

A Special Word to Subscribers

When you receive a pink notice attached to this page it shows that your subscription is about to expire. Please renew at once, using the blank coupon and the addressed envelope which will also be enclosed. We always give several weeks' notice so that subscribers will have plenty of time to forward their renewals and not miss any copies of The Guide. Please do not delay in forwarding your renewal when you receive PINK notice, as we cannot supply back copies that may be missed. By acting promptly you will not only get every copy, but also assist us in giving you our very best service. When requesting a change of address, please give us three weeks' notice. Send \$1.00 for one year, or we shall be glad to have you take advantage of our special offer of \$2.00 for three years. Always use postal or express money orders when remitting. If the date of the address label on your Guide is not changed within a month after you send your renewal, please notify us at once.

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

"Equal Rights to All and Special Privileges to None"
A Weekly Journal for Progressive Farmers

Published under the auspices and employed as the Official Organ of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and the United Farmers of Alberta.



The Guide is the only paper in Canada that is absolutely owned and controlled by the organized farmers—entirely independent, and not one dollar of political, capitalistic or special interest money is invested in it.

GEORGE F. CHIPMAN, Editor and Manager
Associate Editors: John W. Ward and Ernest J. Trott
Home Editor: Francis Marion Beynon

Authorized by the Postmaster-General, Ottawa, Can., for transmission as second class mail matter.

Subscriptions and Advertising

Published every Wednesday. Subscriptions in the British Empire \$1.00 per year. Foreign subscriptions \$1.50 per year. Single copies 5 cents.

Advertising Rates

Commercial—16 cents per agate line.
Livestock—14 cents per agate line.
Classified—4 cents per word per issue.
No discount for time or space on any class of advertising. All changes of copy and new matter must reach us seven days in advance of date of publication to ensure insertion. Reading matter advertisements are marked "Advertisement." No advertisement for patent medicines, liquor, mining stock, or extravagantly worded real estate will be accepted. We believe, thru careful enquiry, that every advertisement in The Guide is signed by trustworthy persons. We will take it as a favor if any of our readers will advise us promptly should they have reason to doubt the reliability of any person or firm who advertises in The Guide.

Our Ottawa Letter

Laurier, White and Dr. Clarke Speak on Budget—Railways
Secure More Legislation

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Ottawa, March 12.—The present session of Parliament has lost its chance of going down in history as the only "divisionless" session ever held. There is to be at least one division, and it will be on the budget. Early in the week it became apparent, after several Liberal caucuses, that the party had decided to take the plunge and oppose the so-called "war" taxation proposals of the government. Much of the credit for this decision, if credit it be, must be given to the representatives of the three prairie provinces who met in caucus and unanimously agreed that objection should at least be taken to the increase in the duties on British goods. The amendment as submitted by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the close of his speech on Wednesday afternoon was more general in character, but its most specific reference was to the British preference, while that portion of his speech relating to this change in the tariff was the most striking paragraph in a concise and brilliant effort. The weak point in the Liberal position undoubtedly is that, apart from the most desirable demand for retrenchment, the amendment does not cover any constructive policy nor suggest any alternative proposals in the way of taxation. Liberals admit this, but claim that their object in criticizing the government's action is not based upon any desire to force an election during the war time; that the outlining of a definite platform at this juncture would constitute a challenge, and that if the government does call an election it must do so upon its own responsibility, while the Liberals will have some alternative policy to offer to the country. Time alone can reveal the genuineness of this explanation of the lack of definite counter proposals in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's amendment, which was as follows:—

"This house is ready to provide for the exigencies of the present situation and to vote all necessary ways and means to that end, but it regrets that in the measure under consideration duties are imposed which must be oppressive upon the people whilst yielding little or no revenue, and that the said measure is particularly objectionable in the fact that instead of favoring, it is placing extra barriers against Great Britain's trade with Canada, at a moment when the Mother Country is under a war strain unparalleled in history."

Sir Wilfrid's Speech

Sir Wilfrid devoted the opening portion of his speech to a justification of the decision of his party to offer an objection to the war measures. That he did so would appear to be a good indication that some doubt existed as to whether, in view of the unprecedented war conditions, this should be done. He argued that while it was the duty of the opposition to give its unanimous proposals to all efforts on the part of the government to aid the Mother Country in the present titanic struggle, it was not the duty of the

Liberals to abdicate their rights of criticism.

Sir Wilfrid went on to say that it would not necessarily follow that as a consequence of the war the opposition should abdicate its functions and sit in Parliament as recording machines, simply to register the decisions of the government. "We are," he said, "still of the opinion that the war is the supreme issue, but if we believe that in the method of carrying on the war, in the policy proposed by the government, there be errors of judgment or otherwise, then it is our imperative duty to cry, 'stop'; to show the mistakes, to point out the true course, and to use every endeavor to prevent the mistakes from being carried into effect."

The opposition leader then quoted from the Saturday Review and newspaper articles to prove that the right of the opposition to criticize had been recognized in England and that in addition the opposition had been consulted by the Asquith government in regard to all its preparations for military operations. Had the Liberal party in Canada been consulted it would have been pleased to give its views. "But," said Sir Wilfrid, "we were not consulted. I do not complain of this, I have no right to complain, but my hon. friend the finance minister has no right to complain if today we have to take issue with him."

