

Jolts the Manufacturers

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Press Gallery, Ottawa, May 3

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association got a good straight talking to in the House of Commons on Monday night. "If the manufacturers have one great enemy in Canada, it is the Manufacturer's Association," said J. G. Turriff, the member for Assinibois, Sask., in the course of a speech in favor of reciprocity. "The Manufacturers' Association," he continued, "have done more to put the people of Canada against the manufacturers than any other individual, or combination, or association could do. Last year, my right hon. friend, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, toured throughout the West, met the farmers, heard their grievances and told them that he would take these matters into consideration. No sooner had he got home than the Manufacturers' Association got up a party to tour the West to counteract the effects that the meetings and delegations of farmers and Grain Growers might have on my right hon. friend. The result of that was to force the Grain Growers and farmers of the West to get up the big delegation that came down here last fall to interview the government and try to press home their arguments.

"When the delegation from the West was in Ottawa I noticed that hon. gentlemen opposite were very anxious to show them around and to be gracious to them and to say what very fine fellows they were just then. Of course, the delegates were asking for something and these gentlemen opposite thought the government was not going to give it to them, and so they posed as friends of the farmers and the Grain Growers. But since this agreement was put before the House which gives the farmers of the West—not all they had asked for in some respects it is true, but in other respects a great deal more than they had asked, and that they had ever expected to get—since then these gentlemen opposite cannot say too much against the Grain Growers' Grain Company which is part and parcel of the Grain Growers' Association of the three Prairie Provinces. Well, my friend in the West, the Grain Growers will know how to size up these gentlemen opposite pretty accurately."

The West and the Tariff

Mr. Turriff did not believe that the West would become a manufacturing country because he thought it would always be cheaper to bring manufactured goods to the West than to transport the raw material and manufacture it there, and he wanted to tell the manufacturers that it would behoove them to be a little careful because the people of the Prairie Provinces, whether they were Liberals or Conservatives, were to a large extent low tariff people. The day had gone when they could make a farmer in the West, or in the East either, believe that protective tariffs protected him, although at the same time he was willing to pay his fair share towards meeting the expenses of the country. There were a good many things on which the tariff must be reduced, but if they got this agreement through and secured the American markets for the products of the Canadian farmer they would have made a great step in the right direction. But if this agreement was not carried into effect there would be a general agitation that would never be put down until there was a reduction in the tariff all round, which would take in a great many more manufactured articles than this agreement dealt with.

Reciprocity Profitable

To illustrate the advantages of the United States market, Mr. Turriff told of a constituent of his who last year had a crop of 2,000 bushels of flax. Practically all the flax from that part of the country went to Duluth, and to get his 2,000 bushels of flax to that market his friend had to pay \$500 in duty which would have gone into his pocket if the agreement had been in force. Three years ago the same man had 3,000 bushels of barley, for which he received 48 cents a bushel, but on the day he sold it he could have got 70 cents a bushel for it if he could have loaded it on the south side of the line a few miles away. Mr. Turriff gave similar illustrations with regard to the sale of cattle, and then turned his attention to Sir Edmund Walker and the Canadian banks.

"From the Canadian Gazette of April 20," he said, "I find, after deducting the

5 per cent. of the circulation which the bankers have to put up to guarantee the notes of all the banks, that the banks of Canada have at the present moment \$77,364,134 of currency, for which they do not pay one cent of interest; they have also deposits of \$478,171,794, that do not bear interest, making a total of \$555,535,925 which they get from the people of Canada absolutely free of cost; and they get that money to loan it out to you and me or anyone else who has to borrow it, at 6 per cent., and when times get a little hard, they squeeze us to pay 7 per cent. In addition they have \$533,034,466 for which they pay at the outside 3 per cent. Then they have at the present time invested in the United States \$149,477,174. As I have said, I quite believe in the policy of putting the banks in a good position. I think it has been all right to give them that currency free. I think it all right for the banks to take that \$149,000,000 down to Uncle Sam's territory and use it to move the southern cotton crop and to loan it out on call loans at from two to fifty per cent., according to the state of the market; because I realize that if they did not do that, they would have the money more or less idle at home. But what I do object to is that while Sir Edmund Walker took the millions from his bank and sent them to New York and Chicago to make money for his shareholders without affecting their loyalty or the loyalty of himself, he thinks that the farmer, who puts up that money, cannot be allowed to sell a steer, or a horse, or a pig, or a carload of barley or flax in the United States without becoming a disloyal man, ready to disrupt the Empire."

COMPENSATION FOR LOSS

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)
Press Gallery, Ottawa, May 9.

The question of the liability of the government to compensate a number of farmers who suffered damage by fire caused by a government threshing outfit on an Indian reserve near Fort Qu'Appelle was discussed in the House of Commons on Monday. The matter was brought up by R. S. Lake, member for Qu'Appelle, who stated that the fire occurred on October 29 last, and was caused by a steam threshing outfit, which was being used to thresh the crops of the Indians on the reserve, being operated while the wind was blowing a gale. The fire burned the separator and ran out over the country doing damage which was estimated by the Mounted Police to amount to between \$8,000 and \$10,000. The Indian agent had been summoned for allowing the fire to run, and had pleaded guilty and been fined \$25. Another thresherman had allowed a fire to get away from his engine and he had to pay for several bins of wheat that had been burned as a consequence, and Mr. Lake thought the government should compensate these farmers who had suffered severe loss through the negligence of a government employee. W. M. Martin, Regina, said he had taken this matter up with the department, but found that, under the law, the government was not liable for the acts of its employees as an individual was. Consequently the sufferers in this case could not recover damages from the government. The minister of the interior, however, had informed him that the government did not wish to take shelter behind any technicality, but had suggested that action should be brought against the man who was in charge of the engine, intimating that whatever damages were awarded against him the government would pay. Hon. Frank Oliver confirmed Mr. Oliver's statement and pointed out that it would be very much more satisfactory to have the damages assessed by the courts than by anyone employed by the government, who might be open to a charge of being influenced by political considerations. He remarked, however, that there had at present been no actual admission of negligence on the part of the engineer, and that point, consequently needed to be settled by the court. The agent, who pleaded guilty and was fined for allowing the fire to run, was not on the reserve at the time. No resolution was moved, and, after the facts had been brought out, discussion was ruled out of order by the speaker.



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