

# Sharpe on Reciprocity

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)  
Press Gallery, Ottawa, May 5.

W. H. Sharpe, the Conservative member for Lisgar, Man., spoke on the reciprocity resolutions on Monday. Mr. Sharpe announced at the outset that he saw the advantage the agreement would be to his constituents, but wound up with a declaration that he could not see his way clear to support it. He also threw a very interesting light on his method of ascertaining public opinion upon the reciprocity issue, describing how, after he had addressed public meetings in his constituency, he had sent his opponents away and then asked his supporters whether or not they thought he ought to resign his seat.

Mr. Sharpe said: "My constituency extends along the international boundary for about eighty miles. The farmers in my constituency can see the farmers across the line receiving a higher price for their meat, they can see the farmers across the line receiving a higher price for their barley, and as my hon. friend says, they also get a higher price for their stockers. I saw the relief that this bill would give our people on the 26th day of January, when the finance minister unfolded this plan before the House. I saw that it would be an advantage to them, I saw that our people would apparently get a better price for those articles. But let me ask, is this the relief that the people of Western Canada have been asking for? Is this the relief that they are entitled to? I say no, not by any means. On account of this apparent relief to the people in my constituency, I received many resolutions from the Grain Growers asking me to support this proposition of reciprocity, but after listening to the discussion in this House and studying the question for myself, I decided that so far as I was concerned I would not support it. Apparently the people in my constituency wanted the men who had voted for me and sent me here apparently wanted it. If they wanted it, and I had decided not to vote for it, what was my duty under the circumstances? I made up my mind to go home and to lay the matter plainly before my constituents, and if a majority of my supporters still wanted it, then I was prepared to resign my seat. In order to ascertain their opinion I held four meetings within the local constituencies in the Dominion constituency, in order to give every person an opportunity to attend the meetings. After I had held those meetings and explained my position fully, I asked all those men who had voted for me in the election of 1908, to remain, as I wished to go into the matter a little more fully with them, and I want to tell you, Mr. Chairman, that after I had laid my ideas before them, there was only one man at all those meetings who stood up and voted for reciprocity, and opposed my stand.

The rest of Mr. Sharpe's speech, with the exception of an attack upon The Guide which is given elsewhere, consisted of a repetition of the stock arguments against reciprocity, which have been given by other speakers and previously reported.

# The Grain Growers' Guide

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THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNCOLOURED NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF THOUGHT AND ACTION and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continue to be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the wisest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

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## Grain Bill Through Senate

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Press Gallery, Ottawa, May 5

The clause in the Grain bill prohibiting grain dealers from being also interested in terminal elevators, was yesterday amended by the Senate in such a way as to permit of any persons, approved of by the grain commission, operating terminals. This amendment was made as a compromise between Sir Richard Cartwright, the minister in charge of the bill, and the section in the Senate which was endeavoring to have the clause struck out. The clause, as adopted by the Senate, now reads:

"123. No person owning, managing, operating or otherwise interested in any other form of storage of grain, in the Western Inspection division.

"This section shall not apply to any person who owns, manages or operates or is otherwise interested in any terminal elevator used or operated in connection with any flour mill situate at the same terminal point as such elevator; provided, however, that such elevator shall be subject to such restrictions and regulations as are from time to time imposed by the board, with the approval of the governor in council.

"This section shall not apply to any person who owns, manages, operates or is otherwise interested in any terminal elevator which has been leased to the commission for operation or which has been leased to any person, firm or company for operation, with the approval of the commission or which is managed and operated by persons approved of by the commission."

### Hospital Elevators

Another amendment has been made permitting the operation of hospital elevators under the regulation of the grain commission, and provision was made that grain may be inspected out of such elevators, with the restriction that wheat that has been scoured or treated with lime or sulphur may not be graded higher than No. 3-Northern. The sections imposing a penalty for mixing grain, making untrue returns, and specifying every officer of a corporation, personally liable, and authorizing the grain commission to suspend a terminal elevator license, remain undisturbed.

Senator Young, of Killarney, spoke in favor of striking out clause 123, and prefaced his remark by stating that, though he had an interest in some country elevators, he had no interests whatever in terminal elevators. He claimed that the evidence given before the special committee on the bill did not establish the charges of mixing that had been made against the terminal elevator operators, and disposed of the discrepancies in the reports of grain taken into and shipped out of elevators by saying that mistakes would always occur. He was of opinion that Canada had the finest grain inspection and shipping system in the world, and, with the additional precautions provided by this bill he thought there would be less reason for want of confidence than there had been in the past.

Senator Douglas, of Saskatchewan, again supported the clause. He also read a list of twelve elevators at Manitoba points owned by the Young Elevator Co., and submitted that Senator Young, being a partner in that company, had no right to vote on this question. Senator Watson, of Portage la Prairie, and Senator Lougheed, of Calgary, spoke in favor of striking out the clause, and Sir Richard Cartwright also took part in the debate.

