

offering for carriage, and, although the vessels are making their voyages regularly, and carrying capacity cargoes, the freight offering is far over and above the capacity of the vessels. That makes complaints rife at both ends. Exporters in the West Indies cannot get their stuff out, and importers cannot get in the produce they have ordered from Canada; and exactly the same condition prevails at the Canadian end. I have been in close touch with the work of this company, and also with the complaints of patrons of the line. I think the company is doing everything it possibly can in the way of carrying what offers, and also in the way of distributing it as far as it possibly can so as to aid each class of its patrons and avoid filling up the vessels with the produce of one particular class only. But it is absolutely impossible for that line to carry the sugar and molasses which is lying in the West Indies on order at the present time; it is an absolute impossibility for them to overtake the amount that is required to be carried, and some other method will have to be found; such a method, for instance, as a tramp service, and I see that private parties have arranged for a schooner to bring molasses to the city of St. John. Under pressure from the department, the company is doing all it possibly can to get another vessel for that service; but the fact that more than 80 per cent of the commercial tonnage of that large company is now under requisition by the British Admiralty and in service for war purposes, and they find it almost impossible to get a vessel. I think everything is being done that possibly can be done to meet the difficulties of the situation and to serve all classes of their patrons. I have had similar complaints from Quebec and other places myself, and have tried to explain the situation to them.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: The complaint which I have is that the company discriminates between the freight offering: it takes sugar in preference to molasses, because it is a more profitable and more convenient cargo.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: As far as I possibly could, I have brought before the company the necessity of proceeding upon the plan I have just stated, namely, that of distributing the freight as equally as possible among their patrons.

## MILITARY DISTRICT No. 12—SASKATCHEWAN.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. KEMP: Yesterday my hon. friend from Saskatoon (Mr. McCraney) inquired with regard to the boundaries of certain military districts. The province of Saskatchewan has been created into a military district, to be known as No. 12, with headquarters at Regina, and a general order to that effect was approved by His Royal Highness the Governor General on the 16th instant.

Mr. McCRANEY: Have the headquarters been designated?

Mr. KEMP: Yes, at Regina.

## RELIEF OF GRAIN CONGESTION.

### GRAIN ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

On the order for the third reading of Bill No. 58, to amend the Canada Grain Act—Sir George Foster:

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Being ardently desirous of as quiet a life as possible both here and hereafter—

Mr. ROGERS: Especially hereafter.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER:—I have, after some consultation with hon. gentlemen opposite, come to the conclusion to move:

That Bill No. 58 be not now read the third time, but that it be referred to the Committee of the Whole House to amend clause "e" of that Bill by striking out the words "relieve congestion and."

The effect of that will be to confine the discretion given to the Board of Grain Commissioners to the relief of grain which is insufficiently housed and therefore liable to damage and injury.

Motion agreed to, and the House went into committee on the Bill, Mr. Rhodes in the Chair.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I beg to move:

That the words "relieve congestion and" in clause "e" be struck out.

The clause will then read:

Whenever after due examination the board considers it necessary and advisable in order to facilitate the despatch of grain which is insufficiently housed and liable to become damaged or injured.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I think I can assure my hon. friend of peace, for this afternoon at any rate, by reason of his having come to a better way of thinking, and meeting