

### PROVISIONAL DIRECTORS OF BANK MISSING

Officers Of Trust Company On Trial For Conspiring To Secure Certificate Under False Pretences.

Toronto, Feb. 17.—There was a long session of the case against the Hon. J. R. Stratton, and Jas. J. Warren, president and manager respectively of the Trust and Guarantee Company and the four provisional directors of the Farmers Bank today on the charge of conspiracy to obtain by deceit and fraud their certificates from the treasury department at Ottawa in order that the bank might start up in business.

Inspector Duncan was the chief witness and he put in no less than 23 exhibits of books and documents belonging to the bank and the Trusts and Guarantee Company, showing the various transactions that had taken place between the two concerns. The evidence was intended to show that the bank never had the necessary amount of capital but the money had been put up largely by the trust company for which service they were paid 10 per cent. interest and a bonus of \$3,000.

Secretary-treasurer McKnight, of the Bankers Association, the last witness before adjournment, told of the inquiry he had made in the interests of the association and at the knowledge of the finance department. He had had an interview with Dr. Beattie Nesbitt and M. R. Travers and had been shown the deposit slip indicating a deposit with the T. and G. Co. of \$80,000.

"Are you ready, Mr. Corley?" asked the magistrate at 11.45, Inspector Duncan, stepping into the witness box. "There is an amendment to be made by adding the name of W. J. Lindsay, although he is not here."

After the amendment to the information had been made, the magistrate read out the names of the defendants. "John Watson, John Ferguson, Alex. Fraser, A. S. Lowmes, Clark H. Smith." "He is not here," said Mr. Corley in each case.

"Beattie Nesbitt." "He is not here, either." "J. J. Warren, J. R. Stratton and W. J. Lindsay." Formal Charge.

After those names had been read out, the defendants sat down and the following charge was read to them: "Did conspire, confederate, and agree together to obtain by false representation, deceit and fraud, from the Treasury Board of the Dominion of Canada, the certificate required in order to enable the Farmers Bank to open business under the provisions of the Bank Act to the detriment of the public."

### GOVERNMENT ON "UNEASY" STREET

Supporters Press for Statement by Laurier in Repudiation of Annexation Talk—Back-Benchers Put Up to Reply to Smarting Criticism of Opposition Leaders—Move at Washington.

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—The close of the week finds the advantage all with the opposition on the matter of the reciprocity agreement. Many Liberal members, startled by the effect the annexation utterances of Champ Clark will have in their ridings, have made strong representations to Sir Wilfrid Laurier to take a more serious view of the situation as it is developing in the United States, and it is freely asserted here tonight that a round robin is being circulated by the government supporters, particularly from Ontario, which will ask the premier to make some definite announcement in parliament, which will tend to counteract the harm done to the reciprocity cause by the action of the Democratic leader in Congress throwing his annexation cards on the table.

What action Sir Wilfrid Laurier will take in the matter is problematic. Unless the pressure from all sides for some assurance which will have the effect of stemming the tide of resentment at annexation being the foundation of the much lauded Fielding-Taft pact becomes too strong Sir Wilfrid is likely to continue to regard the eagerness of Mr. Clark as a bit of humorous play.

Where Shoes Pinches. It must not be thought that these Liberal members or their constituents can imagine that the United States could or would annex the Dominion. What is making not only these men from Ontario, but the electors who sent them here warm under the color of the United States should welcome the agreement as a step forward in a march toward annexation. The situation resolves itself into this: What has been heralded by the government as a trade pact with better commercial conditions as its sole object is being openly espoused by Champ Clark and his friends, not because of its trade benefits, but because it will have the effect of ultimate commercial and political union.

There is no fear of annexation. There is, however, a keen spirit of resentment that it should be imported into the bargain by the leader of the party which will shortly have the upper hand in Congress. The development brought into the discussion of the agreement is causing worry to the government in which they are holding back. Although the request for delay in order that members of the opposition might have an opportunity of studying the bargain was refused, Mr. Laurier has been engaged for some time since the receipt of the preparatory to the introduction of the pact to amend the customs act which laid before the House last Thursday.

Last week, Thursday was the only day on which the resolutions were debated, and this week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were devoted thereto. No progress whatever has been made with them, the government putting up members of the rank and file such as Dr. Neely of Humboldt, Mr. Warburton of E. B. Island, and Hugh Guthrie of South Wellington, to reply to the opposition attacked by Messrs. Borden and Foster.

