

# Sir George E. Foster Defied The Would-Be Bolters On The Daylight Saving Bill

Second Reading in Commons Marked By  
Great Excitement

Serious Break Seemed Imminent But Did Not  
Materialize — Debate Brings Out Strong Arguments  
in Favor of Measure — Carried "On  
Division"

(Staff Correspondence of The Toronto  
Globe.)  
Ottawa, Mar. 30.—Something like a  
battle royal was witnessed in parliament  
today when Sir George Foster moved the  
second reading of the Daylight Saving  
Bill.

The bolters were principally Ontario  
Conservatives, led by William Smith  
(South Ontario) and John Best (Dufferin),  
who never have shown any love for the  
Union government. They told the  
government very positively that they  
would vote against the measure. Apparently,  
a dozen or fifteen of their colleagues  
were of the same mind, and there  
were one or two Unionists from the west  
who were prepared to cast their first  
vote against the government.

Dr. Clark Threatens.  
Dr. Michael Clark of Red Deer said  
that Sir George Foster had shown much  
tenacity but little political sagacity in  
bringing the bill forward, after its defeat  
a year ago, and he expressed the hope  
that the government would not stake its  
life on the issue. He intimated in plain  
terms that if the thing was forced to a  
vote and the life of the government was  
in danger, he would cast his vote against  
the government.

Party lines were broken. The representatives  
of rural constituencies vigorously  
opposed the bill, while city members  
on both sides of the House were in  
favor of it. D. D. McKinnon of North  
Cape Breton, Sir Wilfrid Laurier's English-  
speaking lieutenant, advised the  
Minister of Trade and Commerce to  
withdraw the bill, declaring that "if the  
minister forces a division it will cause  
a serious break in this House."

Sir George Defies Bolters.  
The government, however, had the  
solid support of the Western Unionists,  
with the exception of Dr. Clark of Red  
Deer and Thomas Hay of Selkirk, and  
Sir George Foster decided to take a  
chance and defy the bolters. "It is not  
into an unknown sea that we are steering  
our bark," he said, in closing his  
debate. "Daylight saving had appeared  
itself in practically all the allied countries  
in the war, and the government was  
not wasting time on facts and figures,  
as some members had charged, but making  
a serious endeavor to aid in the production  
of food."

Carried "On Division."  
When the question was put by the  
Speaker the excitement was at its height.  
"Ayes" seemed to be as numerous as  
the "Noes," but Mr. Speaker thought the  
"Ayes" had it, and declared the second  
reading carried "on division."

Bill Likely Safe Now.  
Of course, there is still the third reading,  
and a division may take place at that  
stage, but now that the government is  
committed to the bill, it is hardly likely  
that the members who took part in today's  
debate will carry the thing any farther.  
They were merely trying to intimidate  
the government, and the administration  
may look forward to similar snags, but now  
that this attempt to defeat the Daylight  
Saving measure has failed, it is hardly likely  
that the attack will be renewed on the third  
reading, because those who endeavored to  
scare the government realize that if the  
government goes down, they will go down,  
too.

Sir George Foster explained that the  
bill would come into operation by pro-  
clamation of the Governor-in-Council,  
and that if it did not prove a success it  
would be unnecessary to repeal the measure,  
because it would be in effect only for  
the present season.

The minister of trade and commerce  
said the scheme had been first tried in  
Germany, but Sir W. W. Jacobs of Montreal,  
the first Hebrew member of the House,  
claimed that it had originated with his  
people, reminding Sir George that  
"Joshua commanded the sun to stand  
still." Capt. Read of Prince, P. E. I.,  
who spent some years on the bridge of an  
ocean steamer, favored the measure.

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ston, Canada.

because, as a nautical astronomer, he  
knew that the farther north one went  
the more daylight there was, therefore,  
if it was a good thing for the United  
States, it would be much better for Can-  
ada. Several returned soldiers championed  
the bill because they had seen its ad-  
vantages in France and Britain. Prac-  
tically every representative of the west  
opposed the bill, but W. F. Maclean  
(South York) favored it.

