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## Our Ottawa Letter

Mackenzie and Mann Still After Money

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Ottawa, March 6.—Since last week there have been some interesting developments in connection with the C.N.R. move for further aid from the Dominion Government. Altho the matter has been a subject of general discussion for at least a fortnight, and Sir William Mackenzie and Sir Donald Mann had been in the Capital on more than one occasion, the unexpected announcement was made on Sunday night by Hon. W. T. White that the company had not applied for a loan and that none would be given. The declaration on the part of the minister of finance came as a surprise and set everybody guessing. It was noticeable, however, that the minister did not state that no "aid" would be given to the C.N.R. Speculation was increased by the somewhat peculiar circumstance that on Saturday last Sir William Mackenzie stated to a Toronto newspaper that the request of the company had been laid before the government and was being considered. The guessing continued for several days and then Sir William Mackenzie and Sir Donald Mann once more arrived on the scene. Sir William was asked to explain the divergence in the statements made by the minister of finance and himself. The railway magnate admitted that Mr. White was quite correct in stating that there had been no formal application for a loan, that is, there had been no application in writing. He maintained, however, that the company was putting its case before the government in the expectation that necessary aid desired to complete and equip the system would be forthcoming. He maintained that it was necessary that this aid should be given not only for the good of the company but for the good of Canada as a whole. There is no doubt that within the past day or two there have been some heart-to-heart talks between Premier Borden, his finance minister, and the big men of the C.N.R. The disposition at the moment in most quarters is to believe that before the session is over the railway men will have their way and that something will be done. In view of the definite announcement by Mr. White that a loan would not be given there is much speculation now as to what form the assistance will take. It is recalled, however, that when the matter of the C.N.R. aid of last year first began to excite the attention of the press definite denials were forthcoming from all parties concerned. Nevertheless the company got away with \$16,000,000 before prorogation took place. It is stated that Sir William Mackenzie will shortly make a trip to the Old Country with the idea of testing the feeling in the financial markets of London as to the prospects for floating another C.N.R. bond issue endorsed by the Government of Canada.

### Has Bennett Wilted?

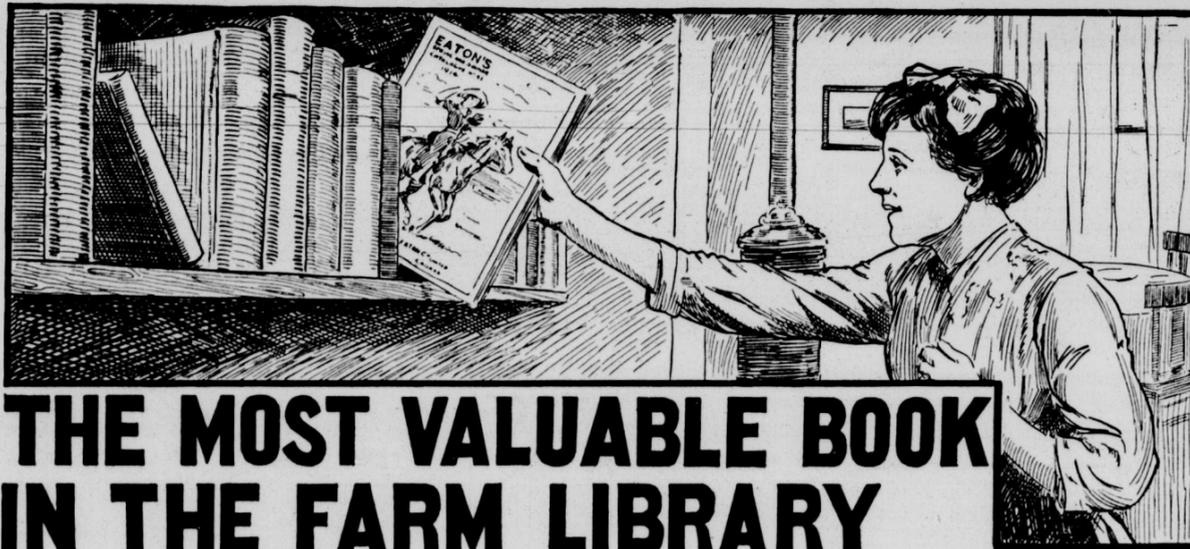
For some reason or another there is not so much talk of insurgency amongst the rank and file of the government supporters and the belief is expressed that whatever proposal is brought down is likely to receive practically unanimous support of the ministerial members.

Just what the Opposition members will do is not known but there has been some speculation because of the fact that Sir Donald Mann this morning waited upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his office and remained with the opposition leader for some time.

The facts would appear to indicate that while the government will not, if it can avoid it, go back on the statement of Mr. White that a loan would not be given, aid of some kind is almost certain to be forthcoming. The favorite guess at the time of writing is that it will be in the form of a fresh guarantee of bonds to the extent of about \$35,000,000. In other words, the government will stand behind Sir William and Sir Donald in their efforts to secure more money to complete their enterprise, but they will allow the railway knights to do their own negotiating in the London market.

There is some speculation as to whether

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