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FLAX GROWERS MUST TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES

Sir George Foster Sidesteps
Issue and Denies the
Responsibility.

OPPOSITION CRITICIZES

Declare Govt. Encouraged the
Farmers To Grow Flax
Extensively.

OTTAWA, March 31.—(By Canadian Press.)—Bounties on linen yarn and crude petroleum occupied the House today. For the greater part the House was in supply of trade and commerce estimates, and discussion followed a placid course. A. R. McMaster (Brome) charged that the petroleum business was profitable and there was no need to assist it with bounties. "It's rank raving lunacy," Mr. McMaster declared. "But," retorted Sir George Foster, minister of trade and commerce, "the policy of paying bounties to producers of crude petroleum was inaugurated by a Liberal Government."

"Then," rejoined Mr. McMaster, "conditions were no doubt different when the policy was inaugurated." Keen Criticism.
On the question of flax and linen yarn there was some opposition criticism that farmers had been encouraged to grow flax and now found themselves with a crop on their hands. What advice, it was asked, had Sir George to offer?

Sir George held that he would be a pretty bold man who would take the responsibility of giving advice in such a case. The producer must decide for himself. There had been no direct intention on the part of the Government to encourage farmers to grow flax. The bounty had been given to encourage production of linen thread during the war. He thought farmers had grown flax rather because of high prices than because of the bounty.

Asking Confirmation.
When the House opened this afternoon P. Michaud (Restigouche) on the orders of the day, quoted a newspaper dispatch from Portland, Me., alleging proposed construction work by the G. T. R., which would involve an expenditure of some half million dollars. Hon. Dr. Reid, minister of railways, said he had written to Howard G. Kelly, president of the G. T. R. for confirmation or otherwise. The reply received was that no such work was contemplated, present plans merely involving renewals of wharf pilings. Hon. Charles Murphy quoted a press report of a speech made by Premier Massey of New Zealand in which Mr. Massey expressed the view that the formation of an imperial executive was near at hand. Mr. Murphy asked if the prime minister had any knowledge of the proposed creation of such an imperial cabinet.

Premier's Reply.
The prime minister: "The conception embodied in the dispatch may be in accordance with the mind and intention of the prime minister of New Zealand I have never subscribed to it."

The House then went into supply on the trade and commerce estimates. E. Lapointe (Quebec East) protested that the premier had promised consideration of the labor estimates today. Mr. Lapointe remarked that he had something to say "about the premier presiding over the department and of his work."

"The first trade and commerce item under consideration was a package of \$3,000 for bounties to producers of crude petroleum. Lucien Cannon (Dorchester) asked whether these bounties were paid to the big oil companies as well as to individuals. He did not think that large companies like the Imperial Oil Company should be paid any bounty."

Sir George Foster replied that bounties were paid only to those who produced the oil.
A. R. McMaster (Brome) objected to the bounties of oil producers. The petroleum business was a most profitable one. It was unwise, to say the least, to assist it by bounties.

Sir George Foster: "Cannot my honorable friend make his protest a little stronger?"
Mr. McMaster: "Certainly, I will say that it is rank, raving lunacy to bonus this business."

Sir George replied that the policy of paying bounties to these producers had been inaugurated in 1904 by the Liberal Government and had been reaffirmed by the same Government on different occasions. It was a shame for Mr. McMaster to characterize his own party's policy as "raving lunacy."

In Need of Money.
Mr. McMaster rejoined that conditions were doubtless different when this policy had been inaugurated. Canada was badly in need of money at present and could not afford to pay bounties to a wealthy business. Mr. Cannon asked how much of the bounty the Imperial Oil Company received.

Sir George replied that the larger percentage of it was paid to small producers. Just what the exact amounts were, Sir George was not prepared to say.

Mr. Cannon asked to have the item suspended, owing to the lack of information. To this, Sir George agreed. The next item was a bounty of \$25,000 on linen yarn spun in Canada from Canadian flax. It represents a decrease of \$4,000 as compared with the 1920 bounty.

