

News from Ottawa

Royal Commission Appointed to Investigate Civil Service

By The Guide Special Correspondent

Ottawa, December 22.—The members of the government have been hard at work all week and should be able to spend their Christmas holiday with a clear conscience and the knowledge that, whatever the result of their labors, they have not been loafing on their jobs. Many hours of the cabinet sittings have been devoted to the consideration of supply for the next fiscal year and the framing of legislation to be introduced when the house meets.

The event of the week, politically, has undoubtedly been the appointment of a commission to continue the enquiry commenced by the late government into the administration of the departments, but which confined its efforts to the departments of marine and fisheries and the militia. Coming on the top of a lot of discussion as to the recent dismissals from the outside service the appointment of the commission has excited a great deal of interest and there have been criticisms both favorable and unfavorable. Some criticism has been directed against the personnel of the commission because two of its members, R. S. Lake, ex-M.P. and A. B. Morine, K.C., Toronto, have been active politicians. No exception has been taken to G. N. Duscharme, the Montreal member of the commission who is a retired business man and therefore well qualified for membership on such a body. While those who know Messrs. Lake and Morine personally feel confident that they are not the kind of men who would allow their political leanings to lead them anywhere but in the plain path of duty there is a feeling that it would be better if a commission which is to have sweeping powers of investigation did not include in its membership men who have so recently taken a hand in the political fray. Naturally the Liberal opposition will proclaim that it is a partisan body designed to make vacancies in the service to which insofar as the outside service is concerned Conservatives will be appointed. Judging from what one hears it will also be asserted that once these places have been filled the Civil Service Act will be extended to the outside service. In all probability much of the adverse comment will be unfair and it is all the more to be regretted that the government has not named a body of men for this important work against whom no possible criticism could be levelled. The commission named by the late government was not without blemish, but it was made up of Mr. Courtney, an ex-deputy minister of many years' service, a retired bank manager and a retired business man. None of the three, so far as the writer can recall, took any active part in politics for years previous to their appointment, and they were therefore able to approach their tasks with an open mind. That they did so was clearly

demonstrated in the report which handled certain officials without gloves, as a result of which criticism many heads were decapitated. The new commission will doubtless take up their heavy task in the same disinterested way. More the pity, therefore, that they should be open to some of the objections which have been advanced against them.

Many Lose Positions

Much has been made in the Liberal press of the dismissals from the public service at this the Christmas season. The axe has certainly been swinging with a considerable amount of vigor, not quite so energetically perhaps as has been stated in some quarters, but nevertheless there are a good many people who have been drawing a monthly cheque from the Dominion government who will spend an unhappy Christmas. While it is undoubtedly the case that many of the men laid off were temporary employees who would not have been kept had there been no change of government others have lost their places without warning and without any particular enquiry. That the same thing happened in 1896 is not disputed, but in this connection the thought occurs that the world is fifteen years older than it was when the Liberals swung the axe and that we must surely have made some progress. True, the inside service has been placed under a commission and its members, who are efficient and do not dabble in politics are safe from the politicians. But the unprotected outside service is still in as much peril as ever. Which makes it clear that so long as supporters of members know that it lies within their power to give them positions they will be tempted to rob Peter to pay Paul.

The Elevator Bill

The correspondent of The Guide is informed that the bill to consolidate the Grain and Inspection Acts is to be reprinted shortly and the proposed amendments made ready for the opening of the House. It is stated that the amendments are practically the same as were prepared by Hon. Frank Oliver for insertion in the bill after it passed the Senate. It has been impossible to ascertain whether or not immediate provision will be made for the insertion of a clause authorizing the commissioners to be named to go ahead and purchase terminal elevators. If such a decision is reached the sum provided will be a large one. Both ten and fifteen millions of dollars have been mentioned.

Anniversary of the Delegation

Premier Borden's mail was largely augmented at the close of last week and the beginning of the present week by the arrival of large batches of letters from members of the Western farmers' delegation which travelled to Ottawa in December last. The writers reminded the premier that last Saturday was the first anniversary of their invasion of the capital and that they desired to recall the circumstance that certain demands had been made twelve months ago and that he had subsequently made promises to the farmers of the West. The letters which were invariably written in good taste congratulated Mr. Borden on the fact that he had achieved the premiership. Sir Wilfrid Laurier too got quite a large bunch from members of last year's delegation. Many of the writers thanked him for his efforts to give them a free market for their products in the United States and expressed the hope that, this having failed of realization, the opposition would fight to bring about redress by way of tariff reductions. The reminders received by the premier and the leader of the opposition will no doubt have some little effect on the two men to whom the farmers must look for the redress of their grievances.

