an alternative would suggest that ructions be given our executive comittee to approach the government and fer to undertake the securing and dis-tibuting of this seed grain. For this purpose your committee would

For this purpose your committee would suggest that a preliminary grant of not less than fifty thousand dollars should be made at once to the association, bonds if necessary being given to the government to secure this sum until such time as certified accounts were presented in settlement of same, that the association undertake to secure these small lots of grain from the farmers, paying cash therefor out of the grant. and securing a voucher in every instance, and that the grain be then sold to those and that the grain be then sold to those who require same, taking the security which would be considered necessary to secure payment of the account and making the price as near the same as that the grain was purchased at, after adding the actual expense of distribution and all other expenses of administration. Then, at the end of the season statements could be made up showing where the grain was secured, the price paid, where delivered, the price secured, the costs of administration and all other information necessary for a settlement of the account.

administration and all other information necessary for a settlement of the account. If a plan such as this could be worked out and would be acceptable to the government, your committee believe the result would be that better grain would be distributed to the farmers securing same, that the cost of the grain and the administration would be considerably lessened and that better satisfaction would be given than is possible under the present be given than is possible under the present pla

All of which is respectfully submitted.

# News from Ottawa Continued from Page 4

The consequence of all this is that a great deal of the land in that Western country will lie fallow this year. The Hudson Bay railway will afford great relief no doubt, but no matter how rapidly it is built it will be three or four years before it is available. The magnates of Toronto and Montreal, whose unholy profits were in danger, prevented us from getting reciprocity which would give us a market in the United States, but it matters not to them how much of our crop goes bad

in the United States, but it matters not to them how much of our crop goes bad so long as they have the handling of it and the consequent rake off." Hon. Frank Oliver, Dr. Schaffner, of Souris, and James McKay, of Prince Albert, who took part in the debate, confined their remarks more particularly to the Hudson Bay road as a business proposition proposition

# The Cement Merger

During the discussion of the estimates for the labor department this afternoon some rather pointed references were made to the cement merger. When the item of ten thousand dollars for the adminis-tration of the anti-combines act was under consideration. Hon. T. W. Crothers was ached if any representations had been was asked if any representations had been made to him in regard to this merger. The minister said that his recollection was that he had seen a copy of a resolu-tion sent out by the Winnipeg Board of Trade complaining of an alleged merger cement.

The brevity of the ministerial statement excited the ire of Mr. Knowles, of Moose Jaw, who said it was evident that the minister had not even taken the trouble to familiarize himself with the communications which had reached his office in regard to the matter. He thought bill giving them the power to make important changes in their stock issue there was such an outburst of public opinion that the bill had not been pro-ceeded with. W. F. McLean, Hon. Robert Rogers, Dr. Michael Clarke and others who took part in the discussion all agreed that the question of combines would have to be given immediate and serious consideration. Mr. Rogers as-sured the House that the matter was receiving the serious consideration of the government. Dr. Clarke thought that the best way to control combines is through the tariff. He said it would be better for the government to go slowly than to rush at the matter and make a mistake.

Much Work to do The heavy legislation of the session has not yet made its appearance, but some of it may be expected shortly. In the meantime good progress has been made with the estimates and some government bills of secondary importance, including with the estimates and some government bills of secondary importance, including the act to amend the Inquiries Act. The decision of the government to oppose Hon. Geo. P. Graham in South Renfrew is likely to lengthen the session. The fight will be a spectacular affair and being so close at hand is likely to divide the stituction of the minister and the men attention of the ministers and the mem-bers. There will also be the temptation for the opposition to create any campaign material possible in the hope of influencing the electors. At all events the ex-minister of railways is almost certain to get a lot of free advertising during the course of the next few weeks.

# The Iron Bounties

Although the minister of finance, Hon. T. White, absolutely declines to either W. T. White, absolutely declines to either confirm or deny it, the friends of the steel interests here make the definite assertion that, pending the completion of an in-quiry into the industry by the tariff board, the government will agree to a partial renewal of the bounties on steel in the form of a bounty of ninety cents on each ton of pig iron produced in Canada. So confident are the financial men that this will be done that they assert that there is no doubt about it. There is not likely to be any definite annunce. W. there is no doubt about it. There is not likely to be any definite announce-ment from the government until Mr. White delivers his budget speech, and if that deliverance does contain the statement expected by the friends of the steel industry, the budget debate is likely to be a more protracted affair than is usually the case. The proposal is certain to meet with the strenuous opposition of the members of the opposi-tion, more particularly from those of opposition of the members of the opposi-tion, more particularly from those of the West who were opposed to the re-newal of the bounties when the matter was under consideration by the late government. Had Mr. Fielding decided to extend the bounties, as he was urged to do by powerful interests, these members would in all probability have been clubbed into silence and the Opposition would have come from the Conservatives. But now the situation is reversed and it will be the supporters of the present govern-ment who will be made uncomfortable. Such is the game of polities. There are after all many compensations for having Such is the game of politics. There are after all many compensations for having to sit to the left of the speaker, as many who have changed over have discovered. In connection with this bounty matter the story is told that the late government was divided as to the advisability of a renewal. Mr. Fielding, as a Nova Scotia man, was disposed to risk it, but Hon man, was disposed to risk it, but Hon. Wm. Paterson made a strenuous fight against renewal and won the day. One or two of the opposition members from Nova Scotia will doubtless welcome a renewal of the bounties for which they fought when they were in power, but, generally speaking, strong exception is certain to be taken to it. In view of the certainty of the steel interests that they are going to get practically what they asked for it might be advisable for the farmers of the West to register for the farmers of the West to register a protest between now and budget day. There might yet be a chance of spiking the guns of the powerful interests which are back of these demands to futher bonus an industry which has since 1884 extracted approximately sixteen mil-lion dollars from the public treasury.

## THE CAR SHORTAGE

The following letters have been received with regard to the information as to car shortage conditions contained in the last two issues of The Guide. This informa-tion was presented as supplied to us by our readers, and if in any case this should be inaccurate we are glad to publish corrections.

Editor, Guide:-In your last issue, January 10, of The Guide I notice you let us down easy on the car business. You have it 100 names on order book but there are 247 names on book and only 94 have been supplied. Elevators have been blocked for 6 weeks, cold weather still continues and no coal in town although a continues and no coat in twin attendin a conditions are serious. The C.P.R. are evidently doing little or nothing to help matters any, although they have a full knowledge of the serious state of affairs. Yours truly, J. M. BLACK.

Strathclair, Man.

Editor, Guide:-In your article on the



although we have been loading off and on since the middle of November, and loaded

on an average a car every two weeks, we can't recollect of any car lying there any longer than one week.

Such reports are apt to do harm to the farmers around McNutt, as the agent has been all along a good friend to the

than our share of cars on this branch

D. & J. MCINTYRE.

WILL INVESTIGATE PHONE SITUATION

A commission consisting of Judge Cor-bett Locke, of Morden, Alderman George R. Crowe, of Winnipeg, and R. L. Barry, general superintendent of the Tri-State

We have been getting more

farmers.

apparently.

### YUKON RAILWAY RATES

Ottawa, Jan. 22 .- The hearing of the complaint of the Dawson City board of trade against the rates charged by the White Pass and Yukon railway was resumed before the board of railway commissioners this morning. Manager Dickenson, of the railway company, was examined and denied that during the the past year the Yukon Gold company had received the benefits of any special rates. The matter was not decided, being postponed until the evidence of a commission now getting evidence in California, can be submitted. The case will be finally disposed of on March 1.

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