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THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

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Our Ottawa Letter

Conscription Bill Explained—Bill and Dan to get Help—Income Tax coming

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Ottawa, June 15.—Events have been moving with great celerity at the capital this week. Many things have happened, or are likely to happen, with a rapidity that is almost bewildering. The government has decided to do many things which ministers in months past have assured the house could not be done. Such is the effect of criticism within and without the house, and the desire to please as many people as possible with an election a probability in the near future.

The details of the selective conscription proposal were forthcoming on Monday, but since then it has been announced that there is to be income tax legislation and a Dominion food controller. A controller of fuel has already been named in the person of C. A. McGrath, former member of parliament for Medicine Hat and a commission to control the marketing and export of grain has been named.

The announcement of the details of the conscription bill have not done anything to clarify the political situation. Hon. E. L. Patenaude, secretary of state, has resigned from the cabinet, the French Canadian supporters of the government are in a panic, and most of them will undoubtedly bolt when a vote is taken on the second reading, while the Liberal party is still split up the back and, apparently, seeking in vain for a common ground on which they can unite in opposing the bill. The nearest guess that can be made at the present time is that on the second reading of the Bill, which will be moved on Monday, the opposition will move an amendment favoring a referendum. This will receive support from probably the majority of the party but when the main motion is voted upon it is likely that the Liberals will divide largely upon racial lines, the French members voting against conscription and the majority of the English members voting for it. Similar conditions will prevail on the government side.

Subsequent to the introduction of the bill the Liberals met in caucus, where it is understood a variety of opinion was expressed. It was finally agreed to appoint a committee of five to draft an amendment on which the party might agree. What success is attending the efforts of this committee the developments of next week will show.

Conscription of Wealth

Meanwhile Hon. George P. Graham has given notice of a resolution which is likely to receive the united support of the opposition. As a matter of fact it is stated that if it is moved in the house, on a bill, it may be accepted by the government. It is as follows:

"In the opinion of this house it is desirable that steps should be taken by the government to provide the accumulative wealth should contribute immediately and effectively to the cost of the war, and that all agricultural, industrial, transportation and natural resources should be organized forthwith so as to insure the greatest possible assistance to the Empire and the war and reduce the cost of living to the Canadian people."

Aid to Railways

The railway situation is also beginning to loom large on the horizon, the indications at the time being that the legislation to be introduced will not provide for a complete nationalization of the Canadian Railways, other than the Canadian Pacific, as recommended in the Drayton-Arworth report. A conservative caucus was held on Wednesday at which individual expression of opinion were invited and it was semi-officially announced subsequently that while nationalization would not likely be proposed this session owing to difficulties of financing an initial move might be made in that direction. It was also intimated that all the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern Railways require in order to meet their obligations is a cool twenty-five millions, sixteen of which would go to the Mackenzie-Mans enterprises. That they will get the assistance and that

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