Col. Sam and the Nationalists

At the present moment there is some little excitement in Ottawa over the announcement that Henri Bourassa in his paper Le Devoir today made a strong attack on Col. Sam Hughes, minister of militia, who at a banquet given in his honor by the military officers of Montreal advocated a forward military policy. Politicians are wondering if this is only a

GRAIN GROWERS

ARE YOU SATISFIED ?

ARE YOU CONVINCED ?

The reliability of the Commission Merchant who handles your grain is of utmost importance to you. There have been several changes in the personnel of the grain trade during the past year. Some have come and gone, but we are still at your service with a clear record of twenty-nine years in Western Canada.

INVESTIGATE and send your grain and option orders to the Pioneer Grain Commission Merchant.

Box 1746

S. SPINK

Winnipeg

References : Union Bank of Canada, Royal Bank of Canada.

MacLennan Bros. Limited, Winnipeg

Wheat, Oats

Car Lots

Option Trading

Flax, Barley

NET BIDS wired on request. **CONSIGNMENTS** sold to the highest bidder

Agents wanted at all points where we are not represented. Write us at once for terms

Get More Money for Barley

Canadian barley is selling in MINNEAPOLIS from \$.70 to \$1.15 according to quality, and many Canadian shippers can ship there to advantage. Sales made by us there are showing handsome profits, after paying duty and all extra freight charges. Write direct to our Minneapolis office today and send liberal samples. State the amount you have to ship and ask for billing directions.

Randall, Gee & Mitchell, Limited

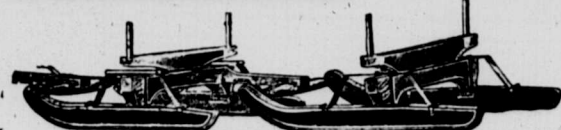
Minneapolis

WINNIPEG

Duluth

A Bob-sleigh at Cost!

Sold on their merits and guaranteed to satisfy



Send us \$2.75 and we ship the Sleigh for your inspection

Heavy Steel Shoe Bob-sleigh \$26.50

We have Gasoline Engines (all sizes), Bob Sleighs, Wagons, Truck Wagons, Feed Cutters, Blowers, Grain Grinders, Pole Saws, Wood Saws, Steel Roofing and Siding, etc., etc., and will ship any article, upon receipt of 10 per cent. of its price, for your inspection.

LOOK THEM OVER, and if satisfactory pay the balance. If not, we return your deposit.

It will pay you to get our catalog and prices. We can give the very highest and most satisfactory references to the farmers.

WRITE US

We can supply Cedar Fence Posts or Lumber in car lots, direct from the mills.

FARMERS' SUPPLY CO. : 937 Logan Avenue

WINNIPEG

Write for Catalogue

MANITOBA

flash in the pan or whether it is the beginning of trouble between the Imperialistic wing of the government and the Nationalists. Interest is lent to the situation by the fact that Hon. F. D. Monk was at the dinner and did not disapprove of his colleague's utterances. The friends of the administration realize that the minister of militia is an enthusiastic extremist insofar as military affairs are concerned and that some of his ideas will doubtless have to be held in check. Perhaps Mr. Bourassa thinks that the time has arrived to put in the first protest.

WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS PLEASE MENTION THE GUIDE

Time alone will tell whether his outbreak against the minister will lead to further trouble.

WORLD SHIPMENTS

	This week	Last week	Last year
Wheat	10,304,000	9,120,000	11,792,000
Corn	4,344,000	4,243,000	5,334,000
Total wheat taken by continental countries 4,568,000, last week 3,923,000, last year 6,273,000.			

Kodaks



Headquarters for Everything Photographic
Write for Illustrated Catalogue

Steele Mitchell, Limited

213 Rupert Ave., WINNIPEG, Man.