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THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

"Equal Rights to All and Special Privileges to None" A Weekly Journal for Progressive Farmers

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GEORGE F. CHIPMAN, Editor and Manager Associate Editors: John W. Ward and Ernest J. Trott Home Editor: Francis Marion Beynon

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Our Ottawa Letter

The Last Week in Canada's Historic Parliament Buildings—Western Grievances Discussed.

Ottawa, Feb. 6.—The parliamentary week which will ever be memorable in Canadian history because of the destruction of the building in which Canada's history since confederation has been made was not marked by any events of great significance or importance. The debate on the address which had been in progress for ten days when the House met on Monday noon went on for another three days, and finally petered out just before the Wednesday adjournment. Thursday, which witnessed the last sitting of the Commons in the historic chamber, was given over to the answering of questions and the discussion of motions of private members. One of these, a resolution by Clarence Jameson, of Digby, calling for an inquiry into the cost of fish in inland markets was under way when the hand of fate intervened, and silenced forever discussion in the chamber. When the house convened on Friday in the auditorium of the National Museum, proceedings were devoted entirely to references to the catastrophe which had overtaken the nation, and a declaration by Sir Robert Borden that it was the duty of parliament to continue with the task before it. Sir Wilfrid Laurier heartily agreed.

Towards the conclusion of the debate on the address, western matters to some extent occupied the attention of the house. On Monday, W. E. Knowles, of Moose Jaw, and J. G. Turiff, of East Assiniboia, criticized the government in regard to seed grain, the commandeering of wheat and western affairs generally. Mr. Knowles opened his speech with this declaration: "I think my first words ought to be that we in the West still want free wheat and free agricultural implements." Mr. Knowles had some rather refreshing remarks to make in regard to the desirability of more independence being shown by members of the house. He agreed that to a large extent party politics should be laid aside at this juncture. "I say," continued Mr. Knowles, "it is an unfortunate thing that we have to such an extent come to be slaves to our party."

Commandeering Condemned

As to the commandeering of the wheat, Mr. Knowles said that there was no more need of commandeering it than there was of commandeering hot air in the House of Commons. Many of the farmers were holding their wheat thinking that the price would go up, but the solicitor-general came along, gave them \$1.04 and called it square. As a result the farmers lost their profit.

J. G. Turiff also dealt with the seed grain and the commandeering of wheat. In regard to the former he said that in many cases when farmers brought their wheat to the elevators they were told that they had to pay their indebtedness to the government, or a part of it, and could not sell a bushel of wheat until the demands of the government had been met. The effect of this was to put the farmer absolutely in the hands of the man in the elevator who was buying the wheat. In many cases the elevator man would declare the farmers'

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