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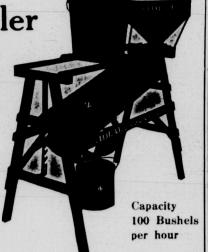
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## Our Ottawa Letter

Continued from Page 3

against allowing this attack on a great Canadian enterprise to go unanswered and unchallenged. He declared that the legitimate industries of Canada are on a sound basis and that, despite the findings of the commission, the financiers of the world need have no hesitation in continuing to invest their money in Canada. He asked the prime minister to rise higher than partyism and repudiate a report which affects our national welfare and our financial standing at the present time.

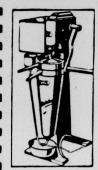
The government's reply to these views was best expressed by Hon. Ark thur Meighen in the concluding paragraphs of his speech. Mr. Meighen de clared that the Gutelius-Staunton report stands unmolested and undisproved by the attacks of the ex-minister, who had used terms of abuse against the authors of the report which were not justified. The essential finding of the report, he said, was that there had been an unnecessary expenditure of \$40,000,-000. This was made up of savings that could have been made without detracting from the operating value of the road. This loss, he said, was attributable to the mismanagement of Mr. Graham and of the commissioners who had charge of the work. The \$40,000,000 did not include \$4,500,000, which according to the findings of the commissioners, had been illegally spent in connection with the construction of the Transcona shops. In regard to this project there are damages still to be assessed against the government and in favor of the Canadian Northern Railway as a result of the N.T.R. line running thru their property at St. Boniface. These damages might amount to \$10,-000,000 and for them Mr. Graham was personally responsible. The responsi bility for the situation, Mr. Meighen said, rests upon the leader of the opposition and Mr. Graham. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, against the advice of a former minister of railways, had foisted this project upon the people in its present form. He had proclaimed it as a monument that was to make his name immortal. The Gutelius-Staunton report has this result, if it had no other; it has shown the leader of the opposition and the member for South Renfrew that the N.T.R. is not now such a monument as they would wish to have.

William German, of Welland, emphasized the fact that no charge of graft or wrong doing had been made by the commissioners. He said: "About \$140. 000,000 was expended by the former commissioners up to the time they went out of office. Messrs, Gutelius and Staunton have raked that office from top to bottom for two long years, endeavoring if they could, to get their hands on something by which they could impeach the old commission for wrongdoing, and by which they could show that some money had been wrongfully expended, that some money had filtered thru somebody's nngers and that some information had been given out that should not have been given out, but they have been unable to find that one dollar of the people's money has been improperly expended. It speaks volumes for the nocesty, the in tegrity, the fairness and business acu men of these commissioners to find that in the handling of \$140,000,000, ex tending over a period of ten years, not one dollar, after this tremendous search by these partisan commissionate, has been shown to have been improperly xpended.".

#### Sir Lyman M. Jones Quits Liberals

Nothing more definite is known as to probable contents of the budget speech than was stated last week, but it is still expected that Mr. White will announce a reduction in the duties on agricultura implements and aid of some kind for the iron and steel industry. There may be a few tariff readjustments in connec tion with other items but they are not likely to be either numerous or import-The most interesting development in connection with the tariff situation is that Sir Lyman Melvin Jones, president and general manager of the Massey-Harris Implement Company, has,

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or will, sever his connection with the Liberal party because of its advocacy of free agricultural implements. Sir Lyman, as is well known, is a member of the Senate, to which he was appointed by Sir Wiifrid Laurier in 1901. He has always been a strong personal friend of the leader of the opposition, but despite that fact the statement that he intends to renounce his allegiance to the party has not caused any surprise. The advocates of free implements from the west are inclined to be well pleased over the development. They say it will convince the western voters that Sir Lyman would not quarrel with the party with which he has been so long connected were be not convinced that they are in earnest in their determination to place agricultural implements on the free list. The severance by Sir Lyman of his connection with Liberalism marks the second defection of agricultural implement manufacturers from the ranks of the party. When it is recalled that Lloyd Harris, the former Liberal member for Brantford, broke with his political associates because it was proposed in the reciprocity agreement to reduce the duty on agricultural implements by two and a half per cent., it is not to be wondered at that Sir Lyman should decide to get out when the party comes out in advocacy of a proposal to wipe out this protection altogether. In addition to being president and general manager of the Massey-Harris Company, Sir Lyman is president of the Bain Wagon Company, of Woodstock; president of the

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