

News from Ottawa

Parcel Post Promised by Postmaster General
(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Ottawa, Jan. 17.—Contrary to the general expectation, the navy question did not figure so prominently in the first week's proceedings of the Commons after the Christmas holiday as it was expected it would. This was due to two causes. In the first place the Liberals decided not to hold their caucus, at which it is expected a definite line of action will be decided upon, until the lapse of ten days or a fortnight. Then the government decided not to give the naval resolutions precedence over all other business, as was the rule before Christmas, with the result that other matters have been engaging the consideration of the house. Just what is likely to happen is still a matter of conjecture. The opposition is struggling with the question of the advisability of making an effort to force an appeal to the country, and, while the majority are believed to desire an election, there are undoubtedly some who doubt the wisdom of forcing an appeal to the country. They have in mind the tremendous effect which can be produced in Ontario and other parts of the Dominion by flag-flapping speeches of the regulation type, a number of which have been delivered in Parliament this week by W. F. Cockshutt, the anti-British Preference ministerialist, from Brantford, and Dr. Edwards, of Frontenac, whose specialty in public speaking is to charge everybody who does not believe in his particular set of views with disloyalty of the blackest type.

At the present moment the government and its supporters are, apparently, quite confident that they are not going to have any serious difficulty in securing the passage of the bill, and, it is understood, that practically no more speakers will be put up. This means that the debate on the resolution stage of the measure will be confined to the Liberal opponents of the contribution idea. This will have the effect of forcing the opposition to an early decision.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is keeping his own counsel and waiting for developments. He does not give any indication that he is personally anxious for an election. But it must be remembered that the leader of the opposition is an old hand at the political game, and there is no telling what plan he is figuring on. It may be that he is endeavoring to lull the government into a sense of false security so that if in the end the decision is to fight the proposals to the last ditch the announcement will be the more striking.

Compromise Suggested

The most important development in connection with the debate this week came on Tuesday when Mr. Hugh Guthrie, in replying to the speech made by Hon. George E. Foster on the eve of the adjournment, put forward a compromise proposal which has been the subject of much comment. The supposition is that this was but a clever political move, designed to show that the opposition is not inclined to be unreasonable. The proposal was put in these words: "The British admiralty has not asked for any specific number of dreadnoughts. The government has fixed that of its own motion. Might not that portion of the bill be modified to make it two dreadnoughts? Might not we on this side of the House modify our proposal a little and allow these dreadnoughts to be constructed in Great Britain? Then the rest of the fleet unit could certainly be constructed in Canada within a reasonable time. We could establish our navy yards and our construction plant and go on with the work. We would reach practically the same end as you do, except that one dreadnought would be shorn from the British admiralty, and two fleet units, established in this country under our own laws, would take its place. No constitutional objection could arise because they

would be under our own law and under our own control. We do not need to wait for a voice in Imperial affairs. I make this suggestion because I say there is a gulf between us and I believe the gulf can be bridged."

This compromise proposal, it will be seen, would mean a pretty large order in the way of naval construction, involving, as it would, the whole of the Laurier proposals, plus two thirds of the government's plan. Of course, it will not be accepted because acceptance would mean the adoption by the government of its permanent naval policy and its submission to the people in accordance with the pledges already given.

A Patriotic Manufacturer

During the course of a long and characteristic speech in support of the contribution idea, Mr. W. F. Cockshutt, Conservative member for Brantford, was drawn into some references to the British preference, which shows him to be as hostile as ever to the manufactures of Great Britain receiving special treatment in the Canadian market. He was speaking of the load under which the mother country has been struggling without any aid from Canada when Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux interjected the remark: "You opposed the British preference." Mr. Cockshutt retorted: "It is true we made a sacrifice to the mother country of dollars and cents in duties. But it would have been better to have done our duty to the mother country before we became generous; it would have been better to contribute to defence than to throw away duties to the advantage of the policy of the Hon. gentleman opposite. We have had the benefit of defence by the mother country and have paid nothing."

Or, in other words, Mr. Cockshutt would be quite content to have the common people of Canada contribute millions for war so long as the profits of his manufacturing friends are not interfered with. That he would be quite indifferent to the amount contributed he made quite clear a little later on when he stated that he would not have objected to a contribution of fifty or seventy-five millions.

Parcels Post

That the government is seriously considering the advisability of introducing

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a system of parcel post in the Dominion was an announcement made at Wednesday's sitting, when Hon. L. P. Pelletier, the Postmaster General, replied to speeches by Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, his predecessor in office, and other members, in advocacy of such an addition to the postal service. Mr. Lemieux introduced the subject with a motion declaring: "that in the opinion of the House the establishment of a cheap parcel post system would be to the advantage of the consumers of Canada."

In the course of an able speech Mr. Lemieux pointed out that the parcel post system has been in existence in Europe for many years and is under the control of the Postmaster General in the various countries. In England it has had an enormous success, while in France and Switzerland it has been almost equally successful. In Germany it has been established on the cheapest scale and is of the greatest advantage, especially to the farming community. In all countries the parcel post has been shown to have a direct and advantageous relation to the cost of living. He quoted from the report of Professor MacKenzie, who

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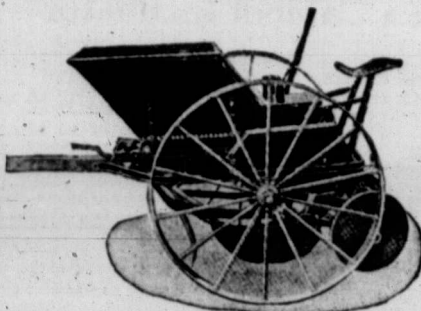


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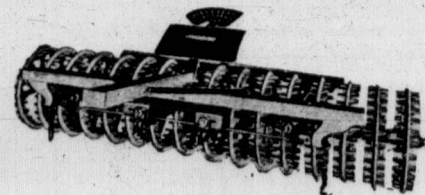
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COCKSHUTT PULVERIZERS and SUB-SOIL PACKERS INCREASE CROPS

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The Kemp spreads manure evenly and in any desired quantity. It makes fertile fields, better crops, more prosperous farmers. As an instance, one top dressing of manure applied with a Kemp Spreader, immediately after seeding, will result in an increase of from five to six bushels per acre. There are good reasons why it will pay you to use a Kemp Spreader.