Comparatively New Scheme.  
Speaking in support of the second  
reading of his bill this afternoon, Sir  
George Foster said that daylight-saving  
was a comparatively new thing. It had  
not been adopted for many years in any  
country. The first daylight-saving leg-  
islation was enacted in Germany in the  
year 1916, or about the time of the be-  
ginning of the war. Two years later it  
had been adopted in Great Britain, but  
merely as an experiment for a period  
of five or six months. After this ex-  
periment a parliamentary committee was  
formed in Great Britain to investigate  
the effects of daylight-saving in the  
community at large.

Sir George stated that this committee  
in its investigation had included such  
countries as France, Austria and Hol-  
land, where daylight-saving had been  
adopted during the years 1916 and 1917.  
The report of the committee stated that  
the vast preponderance of opinion in  
Great Britain was in favor of "summer  
time," not only as a war measure, but  
during peace. The effect of "summer  
time" on the public health was found to  
be good, and the extra daylight had  
proven of great value to the workers of  
Great Britain. Even in the domain of  
agriculture, where the greatest opposi-  
tion to daylight-saving had appeared, the  
investigating committee found that it  
had resulted beneficially.

After the experiment of 1916 in  
Great Britain it was decided to intro-  
duce it again in the summer of 1917. At  
this second trial it proved so satisfac-  
tory that it was adopted again this year,  
and the time for its application was ex-  
tended. This year "summer time" was  
extended to the first of March, and  
Great Britain went into force on March  
24, and will continue until the 29th of  
November.

Turning to the United States, Sir  
George said that the United States Sen-  
ate last year had conducted an investi-  
gation into daylight-saving which had  
led to the passage of a daylight-saving  
bill through the upper house. The bill,  
however, had not been passed until the  
month of June, and it was considered  
unwise to adopt daylight-saving as late  
in the year as that.

Argument of Experience.  
The argument in favor of the bill, Sir  
George continued, was now the argu-  
ment of experience. Previously in Can-  
ada two objections had always been  
made. First, that a daylight-saving  
scheme should be nation-wide. Second-  
ly, on account of the situation in regard  
to the United States, it would conduce  
to smooth working if the two nations  
acted on a parity. The measure before  
the house would meet both these objec-  
tions.

Some opposition had been raised in  
rural communities, but, Sir George  
argued, after the experience of ten or  
twelve great countries, covering three or  
four years, what held good there should  
hold good in Canada.

Affects Railways—They Want It.  
R. L. Richardson of Springfield, Man.,  
asked if the bill would compel the rail-  
ways to change their time.

Sir George Foster replied that it  
would. He added that he had received  
a communication from the railways to-  
day suggesting that the bill should be  
rushed through the house and go into  
effect on the same date as the United  
States legislation.

Says Farmers Are Opposed.  
A. B. McCoig of Kent, as an inde-  
pendent Liberal, free to support gov-  
ernment war measures, regretted that he  
must oppose this bill, because it does  
not give due consideration to the inter-  
ests of laboring people and producers.  
There was, he said, no serious de-  
mand for such legislation from the agri-  
culturists of his constituency. He be-  
lieved it would result in a decreased  
production, because farmers could not  
go upon the land at the usual hour by  
the clock because of the dew.

The minister asked Mr. McCoig why  
farmers could not work the usual num-  
ber of hours. Mr. McCoig replied that  
employers would quit at 5 o'clock, which  
would be really only 5 o'clock, despite  
the fact that an hour would be lost in  
the morning. He read resolutions passed  
by farmers' clubs objecting to the  
proposed legislation.

