

Our Ottawa Letter

C.N.R. Deal Under Discussion—Liberal Amendments Defeated—Hon. Robt. Rogers Opposes Equality of Freight Rates
(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Ottawa, May 29.—This has been mostly a C.N.R. week in parliament and the government's agreement has got safely past the resolution stage. The bill based upon the resolution has been introduced and given first reading, but at the time of writing has still to get a second reading, go thru committee stage and third reading. The fight on the part of the opposition could be prolonged indefinitely, but it is likely that it will be concluded in a day or so. On Thursday when the government sought concurrence in the resolutions the opposition moved a series of three amendments which were voted upon and defeated on majorities ranging from forty to forty-four. Messrs. Bennett and Nicolle, the two government opponents of the bill, were either present for the divisions and voted with the opposition or paired with Conservative members, which amounts to the same thing. Mr. Charlton, the Liberal supporter of the proposals, was absent, but not paired, so it is not known what he would have done had he been present. W. F. Maclean voted twice with the government and once with the opposition, when he stood up for an amend-

ment moved by the Hon. Frank Oliver, calling upon the government to procure from the C.N.R. as a quid pro quo for the concessions given an equalization of the freight rates as between the east and the west. The second amendment voted down was one moved by Duncan Ross calling for an inquiry by a parliamentary committee before aid is granted to the C.N.R. Then Hon. Wm. Pugsley moved an amendment in which he submitted to the house for consideration a policy of his own. This amendment is explained at length in Mr. Pugsley's own words further on.

Dearer Nails

The Customs Act, embodying the tariff changes made in connection with the budget speech was finally disposed of yesterday. During its consideration the fact was brought to light that since the imposition of the duty on wire rods the price of nails has been increased by 25 cents per keg. When the budget debate was under way it was predicted that this would happen and Mr. White declared that if the manufacturers took unfair advantage of their protection they would be attended to. When the increase in the price of nails was brought to the attention of the house the finance minister, with his customary cautions, assured the members that they were quite wrong in assuming that the price of nails had been advanced because of the duty on wire rods. It was because there had been a revival in the building trade. One can always count on a protectionist finding an excuse for protection. W. S. Loggie, a practical dealer, informed the house that this duty would cost the people of Canada just about three-quarters of a million dollars per annum for nails alone.

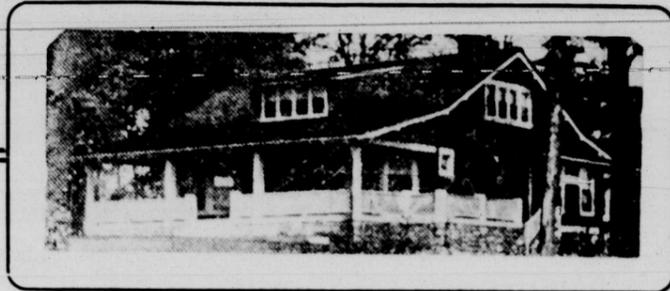
During the early part of the week there was a hope that prorogation would be reached by June 6. The hopes of the members were dashed yesterday, however, when the government trotted out a batch of supplementary estimates making up the tidy total of over seventeen millions. The tax-payers of the west will be delighted to learn that nearly one million of this new batch is for the militia department, which indicates that the efforts of the government, when the main estimates were considered, to hold Hon. Sam Hughes down at least to last year's figures, has signally failed. A large portion of this vote is for the completion of the armories, the construction of which was commenced last year.

The house is still in doubt as to whether the redistribution bill will go thru this session. There are still some differences of opinion in regard to Ontario seats, and both sides are striving to induce the other fellows to give way. The probabilities are that the report will be a practically unanimous one, so it will go thru without delaying the session, because if this legislation is not put thru, the impression will be left upon the minds of the people that the only business done this session was to increase the tariff taxes and to give aid to the railways—more of which is still to come.

G.T.P. To Receive More Aid

At a Conservative caucus held to night the government's proposal to guarantee the bonds of the G.T.P. to the amount of an additional twelve millions required to complete the mountain section was, it is understood, agreed to and notice of the legislation will be given without delay.

On Tuesday night Hon. Dr. Pugsley submitted his alternative C.N.R. policy, which was rejected at a later date. He said it was proposed to increase the capital stock of the C.N.R. to \$100,000,000, to make an increase of \$48,000,000 of watered stock in the Company, to give the government of Canada \$33,000,000 of this watered stock and to make the holdings of the Dominion \$49,000,000 in all. He had stated in a previous speech that from five to ten millions would be an ample stock issue, but by reason of the fact that there is



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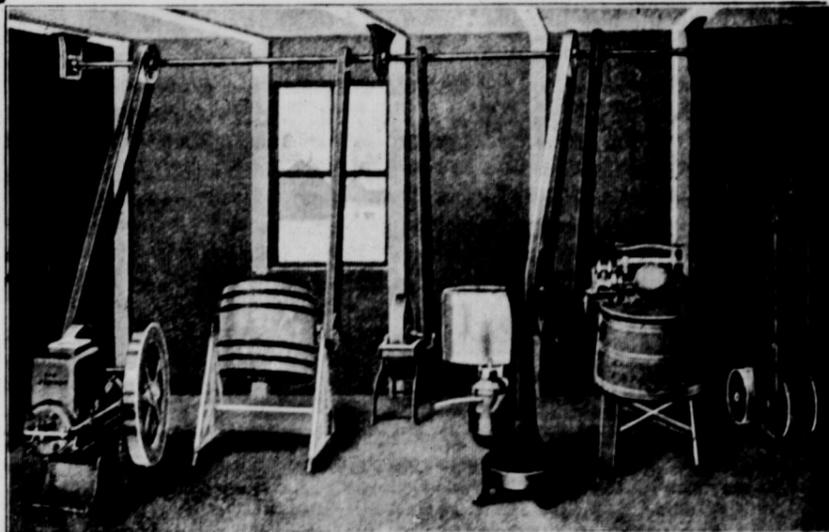
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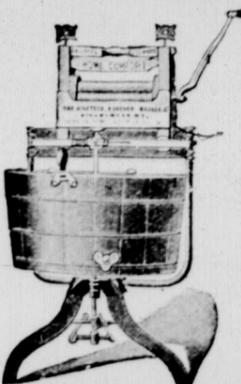
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