On "Uneasy Street." This annexation talk has put Sir Wilfrid Laurier on "uneasy street." His staunch supporters are telling him of the resentment it is causing throughout the country and it will do more than all the criticisms of the combined opposition to make the agreement unpopular. Whether the pact will come to the rescue of his adherents in parliament and what form this time alone can decide. Champ Clark is undoubtedly the most unpopular man in the United States today, so far as the Liberal members or this parliament are concerned, and some of them are openly expressing the quiet opinion that if Laurier went to the country tomorrow, on the reciprocity issue, it would be condemned by a majority of the thinking electors of Canada. The coming week should see some surprising developments in the battle now being waged.

LOCAL OPTION VOTES. Ottawa, Feb. 17.—The townships of East Hill and West Templeton, and the town of Aylmer, Que., will shortly submit to their ratepayers by-law on the abolition of the liquor license. Local option sentiment is strong in this end of Quebec province, several surrounding municipalities having already voted themselves into the dry column.

### 3 CANADIANS DIE FROM GAS ASPHYXIATION

City Demoralized When Commission Was Resorted To

Providence, R. I., Feb. 17.—A tragedy resulting from mental derangement was discovered today, when the bodies of Ernest St. Laurent, a carpenter, his wife and his only child, were found dead on a bed in their home in this city.

They had been asphyxiated by illuminating gas flowing through a rubber tube stretched from a lighting fixture to the bed. It seemed evident that St. Laurent, after his wife Annie and his three year old daughter, had gone to sleep last night, had arranged the tube.

He was 32 years of age, and his wife was 29. They were natives of Quebec province. For the past three months according to the family physicians, St. Laurent's mental state had been such that he was unable to work.

STEARNS NOW CLEAR OF ICE Stanley Got in Perilous Position Through False Signals Being Displayed—Passengers Held Up In Bruce.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 17.—The Dominion Government steamer Stanley got clear of the ice which has held her in a solid grip of Low Point for several days. It is remarkable that the Stanley should have got into this serious position while on her way to Flint Island in response to signals of distress there, now found to have been false. Why these signals were hoisted no one can explain.

KAISER WELL ENOUGH TO ADDRESS FARMERS German Emperor Applauds Ambition of Agriculturists To Make Country Independent In Feeding People.

Berlin, Feb. 17.—Emperor William had sufficiently recovered from his recent indisposition to address the German agricultural congress today. His Majesty's topic was the reclamation of Moorland for grazing purposes, an enterprise, the possibilities of which have made it of great interest to the farming community.

### CONDITIONS AT EXPERIMENTAL FARM DISGRACE

Government Has Money To Spend On Cocktails And Exhibition Booths, But None For Practical Agriculture.

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—In committee of supply on an item of \$100,000 for exhibitions today, Mr. Fisher explained that it was for an expenditure incurred during the present year in connection with the exhibit Canada will have in the Crystal Palace grounds as an adjunct of the Festival of Empire which will be a feature of the Coronation celebration. The exhibit will be a building which will be a reproduction on a small scale of the Canadian Parliament buildings, and another vote of over \$150,000 will be required to cover the total expense which will be incurred.

The minister having stated that some of the preliminary expenses had been met out of the general exhibition vote of last year, several opposition members, including Messrs. Foster, Blain, Taylor and Dr. Sproule were disposed to criticize him for spending money which had not been approved by parliament for such a purpose.

Mr. Fisher said that the vote will be always a general one and that it was frequently necessary for the government to decide to make expenditures for some new exhibition at which it was desirable that Canada should be represented. If the government were to wait until the meeting of parliament it would be too late.

10,000 DEAD FROM PLAGUE Relief Committee At Shanghai Makes This Estimate Of Victims—More Success In Fight.

Peking, Feb. 17.—The victory of Manchuria estimates that the fatalities in Manchuria from the bubonic plague already have reached 6,500 while the foreign office believes that outside the great wall there have been 1,000 more deaths. According to the general belief, however, the number of fatalities is nearer double those of the official estimates.

SULTAN KILLED WITH 300 MEN Paris, Feb. 17.—The Minister of the Colonies has received advice of another French victory in the Dark Continent, Equatorial Africa, January 12.

RUSSIA PLANS 4 BATTLESHIPS St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—The government has asked the Duma to vote \$50,000,000 for the construction of four battleships by 1915.