

GRAPHIC - LIBERAL PRINTING COMPANY, LIMITED

PUBLISHERS OF

The Daily Graphic : The Manitoba Liberal*The Oakville Standard : The Langruth Herald*

CENTRAL MANITOBA'S LEADING PUBLICATIONS

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE,
MANITOBA

July 31/24

General Sir Arthur W. Currie,
Director Bank of Montreal,
MONTREAL, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I take the liberty of writing you in the matter of a claim preferred against me by the Bank of Montreal Portage la Prairie branch.

About a year prior to the outbreak of the war the then manager of the Portage branch, R. A. Field, asked if I would do him the favor of helping him out on an accommodation note to be used by him through the bank's branch here as he required the proceeds for his personal finances. This was carried along on that basis until the beginning of the war when I was getting my affairs in shape to leave with the first contingent. I consulted Mr. Field with reference to the note, and he assured me that settlement was arranged. I went overseas with the first contingent, and after some weeks on Salisbury Plains returned on a cable from General Steele in December 1914 to join the 32nd Battalion, and I was in Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie for about six weeks, leaving in February 1915 with the 32nd. During that time I saw Mr. Field on several occasions and he assured me that payment had been made and I would hear no more of the matter, and that I was free from any liability.

I returned to Canada in 1918 and found that Mr. Field was no longer associated with the bank, and was at the time informed by Mr. Bell, the succeeding manager, there was a note held against me for Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) which was the original amount, Mr. Field having paid the interest for a part of the period. I was very much surprised to receive this notice, and explained the matter to Mr. Bell, the manager, and Mr. Sexsmith, the bank solicitor, and showed the original note given me by Mr. Field, which I still have in my possession.

I believe the bank solicitor thoroughly appreciates the fact that Mr. Field secured the money at the time, and I in no sense, benefitted by the loan. My contention is that the bank is morally bound in the matter aside from any legal features. Mr. Field was the recognized manager, and during my acquaintance with him apparently had the full confidence of the bank since he had been promoted from the Accountancy here to Lindsay, Ont., afterwards to the managership at Gretna, Man., and then to Portage as manager. During the time he was located here and the first years the bank was established here I was the Provincial member for the local farming Constituency, and he came to me frequently to secure confidential information as to standing of various farmers and others, and I had materially assisted in an advisory capacity. Because of his apparent success in the bank I had every reason to feel that he possessed their confidence, and his word as manager was good.