After Sir Wilfrid had dealt with financial conditions along the lines of the speech of Mr. MacLean with the object of showing that the country might better have adopted a policy of retrenchment, he came to the new tariff increases. He described the claim of the minister of finance that this is a war tariff as a mere pretence. Coming to the British preference he referred to the war. He said that Germany had recently adopted new tactics and one of her tactics is to destroy the trade of Great Britain. She had surrounded the British Isles with a cordon of submarines. Only that day three ships had been sunk in that way. On top of all this, all the trade that might escape the submarines and reach its destination in Canada would fall under the taxation scheme of the Canadian government. He was aware that the British preference never was popular with a large section of the Conservative party. They never dared attack it openly; they waited for their opportunity, and England's danger they made their opportunity. In closing he said: "When Parliament met on the 4th of February last we were prepared to go far with our friends on the other side of the House in these strenuous times; we were prepared to give up a good many of our own ideas in order to meet them; we were prepared to make sacrifices in order to have unanimity of opinion; but we were not prepared to go that far, and that far we shall not go. Today, therefore, we have to part company."

White on Liberal Extravagance

The closing words of the opposition

leader were followed by ringing cheers from the Liberal benches which intermingled with Conservative cheers as Hon. W. T. White, minister of finance, rose to reply. Mr. White said that the government was prepared to meet fairly and squarely the issue which had been presented to them by the amendment. He then proceeded to deal with the arguments of A. K. MacLean in favor of retrenchment, stating that Mr. MacLean as an associate of the late Liberal government was quite at home on the topic of extravagance. "I say," said Mr. White, "that the late government were the inventors, the originators, the parents, progenitors and propagators of the most inordinate, reckless, purblind and wilful extravagance that this country or any other British country has ever known."

Having hurled this remarkable sentence at the opposition, Mr. White proceeded at great length to discuss the effect of the war on trade conditions and the tariff changes. He said that in various papers the suggestion had been made that the increased revenue might be raised by a tax on land. He said the government could not wait on the slow process of a measure of taxation upon unoccupied land or income taxes. Moreover, he had to bear in mind that under the British North America Act the provincial governments are limited to direct taxation. He believed it a sound principle that unless the national necessities imperatively so demand the Dominion government should not invade the field to which the provinces are presumably confined. In regard to the British preference, Mr. White said that altho the government had raised the British preferential rate it had really increased the preference or advantage to the British manufacturer in the Canadian market. The list of free goods representing importations from Great Britain totalled \$25,000,000. The position of the British manufacturer was that in regard to free goods he was competing on even terms with foreign nations in the Canadian market. The position today was that his preference had been increased and he was in a better position than before the introduction of the budget. Towards the close of his remarks Mr. White expressed the view that the opposition leader had introduced his amendment because of a guilty conscience in connection with the naval proposal of a couple of years ago. He believed that all the amendments, whether relating to the preference or otherwise, which Sir Wilfrid Laurier might move now, or at any other time, will never obliterate the memory of the action which he took in connection with the naval question.

Dr. Michael Clarke

Dr. Michael Clarke, of Red Deer, followed with a speech which has been received with high praise in independent quarters. Perhaps no better idea could be conveyed of his performance than by quoting an appreciative editorial reference

which appears today in the Ottawa Citizen, which says:—

"In spite of the provocative partisan reference made by Hon. W. T. White to the fraudulent Canadian naval policies of 1913, Dr. Clarke followed the government spokesman by paying a high tribute to the statesmanship and ability of Sir Robert Borden. He expressed, with evident sincerity, the satisfaction he felt regarding the prompt measures the prime minister had taken when war broke out and which had been continued; and Dr. Clarke as a leading opposition critic proceeded to do a seldom heard of thing in Canadian public life, he commended the leader of the government upon having secured 'a niche in the temple of fame of great Canadians.'"

"Having restored the much needed note of reasonableness and British fair-play to the budget debate, and having defined the difference between supporting a policy and supporting the way that policy might be carried out, Dr. Clarke proceeded to pour broadside after broadside of destructive criticism into the government's method of raising revenue. Furthermore, while he exposed the fallacy of the protectionist position he also offered constructive and progressive ideas and proposals as an alternative to the government's way of tariff taxation."

"Dr. Clarke's masterly scorn of petty partizan tricks and taunts and broad-minded outlook may not have been understood by short-sighted party opportunists, but it should be understood and appreciated by the country. Canada has had enough of bi-partizan rivalry, leading nowhere but to office-holding at any cost. What the country is most in need of is leadership and public spirit. It has had enough of opportunism and partizan narrowness."

For Income and Land Taxes

Dr. Clarke followed up his condemnation of the tariff by suggesting income taxes and a tax upon land values. The income tax he pointed out was successfully used in Great Britain, United States and Germany, and had recently been adopted as a war measure in Russia. He believed that a heavy tax on big incomes would be a popular form of taxation and very much better than many of the vexatious stamp duties which the finance minister had proposed. Referring to Australia and the magnificent part she was playing in the war, Dr. Clarke said the sister dominion had raised \$5,000,000 by a federal probate duty and \$13,500,000 by a land tax, in addition to the probate and land taxes collected by the states. Land value taxation was also attracting increased attention in England and in the United States. It had been employed with a very great degree of success in the Western provinces of Canada for municipal purposes, and the Grain Growers of the prairie provinces, as well as the Grange of Ontario and the United Farmers of Ontario, had thru

Continued on Page 25