A Word To The Wise

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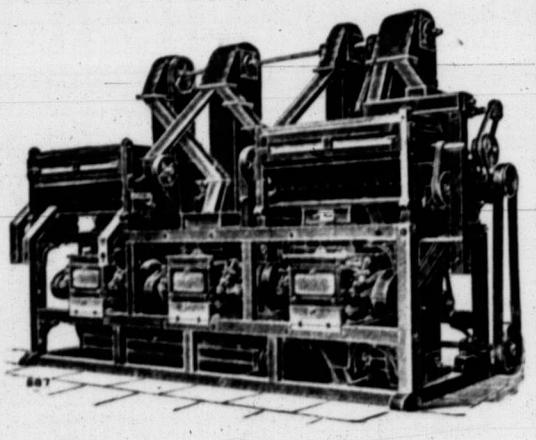

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Our Ottawa Letter

The Naval Bill—Bank Act—Lake and Ocean Freights

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Ottawa, May 9, 1913.—By the time this issue of The Grain Growers' Guide is in the hands of its readers the Naval Aid Bill, which has engaged the attention of Parliament for the greater part of the session, since it was introduced by Premier Borden on December 5, will probably have received its final reading. Consideration of the bill was resumed on Tuesday of this week and on Wednesday Premier Borden commenced to apply the new closure rules. At the time section two of the bill over which all the fighting has occurred since the committee stage was taken up was still under discussion. Mr. Borden's first move was to present a motion calling for the suspension of the consideration of this clause. This motion was not debatable. There were five clauses in the bill as originally drafted but another was added this week, making six in all. At short intervals Mr. Borden moved the suspension of the consideration of the remaining four clauses, the last being suspended after midnight on Thursday. The Prime Minister then gave notice that consideration of these clauses in committee must be concluded at the following sitting of the House. The effect of this was to cause the division on the motion that the bill be reported to be taken at 2 a.m. on Saturday morning, the rules providing for the automatic close of the debate at that hour unless the bill under consideration has been disposed of at an earlier hour. Of course this could not happen because the Opposition were determined that the bill should pass only upon the application of the closure rules.

Another Naval Battle

The government majority on the various clauses of the bill varied from 31 to 33, and everything passed off peacably until all the clauses had been passed and Premier Borden rose to move that the bill be reported by the committee. At the same moment W. F. Carroll, member for South Cape Breton, rose on the Liberal side and moved the insertion of an additional clause requiring the dreadnoughts to be built of Canadian steel. The Conservatives claimed that the closure rules prohibited further amendments, while the Liberals contended that this was not so, and a lively scene ensued. The speaker, however, upheld the contentions of the government, and finally the bill was reported, the Liberals refusing to vote on the division at the report stage, as a protest against what they declared was a gross breach of the rules by the government side.

On Monday the closure will be used on the third reading of the bill with the result that the final division will take place on Wednesday morning at 2

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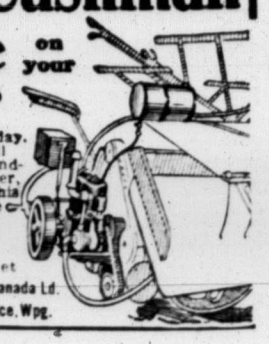

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