

News from Ottawa

Parliament Opened with Royal Splendor—No Tariff Commission.
No Redistribution—Naval Policy Foreshadowed.

(By The Guide Correspondent.)

Ottawa, Nov. 22.—The opening of what promises to be a long and strenuous session of Parliament took place yesterday, but there was nothing in the proceedings to indicate in the slightest measure the hard work ahead. Over on the Senate side, where the Duke of Connaught read the Speech from the Throne, there was the usual crush of womankind bedecked with gowns and jewels which in the aggregate doubtless cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Around the throne stood the Prime Minister in his Windsor uniform with his colleagues, the officers of the headquarters staff and the judges of the Supreme Court in their red robes fringed with ermine. It was just the same scene, although on a somewhat more brilliant scale, that has been witnessed in the Senate chamber every year since Confederation, and which will no doubt be repeated when all the participants in yesterday's function have passed away.

Still Two Parties

Over on the Commons' side there was a large attendance of members, but the proceedings were tame as compared with last year when there was a decidedly breezy debate over the appointments of Speaker Sproule and Deputy Speaker Blondin. After the members had returned to the chamber subsequent to the reading of the Speech from the Throne in the Senate the new members were introduced. The only reminder of party strife came when Alex. Morrison, the new Conservative member for Macdonald, Man., was introduced by Hon. Robert Rogers and Hon. W. J. Roche. Then the government supporters broke into cheers. The Liberals had their turn a moment later when P. J. Cardin, the re-elected member for Richelieu, was brought in to the chamber by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux.

New Departure

Premier Borden was responsible for a new departure in connection with the coming proceedings by not coming to the Commons chamber after the conclusion of the ceremonies on the Senate side. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his predecessors always made a practice of

hastily changing from their Windsor uniform to the conventional frock coat in order to reach the Commons chamber to answer any questions which might be put. The Premier, of course, would be received by an outburst of cheering. This incident was lacking yesterday, and as soon as the Commons returned and the introduction of new members was over Hon. Robert Rogers proceeded to put the formal motions, concluding with one providing for an adjournment of the House until Monday when the debate on the address will be proceeded with. Not a word of comment was made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier or any of his followers, no questions were asked and the House adjourned without the interchange of a word across the floor of the House. In this respect the opening was unique and it was due no doubt to the absence of Premier Borden from the chamber.

Manufacturer Safe

The omission from the Speech from the Throne of any reference to a bill to provide for the appointment of a tariff commission as well as the failure of the government to put into the mouth of the Governor-General a statement in regard to redistribution has led to much comment. The lack of a reference to redistribution was half expected, but the apparent dropping in its entirety for the present at least of the bill to establish a permanent tariff commission came as a distinct surprise to everybody. As stated in the last letter the government has semi-officially announced that it does not propose to do much with the tariff until action has been taken by the special session of the United States Congress summoned by President-elect Wilson. It was thought, however, that the government would go ahead with its proposal to establish a permanent tariff commission in order that information on which later action might be based could be gathered. Back of its decision not to do this there must lie an interesting explanation which will doubtless be forthcoming in due course. The decision of the government will have the effect of strengthening the hands of the steel interests in their demand for a special Royal Commission to inquire into their demands for an increase in duties. A fair inference would seem to be that any tariff changes which are made this session will be of a trivial character and that the protected interests will have nothing to fear for the next twelve months at least.

Redistribution Troubles

The present determination of the ministry not to bring down a Redistribution bill this session may be shaken later on. While a number of the ministers, who are anxious to have the House rise not later than May 1, are exceedingly anxious not to attempt to pass this important measure, I understand that the government's decision is not altogether pleasing to its supporters in the West. They will bring the matter up at the first caucus and make it clear to the Premier and his colleagues that the omission of a Redistribution bill from the Parliamentary program is bad politics as well as being a course which may result in a serious injustice to the West should anything happen to make an election unavoidable in the course of the next year. The Premier will be strongly urged to bring in a bill, even if it should prolong the session of Parliament until June, and it would not be surprising if the request of the Conservative members, coupled with the strenuous kicks which will be made by the Opposition, will result in the government changing its present attitude in regard to this important matter.

Naval Policy Foreshadowed

The Speech from the Throne as a matter of fact was remarkable rather for what it did not contain than for the announcements made therein. Several bills of considerable importance which the government is almost certain to introduce this session were not referred to. The reference to the naval proposals

were illuminating in regard to one point only, and that was that Premier Borden and his ministers are convinced as a result of their trip to London that the Imperial navy needs to be strengthened, and that the Dominion proposes to do its part at an early date. This general statement doubtless foreshadows a contribution of considerable proportion. It is rumored that the emergency gift will be coupled with an agreement that the ships to be built with the money given to Canada will revert to this country in the event of the government deciding later on as a permanent policy to build a Canadian navy, and that on account of this the Liberal opposition to the proposal is not likely to be very pronounced. Should this be true, the opposition to the emergency proposal would be confined to the Nationalists. Montreal despatches state that Hon. F. D. Monk is ill and will be unable to attend the sittings of Parliament before January. His absence should detract much from the interest in the debate. Should the emergency proposal not be coupled with any such stipulation as mentioned, the Opposition, while discussing the details, will not vote against the grant. They will assume the attitude that the ministers having consulted with the Imperial government must take full responsibility for the assertion that an emergency exists sufficient to justify the transfer of millions of Canadian money to the British Exchequer, for naval pur-

poses. Incidentally, they will defend the policy of a Canadian-built and manned navy such as was provided for in the Laurier naval bill of two sessions ago.