Thinks Hardship Especially in West.  
Thomas Hay, Selkirk, thought pro-  
duction in Canada would be lessened if  
the bill passed, and said that in the west  
particularly the bill would prove a hard-  
ship. The evening hours were very long.  
If the bill went through, workers would  
be called upon to get to work an hour  
earlier, but they would not go to bed  
earlier in the evening because it would  
still be light; therefore they would lose  
rest. Daylight-saving had been tried in  
both Brandon and Winnipeg, and in each  
case it had been abandoned.

Port Arthur Found It Success.  
F. H. Keefe of Port Arthur was  
strongly in favor of the passage of the  
bill. It had been tried in Port Arthur,  
he said, and proven a thorough success.  
He felt that it would tend to a decided  
increase in production because it would  
give all those workers in factories, of-  
fices, etc., an opportunity to get out and  
cultivate vacant lot gardens. These gar-  
dens had produced thousands of dollars'  
worth of foodstuffs, to his own knowl-  
edge, in the cities at the head of the  
lakes. The bill would also prove ben-  
eficial because of the extra hours for  
healthy outdoor sport which it would  
give to the factory and office workers.

Doctor Gives Three Good Reasons.  
Dr. R. J. Manion of Port William said

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## FIGHT THE HUN IN BACK YARDS

Toronto Children Are Told About  
Cultivating Every Piece  
of Ground

(Toronto Globe.)  
The recruiting of Soldiers of the Soil is this year one of the most important forms of national service, and the fact that it can be achieved without fear of harm to the recruit, but with a sure and certain hope of benefit to the country, makes it a pleasant pursuit. Eager and capable volunteers are to be found in the schools, where steps are being taken to instruct the children in the best methods of production. Yesterday the pupils of Rosedale School listened to an illustrated lecture on "Gardens and Gardening" given by Dr. Sinclair of the Department of Education.

Dr. Sinclair reminded his little hearers that production this year is a matter of grave concern, and impressed upon them that in their backyards they, too, can fight a battle against the Hun. He told of how he planted his own garden several times last year. In August he removed the last traces of peas and sowed a crop of carrots, beets, lettuce and parsnips which lasted till late into the fall. He advised the use of every bit of ground, no matter how small, in the production of some kind of vegetable.

Aided by excellent moving pictures, which made memorable the many excellent hints given, Dr. Sinclair explained the making of hotbeds, the digging and fertilizing of soil, the sowing of seeds, watering, weeding, and cultivating. Schemes for destroying insects and grubs were discussed, the sprinkling of salt beside the rows of radishes and of wood charcoal beside onions being recommended. The keeping of chickens for the purpose of keeping plants free from grubs was also mentioned. The cultivation of asparagus and rhubarb came in for some attention, and pictures of various garden implements were shown and commented upon.

## O. A. C. MEN IN FRANCE SPEEDING PRODUCTION

Graduates of Ontario Agricultural Col-  
lege Helping French Farmers.

A number of graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College, who are attached to different branches of the Canadian army in France, have been taken out of the ranks and are now serving as ex-  
perts in speeding up agricultural pro-  
duction in France, according to a letter received by Dr. Creelman, commissioner of agriculture, from his son, Sgt. J. M. Creelman, B. S. A. The idea is to first help the French farmers to greater pro-  
duction, and in addition to produce this summer sufficient potatoes and fresh vegetables to last the Canadian troops for a year. "It is a big job, but one well worth trying," he writes, adding, that much can be learned from the French farmers, especially in horticulture.

Sgt. Creelman states that while working with his battery at the front he received a telegram ordering him to report for duty with the agricultural de-  
partment.

It Worked Well Overseas.  
E. H. Fraser of Welland approved the bill. He said he had spent some time last summer in England and France, where daylight-saving had been at-  
tended with favorable results. Major Mc-  
Gibbon, Muskoka, spoke similarly.

Joshua First Daylight-Saver.  
R. W. Jacobs, Montreal, said he was in support of the bill, at any rate as a war measure. He wished, however, to correct a slight inaccuracy of Sir George Foster's in introducing the measure. The minister of trade and commerce had stated that daylight-saving had originated in Germany. "The minister of trade and commerce," said Mr. Jacobs, "evi-  
dently overlooked the fact that my great ancestor, Joshua, commanded the sun to stand still some 3,000 years ago and it was in his honor that the day was named."

No Sympathy With Farmers.  
Mr. Jacobs declared that he had no sympathy at all with the farmers. "We in the cities," he said, "are forced to pay exorbitant prices charged by the farmers. It is my belief that they are opposed to us working out little garden plots in slight areas in order to reduce prices. That is probably one reason why they are opposing the bill."

Among the other advocates of the measure were W. D. Cowan of Regina; H. H. Stevens, Vancouver; T. M. Tweed, Calgary; Fred. E. Nease, W. D. B. of North Waterloo; Alphonse Verville, Montreal; Hon. W. S. Fielding, Queen's University; T. D. D. of Truro, Nova Scotia; W. F. Maclean, South York; while opposition was voiced by George Boyce, Carleton, Ont.; Donald Macleod, South Oxford; A. R. McMaster, Brant; S. F. Glass, Middlesex; F. N. McCrean, Sherbrooke; P. T. Pelletier, Matane; Dr. J. F. Molloy, Provence, and A. B. Copp, Westmorland.

Alberta's Work For  
FARM EDUCATION

Of the total grant of \$215,081 which was made by the dominion government under the agricultural instruction act, to be spent by the province of Alberta from 1913 to 1917, the sum of \$124,000 has been expended on the operation and maintenance of the three schools of agriculture, \$25,000 on equipment and buildings, and \$17,000 in connection with demonstration farms.

There are seven demonstration farms in the province. These are situated at Medicine Hat, Claresholm, Oils, Sedgewick, Vermilion, Stony Plain and Athabasca. At three of them—Oils, Claresholm and Vermilion—agricultural schools have been established. The cost of the principal buildings has been met by the province; the cost of equipment and maintenance, including staff salaries, and of some minor building extensions, has been met for the most part by the federal grant.

The work of the schools is divided into two divisions—agriculture and house-  
hold science. The main object is to equip farm boys and girls for farm life. About 500 students have passed through the schools since their establishment three years ago.

A course in farming for returned sol-  
diers is now being offered at the Oils school. As in the regular course, special emphasis is placed on practical rather than on theoretical and scientific work.



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## CAMPAIGN FOR 15,000 BOYS Government's Plans in Operation to Get Youths to Work on Farms

(Toronto Star, Monday.)  
The Ontario government's campaign to enroll 15,000 boys between the ages of fifteen and nineteen for farm work commences today and it is hoped by the end of the week that the whole 15,000 who are asked to sign up as "soldiers of the soil" will be enrolled. It is hoped that the enrollment will be completed this week in order that the farmers may know as soon as possible the number of boys who will be able in order that they will increase their acreage. The enrollment blank which the boys are asked to fill out, contains several questions regarding the amount of their experience and the length of time they are willing to work. The minimum wage is \$10 a month and board.

Wm. R. Cook, Ontario Boys' Work Secretary National Council of Y. W. C. A., has been appointed by the Ontario gov-

ernment and the Canada Food Board to supervise the work in Ontario. Today fifteen workers were sent out through the province to organize the work. An enrollment officer will be in each High School and Collegiate Institute and each town and each district in the province. These men will enroll the boys in the shops, factories and stores. The representatives of the Organization of Resources Committee are to a large extent being used as the enrollment officers. Dr. W. A. Riddell says that the average age of the boys who are being enrolled last year was eighteen, while the range of ages extended from twelve to forty. In addition to the 15,000 boys who, it is hoped, will be secured by the "soldiers of the soil" campaign, 7,500 will be secured for spring sowing and 12,500 for harvest work.

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