes announced by Hon. W. T. White in connection with his annual budget statement, which was made in the Commons on Monday afternoon. They will no doubt be impressed by the fact that out of the abounding revenues arising from the present tariff taxation the government was able during the past fiscal year to pay off all current and capital expenditure and have over \$23,000,000 which may be applied

Continued on Page 19

### BANK ACT EVIDENCE

Herbert B. Ames, Chairman of the Banking and Commerce Committee of the House of Commons, has sent the following letter to The Guide:

"I have received a number of requests from readers of the 'Grain Growers' Guide' for the printed evidence of the witnesses given before the Banking and Commerce Committee, and in so far as it has been possible, I have satisfied these demands. The issue, however, is now completely exhausted, and I wish you would ask your readers through your columns, to wait until the Blue-Book edition is printed. This may not be available for several months, but, when issued, will be a valuable book on the whole subject, and I can probably then secure a limited number for your readers."

Readers of The Guide will see from this that it will not be possible for them to obtain any more copies of the evidence for several months.

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