Enlarging the Senate

The Speech from the Throne, while not providing for a Redistribution bill, announces that a measure will be introduced to give the Senate two additional members from each of the three Prairie Provinces. The introduction of this bill may afford a means of forcing the government to bring down a general plan of redistribution for the Commons. It was asserted today by more than one prominent Liberal Senator that the bill to increase the membership of the Upper House will not be passed by that body unless the Commons redistribution measure is brought down. If this decision is adhered to the government will have to accede to the demand or dis-appoint half a dozen supporters of the West who are anxious to get the vacancies to be created in the upper chamber. At a caucus today, Sir George Ross, former premier of Ontario, was appointed leader of the opposition in the upper house to succeed the late Sir Richard Cartwright. There was a determined effort to name a Western man in the person of Senator Bostock, of British Columbia, but Sir George proved to be too strong and was elected by a vote of 25 to 20. Neither of the candidates attended the caucus.

Strike Causes Grain Blockade

Fort William, Ont., Nov. 23.—Although C.P.R. officials at Winnipeg state that the strike of the railway brotherhood has nothing to do with the partial embargo placed upon the landing of grain, and that the lack of boats to take it away from Fort William is the cause of the congestion, they do not attempt to tell the same story here.

So far as the actual handling of the cars of grain is concerned, the C.P.R. has sufficient labor, but the clerical staff has been so disorganized by the strike that they are unable to issue outturns fast enough to keep up with the unloading. It is of no use to have grain lying in the elevators when the owner cannot get the outturns which represent it, and at present a good deal of the work is two weeks behind.

The C.P.R. made the statement that boats were not coming in fast enough to take out the grain, but they carefully refrained from mentioning why they did not come. One elevator has for the past two weeks never seen a day when it had not at least 400,000 bushels in store, which it could not load out because no outturns had been received, and other houses have been in exactly the same condition for somewhat small amounts. There has certainly been no delay in loading boats once the necessary documents were obtainable to permit of the purchase and loading of the grain, but that has been due to the efficiency of the Lake Shippers' Clearance association, and not to the C.P.R.

Yard Unloading Congested

Another effect of the strike has been to congest the railway yard. Under the conditions which have prevailed recently, it has frequently happened that trains have not been properly divided, and much delay has ensued. Take a concrete example—the Grain Growers' Company have two unloading tracks at elevator B, each capable of unloading four cars at once. The other day a train was run in and in the first four cars on track 1 two were for elevator "B" and two for the Empire elevator, a quarter of a mile away. On the other track three of the cars run in were for "B" and one for the British American. Result: Instead of elevator "B" unloading eight cars, it was only unloading five, and, in the meantime, two other elevators were waiting for cars which they should have been unloading at the same time.

Steamers Lose Trips

Again, steamers unloading package freight have been seriously delayed in getting cargoes unloaded from this same lack of clerical help. These boats would have taken out grain, and some at least of them have lost a trip through the delay. And the same applies to coal. What is the best proof that there has been delay? The C.P.R. are noted as

very prompt collectors of freight, but not one dollar of freight have they collected since the strike started from any one of the five elevators in Fort William outside their own. They have been delivering to these houses at the rate of 500 cars a day for twenty days, and the average freight per car is \$100, or just around \$1,000,000 of freight owing by elevators to the C.P.R.

This is the third week there has been no return from C.P.R. elevators as to amount in store, grades, etc. Elevators complain that even when outturns of cars are received they are frequently incorrect, occasioning still further delay. These things are all happening at a time when, in order to make the most of a late season, everyone should be working to the best possible advantage.

AGRICULTURAL CREDITS

Ottawa, Nov. 22.—Arthur Meighen, Portage la Prairie, gives notice that he will move: "That in the opinion of this house, the question of bringing about a better and cheaper system of agricultural credits should receive the early attention of the government."

Hon. H. R. Emmerson has given notice of a resolution, declaring that in view of the general feeling throughout Canada that express rates are intolerably high, the railway board should make a thorough investigation of the whole question of freight rates, covering dividends paid by the companies for the past five years, with a view to remedying conditions now complained of.

WHO ARE THE GENTLEMEN?

A disgraceful riot in the British House of Commons is started by aristocrats. They hurl epithets like "traitors" and "apes" at the responsible ministers of the Crown, and finally resort to physical violence.

A battle royal is threatened when "Will Crooks, the Labor member, poured oil on the troubled waters by starting the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne.'"

If the cases had been reversed, what lectures we should have read on the decline of the fine old aristocratic manners of the House of Commons, caused by the entrance of the Labor members and other representatives of the common people.

Democracy never was more triumphantly vindicated than when the British House of Commons, converted into a bear garden by the members of the privileged classes, is recalled to decency and commonsense by a workingman.—Toronto Star.

The latest fad of the Viennese fashionable woman is to be seen out walking with a pet dog, the color of whose coat, natural or dyed, matches her own toilet.

FARMERS' STEEL AND WIRE CO.

The Grain Growers' Guide has received from the farmers a number of complaints in regard to the Farmers' Steel and Wire company, of Regina. The Guide endeavored to investigate the affairs of the company, and set forth the nature of the complaints in a letter to the company. In reply, the company could not state when the annual meeting would be held, first intimating that it would be in November, and, later on, December. The company also stated in August that the government auditor was at work on their books, and that they would send a copy of their financial statement to The Guide as soon as it was ready. It has not yet been received. As to the financial standing of the company, The Guide was referred to the Bank of Nova Scotia at Regina. But on application, the manager of the bank informed The Guide that he could give no information whatever as to the affairs of the company. Under the circumstances The Guide cannot give any guarantee of the standing of this company. The fact that three advertisements of the company were published in The Guide in July and August gave more or less of a moral guarantee of the reliability of the company. On this account and in consideration of the above facts The Guide hereby withdraws any endorsement of this company. This statement is made because of the facts given above and which the publication of the advertisements may have given on the part of The Guide.

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE.