

## PEANUT POLITICS

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Press Gallery, Ottawa, March 10.

The conservatives have decided that the reciprocity agreement shall not be allowed to pass, and have announced their intention of talking from now till doomsday rather than allow it to come to a vote. In this policy, which was agreed upon at the beginning of this week, they are to be aided and abetted, or, perhaps it should be said, they are to be led, by Hon. Clifford Sifton, who is thus throwing in his lot with the men who but a short time ago were accusing him of all kinds of dishonest and disgraceful practices as a minister of the crown. The method which is to be followed is the simple one of moving amendments on every possible occasion, which will give the members an opportunity to speak repeatedly, and enable the opposition to attend the house in relays and keep it up forever if necessary.

The effect of this campaign of obstruction, if it is persisted in, will be not only to greatly prolong the session of parliament and prevent the house rising in time to allow Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other members of the government to attend the Imperial Conference in May and the Coronation in June, but also to so take up the time of parliament that it will be impossible for the railway act amendments, the cooperative bill, the question of abattoirs and cold storage, and perhaps even the new grain bill to be dealt with this session. The opponents of reciprocity appear to be prepared to go to almost any length to prevent the agreement passing, and the only thing apparently that will influence them to abandon their obstructionist tactics will be such an expression of public opinion in favor of reciprocity as will show them that if they desire to retain their seats after the next election they must be content with a reasonable amount of discussion and permit the majority to rule.

### People Approve Pact

During the past few days a flood of letters, telegrams and resolutions has been pouring into Ottawa from all parts of the Dominion, expressing approval of the pact, and demanding that the Canadian side of the agreement be carried out without waiting for the action of the United States Congress. On Wednesday a return, moved by Hon. Geo. E. Foster, was laid on the table of the house, showing copies of all communications received by the government on the question of reciprocity since January 1, and out of several hundred letters and resolutions a very large majority were in favor of the agreement. Among them were a large number of resolutions from local Grain Growers' Associations and from branches of the U.F.A., and there were also a considerable number from Western boards of trade. What has given the opponents of reciprocity most to think about, however, is the unanimous endorsement of reciprocity and the demand for imperial free trade by the Saskatchewan legislature, and the stand in favor of reciprocity made by Hon. F. W. G. Haultain. Mr. Haultain is thought a great deal of by the Conservative party at Ottawa, and, though there is only one member of the Saskatchewan delegation here (R. S. Lake, of Qu'Appelle), on the opposition side, Mr. Haultain's enthusiastic advocacy of reciprocity is making even the Manitoba Conservatives think that their friends at home, who have been assuring them that they may safely vote against the agreement, have been giving them false information.

### Obstructionist Tactics

A start in the campaign of obstruction was made on Wednesday, when the opposition leader, R. L. Borden, moved an amendment in favor of postponing further discussion and action upon the proposed reciprocity agreement until after the next election. Mr. Borden made a long speech on this, padding his remarks with copious extracts from Hansard and its American equivalent, the Congressional Record. Hon. W. S. Fielding briefly replied for the government, saying that they had given their word to President Taft that they would

use their best efforts to pass the Canadian side of the bargain, and that the national honor required that this undertaking be fulfilled. Hon. Geo. E. Foster followed, largely with a repetition of Mr. Borden's speech, and, as the government side showed no disposition to carry on the debate, W. F. Maclellan and W. R. Northrup continued from the opposition side. Hugh Guthrie and Sir Wilfrid Laurier afterwards spoke briefly, announcing the intention of the government to proceed with the matter without delay, and a division was reached immediately after dinner. The vote was a straight party division, except that Mr. Sifton, and Lloyd Harris, of Brantford, voted for the

first time, with the Conservatives. Messrs. Bradbury (Selkirk), Campbell (Dauphin), Haggart (Winnipeg), McEwen (Portage la Prairie), Roche (Marquette), Schaffner (Souris), Sharpe (Lacombe), Staples (Morden), Lake (Qu'Appelle) and Herron (Macleod), voted for the postponement, and Messrs. Magrath (Lethbridge), and McCarthy (Medicine Hat), were joined on the same side, while Dr. Medley (Provencher), and Messrs. Cash (Mackenzie) Champagne (Battleford), Clark (Red Deer), Douglas (Strathcona), Knowles (Moose Jaw), McCroney (Saskatoon), MacNutt (Saltcoats), Martin (Regina), Neely (Humboldt), Oliver (Edmonton), Rulon (Prince Albert), Turfitt (Assiniboia), and White (Victoria), voted against the amendment, which was defeated by 111 to 70.

In addition to the time occupied with the discussion on this amendment, two days and an evening sitting have been devoted to the reciprocity debate.

## Laurier on Reciprocity

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Press Gallery, Ottawa, March 11

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in his speech on Tuesday, said that since the reciprocity agreement was announced in the house a month ago it had been reviewed, discussed and canvassed in the press, by public bodies and in parliament, and unless he greatly misapprehended the trend of public opinion the policy that it contained had met with the enthusiastic approbation of a large majority of the Canadian people. He was aware that the policy had not been universally accepted, and it was a well known fact that an organization had been created in the cities of Montreal and Toronto for the purpose of fighting the agreement, and to that he took no exception. He reminded the house that General Grant narrated the story that, when a young lieutenant in the United States army, he was riding in

4,000 years, and now the conservatives asked Canada to adopt the Chinese policy.

### Merely Stating Truisms

If he were to say that those who worked, worked with the object of disposing of the product of their labor, that they had the legitimate ambition of getting the greatest possible return for their labor and that they would be the better remunerated the more customers they had, he would be told that he was merely stating truisms, but these were the very things that were embodied in the proposition now before the house. All that was asked was to obtain for the man who worked in the fields the best possible remuneration for his labor.

Having congratulated Hon. W. S. Fielding and Hon. Wm. Paterson upon having obtained a very advantageous

## THE SIEGE OF OTTAWA

How the Farmers raided the Politicians

This is the story of the great campaign which was started last December when the farmers bombarded Ottawa. Every farmer who went to Ottawa with his 500 fellow farmers should have a copy of this book. It is a record that every farmer living in the West today should be glad to have. It tells the full story of what the farmers did at Ottawa; how they took charge of the House of Commons and told Sir Wilfrid Laurier they wanted tariff reduction and a square deal. Every man who plans to keep pace with the democracy of the West should have one of these books. Get several copies and give them to your friends and show them what the farmers have done. Per copy 25 cents, post paid; five copies for \$1.00. Special price for larger orders to local branches.

BOOK DEPT. - GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, WINNIPEG

company with a friend when they heard in front of them a most unearthly howling of wolves. His friend asked him how many he thought were in the pack and not wishing to exaggerate he said he thought there must be at least twenty. His friend smiled and said nothing, and in a few minutes they came in sight of the wolves and found there were just two (laughter).

Disappointed men often made a great deal of noise, but they were generally more numerous before they were counted. The wonder to him was that there should be any objection to this agreement at all. It was exactly along the lines of the policy advocated by the conservatives when in power and supported by the liberals, and Sir Wilfrid showed by reading a resolution moved by Sir John A. Macdonald that the avowed object of the national policy inaugurated by the old conservative chieftain was to bring about reciprocity between Canada and the United States. If Canada was still in the position in which the liberal party found it when they took office in 1896 he had no doubt this policy would be received with favor and exultation, but, now that the country was so extraordinarily prosperous, the conservatives told them not to go any further, to fold their arms and leave well enough alone. What was this country? Was it Canada, or was it China? The Chinese had left well enough alone for

arrangement without the sacrifice of any Canadian interest, Sir Wilfrid complimented speakers on both sides of the house on having, so far, carried on the discussion on a high plane, and said the objections which had been made to the arrangement were fourfold: first, that the effect would be to deflect the carrying trade from Canadian channels to American channels; second, that it would destroy our natural resources; third, that it would imperil our industries; fourth, that it would dissolve out autonomy and land us ultimately in the American Republic.

### Railroad Traffic

With regard to the first point, so far as Canadian goods being carried through the United States to Great Britain and other countries were concerned, this arrangement did not affect the system now in existence by one iota. By means of the bonding privilege goods could at present be sent from Canada through the United States to and shipped from any American port without paying duty, and in the same way goods could come from the United States and be shipped through Montreal without being subject to any customs charges. No amount of legislation would prevent people trading in the natural channels, but if they left nature alone the trade would be carried on over Canadian lines because the distance from Winnipeg to Liverpool via

**"EASTLAKE"**



**STEEL SHINGLES**

**FIRE, LIGHTNING, RUST AND STORM PROOF**

Bismarck, Ont., April 26, 1908  
"We have installed your 'Eastlake' Shingles for nearly a quarter of a century. They have been on the Green House, Free Library, and other public buildings of this town for 15 years. We have used very large quantities during the past 15 years, and they have always given first-class satisfaction, and have never required any repairs."  
Signed, J. M. GIBSON, BRONX.  
Wholesale and Hardware Merchants.

Write for Booklet.  
**The Metallic Roofing Co.**  
Limited, Manufacturers  
**TORONTO & WINNIPEG**

Western Canada Factory:  
787 NOTRE DAME AVE. - WINNIPEG  
Agents wanted in some sections

Minneapolis and New York was 4,826 miles, and from Winnipeg to Liverpool via Fort William and Montreal was only 4,174 miles or 652 miles less. The experience of the past few years showed that our trade over the Canadian route was increasing by leaps and bounds compared with the trade over American channels. In 1900 the total amount of Canadian wheat exported from Montreal was 4,000,000 bushels; in 1910 it had increased to 14,140,000 bushels. Of American wheat the exports from Montreal in 1900 were 5,000,000, and in 1910 it was 10,000,000 bushels. As to goods which were exported from Canada to the United States for consumption in that country, Sir Wilfrid pointed out that while Great Britain might for some time to come take the whole of our surplus wheat, there were other products that the British market could not absorb, or could not absorb with the same convenience as the United States market could. Let the United States duty of 85 a ton be removed from hay and there would be an immense trade developed from a large section of the province of Quebec along the shores of Lake St. Peter. The same applied to eggs, poultry and mining products. The trade with Great Britain would go on just the same, but we should raise more of these products than before. Then there was the cattle trade. The trade with Britain had been retarded by the cattle embargo, but now, if the Canadian farmers were not able to sell all their cattle in Great Britain, there would be a ready market in the United States.

### Preferential Trade

It has been said that by this arrangement we were putting an end to every possibility of mutual preferential trade with Great Britain, but with that statement he took positive issue. The policy of the government in this matter was set forth by the Canadian ministers in Great Britain at the imperial conference of 1902. They had refused to take part in the controversy which was going on in England between the tariff reformers and the free traders, but they stated that if they could be assured that the imperial government would accept the principle of preferential trade generally, and particularly grant to the food products of Canada in the United Kingdom exemption from the duties now levied or hereafter imposed, they (the Canadian ministers) would be prepared to go further into the subject and endeavor to give the British manufacturer some increased advantage over his foreign competitors in the markets of Canada. That was still the policy of the government, and as this agreement gave the United States free entry into Canada only for natural products, which Great Britain did not wish to send to Canada anyway, he failed to see how this arrangement affected the granting of advantages to the British manufacturer.

### Natural Resources

As to the argument that the agreement would destroy our natural resources, Sir Wilfrid said that soil, water, forests