H. B. Morphy (North Perth) protested against the decrease on the ground that manufacturers of linen were in a most unfortunate position. There was extreme distress in the trade. Some manufacturers were in danger of being ruined.

Relieve Manufacturer.
Sir George explained that the bounty was for the relief of manufacturers.

Mr. Morphy claimed that English warehouses had been for some time full of linen. There was no need for the greater production campaign among flax growers here. Canadian growers were victims of English greed.

John Beet (Dufferin) said if Canadian trade commissioners had done their duty in keeping growers in touch with actual conditions the farmers of Ontario would be in a better position than they are today. Canada should do the same as other flax-producing countries and establish a warehouse at the marketing centre where buyers could inspect the offerings.

In that way growers would obtain the ruling prices.

Dr. W. D. Cowan (Regina) asked if the trade commissioners were getting any support from the manufacturers of Canada. He understood that there were no Canadian salesmen in the foreign field. It looked as though the manufacturers were depending on the trade commissioner to get business for them.

Was Not Intended.
Sir George interrupted that there

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Artistic Ladies' Wear Co.

211 DUNDAS STREET.

WILL NOT OPPOSE SUNDAY STREET CARS

No Protest As Long As Park
Visitors Behave Properly.

ST. THOMAS, March 31.—No open opposition will be given the Sunday street railway service by the local members of the Lord's Day Alliance, so long as the conduct of visitors to the park will not warrant their interference.

The opening of the summer season will see a Sabbath Day service but the cars will mostly be operated in the afternoon. To permit people enjoying the evening hours at the park, the service will be kept open until 9 o'clock. Some of the ministers see in the Sunday innovation reduced congregations at the evening exercises of the churches.

The manager of the street railway system feels that with the approval of the people, Sabbath Day service should be a financial success.

Hiram Clark, an old M. C. R. employee, died last evening at his residence, 41 Erie street, after an attack of anemia in his 69th year. He was

employed in the locomotive department for over 40 years, and retired last May with a pension. He is survived by his widow and son. Herman Clark, London, is a brother. Interment will be in St. Thomas Cemetery Saturday afternoon.

Rev. Jenkins to Speak.
The Kiwanis Club will be addressed at a noon luncheon Monday by Rev. C. E. Jenkins, M.A., B.D., rector of St. Jude's Church, Brantford. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A. will have charge of the service.

A scroll has reached Mrs. S. Gledhill, 89 Chestnut street, from the king to mark the many acts of bravery of her son, Pte. W. Gledhill of the Canadian Infantry.

BLAMES HIGH TAXES ON
LABOR'S SOCIAL SCHEMES
London Ratepayers See Danger of Communism's Grip.

London, March 31.—London is up in arms against the rates of local tax assessments for such purposes as education, the police, the poor, water and fire protection as distinct from the national taxes. While the national taxes are eating up a quarter to a half of the average incomes the local tax rates are soaring in many places until they are the equivalent and more of the housing rents.

Under a long list of distinguished pa-

trons a society is now appealing for funds to defray at all local elections the Labor and Socialist candidates, upon whose grandiose social schemes the taxpayers blame the soaring assessments. Likewise one local board in the borough of Poplar absolutely refused to pay the assessment levied by the London county council for police, asylums and water.

The taxes are calculated upon the rents instead of upon the capital valuation of the property, and in many boroughs the taxes are just the equal of the rents. The taxes are always paid by the tenant.
Though labor has not suffered any great extent in the parliamentary elections they hold a fat majorities on the local boards, and the taxpayers blame them for the elaborate systems of relief for unemployment, costly civil services, fancy settlements, schemes and unsound building ventures. In their fight against the rate raising the heads of the association are making this appeal: "You know Communism got its first grip in Russia through the municipalities. Don't let this happen here."

IN WALLACETOWN 70 YEARS.

WALLACETOWN, March 31.—The funeral took place here this afternoon at Black's Cemetery of Mrs. Helen Gunn, aged 92. She had resided here continuously for 70 years, coming with her husband, the late Hugh Gunn, after her marriage in 1851. She is survived by one daughter, Isabella, at home, and one brother, M. A. McIntyre.

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