### Cartwright's Views

Sir Richard said the question was one that had difficulties on both sides. There was evidence before his department which went to show that in certain cases very grave irregularities were committed. However, the matter may have been extenuated before the committee, he did not think the "injured innocents" who appeared there and who stated that they had, for the purpose of pleasing the government, pleaded guilty in one case on six counts, and in another case on he did not know how many counts, and who had been fined \$2,500 and \$3,000 respectively by the courts, and who, according to the evidence brought before his department, appeared to have mixed grain to the tune of something like 350,000 bushels in one case and 140,000 in the other—he did not think those gentlemen had much ground for complaint against provision being made to prevent this practice being repeated, and he was not very particularly concerned as to what opinion they might have as to Canadian law. There was no doubt that the clause which was objected to was of a pretty drastic character. Under ordinary circumstances the government would not have proposed them, but they had found by experience that the business of handling grain was one which required very close supervision and very great power. He thought there was reason and ground for the demand that clauses 123 and 214 should be modified, but he did not think they should be abolished altogether. Sir Richard Cartwright then moved the addition to the section of the last paragraph as given above, with the exception of the last phrase, "or which is managed and operated by persons approved of by the commission" which was afterwards inserted on the suggestion of Senator Lougheed, who made a strong plea on behalf of the present operators of the terminal elevators. The bill was read a third time and passed today, and will now go to the House of Commons where the amendments made by the Senate will come under review.

\$35,000,000 FOR C.N.R.

Hon. George B. Graham has given notice in the House of a resolution providing for a bond guarantee of \$35,000,000 per mile for the projected Canadian Northern line from Port Arthur to Montreal. As the distance is about 1090 miles, the total guarantee is to be \$35,000,000.

# Grain Growers' Charter

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)  
Press Gallery, Ottawa, May 5.

The bill to incorporate the Grain Growers' Grain Company came before the House in committee of the whole on Monday afternoon. Its clauses were passed without discussion until section 12, setting out the objects and purposes of the company was reached, when questions were asked by Dr. Schaffner and W. D. Staples as to whether the bill was similar to the charters of other grain companies, and whether it would permit the Grain Growers' Grain Company to deal in options. No one seemed ready to answer these questions, and on the suggestion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier the bill was allowed to stand over. It came up again on Tuesday during the hour allotted to private bills and was then opposed by a number of members, prominent among them being Mr. Gervais, of Montreal, who piloted through the House the bill incorporating the Retail Merchants' Association, and who was most active in killing the co-operative bill last session. Mr. Gervais submitted that if the powers mentioned in the bill were to be granted to the company it should be called "The General Promoters and Schemers Co." He said the bill would enable the company to do a banking business, to lend money, receive deposits and issue notes, and suggested that it be left over so that members might have time to consider it. Dr. Sprule moved that it be referred to the Banking and Commerce committee, but Mr. Hagan pointed out that there was no necessity for this as the bill had already been before the banking and commerce committee of the Senate and the private bill committee of the House of Commons.

### The Unseen Hand

J. G. Turfitt said there was no power given by this bill that any company could not get any day of the week by letters patent under the Company Act. The powers asked for were simply for the purpose of the company's undertakings, and in farming now-a-days they had not only the growing of grain and the raising of other farm products, but they had to deal with the disposal of those products. He saw no reason why Mr. Gervais should want to prevent this bill going through. He (Mr. Gervais) got his bill through a year ago to incorporate the Retail Merchants' Association, and that same association had been dead against anything that sounded like co-operation in any shape or form. Why should not the farmers, if they desired it, have a company for the disposal of their products by themselves to the best advantage? The bill was all right, and the name of the bill was all right. Mr. Gervais' statement that the company would be empowered to do a banking business was incorrect, because the private bill committee had put in an amendment distinctly debarring the company from doing so. Hon. Wm. Pugsley supported sending the bill to the banking and commerce committee.

### Re Option Trading

Arthur Meighen said if the company act permitted companies to get such wide powers under letters patent, it should be amended, but in any case this company should not be given the powers contemplated in this bill under the name of the Grain Growers' Grain Company.

Dr. Schaffner asked if the bill would enable the company to deal in options. Mr. Pugsley replied "certainly not" but a number of members said "Yes," and Dr. Schaffner said if it did he would object because the Grain Growers' Grain Company solicited subscriptions all over the country from farmers and men who did not pretend to be business men and these people might be led into great difficulties and possible loss if the company was empowered to deal in options.

Mr. Nesbitt asked what Dr. Schaffner meant by dealing in options, and a discussion followed on this point, which occupied the rest of the time available for private bills.

The bill will come up again next week.

\$2,000,000 FOR H. B. R.

Ottawa, May 8.—Hon. W. S. Fielding in the Commons this afternoon tabled a heavy batch of supplementary estimates for the current year, totalling slightly over \$17,000,000. They include a sum of \$2,000,000 with which to proceed with the construction of the Hudson's Bay Railway.

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