

FARM BULLETIN.

Parliament Gets Squared Away for the Budget Speech.

At long last the head of the Canadian Government leads the Canadian House of Commons. Sir Robert Borden, Union Government leader and Prime Minister, returned to Ottawa on Monday, May 20, and appeared for the first time this session in the House of Commons that afternoon. Hon. A. L. Sifton returned from Europe with Premier Borden, so that there are now only two Cabinet Ministers still overseas, namely, Hon. Sir Geo. E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice. Sir Edward Kemp, Overseas Minister of Militia, returned some time ago. While no very important legislation affecting Canada as a whole has been discussed since the titles debate, the House has gradually become aroused to the conditions of industrial unrest, but neither members nor Cabinet Ministers appear to have made sure that they can do anything about it. It is true that the Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce has announced that opportunity will be given for a discussion of the High Cost of Living. No doubt this troublesome factor is at the bottom of much of the industrial unrest, and a discussion of the matter by the House would clear away all misunderstandings—perhaps. Then, too, the Government has appointed a Royal Commission on Industrial Relations which is still touring the country gathering evidence on which to base their report to the Government. The Government, however, seems to be more hopeful of this Commission than anyone else, because it is scarcely probable that a group of men, sitting in state for a day or so in each of the large centres in Canada should be able to solve the very difficult problems brought about through the disagreement of capital and labor. One cannot help but think of the arm-chair critics and self-appointed economists who regularly solve the rural problem between stations in a railway coach, or criticize the business management of farmers from the back seat of an automobile.

The day after his return, Sir Robert Borden did take the opportunity to reply in an extended manner to a question put by Major G. W. Andrews, Winnipeg, Centre, regarding the attitude of the Government toward the present unrest. The Premier stated that the Government was committed to certain fundamental principles with regard to the situation in Winnipeg and said:

"In the first place, we are absolutely determined that law and order should be maintained; and, in the second place, we are of the opinion that members of the Civil Service cannot be permitted to disregard their public duties and to dislocate the public service under the conditions which have arisen in the city of Winnipeg."

Sir Robert further alluded to the beneficial results expected from the Industrial Relations Commission, and read certain principles which were adopted by all the nations represented in the Peace Conference at Paris, and which were included in the Peace Treaty as presented to the Germans. These principles would set forth desirable improvement in the relations between capital and labor as follows:

"First.—The guiding principle above enunciated that labor should not be regarded merely as a commodity or article of commerce.

"Second. The right of association for all lawful purposes by the employed as well as by the employers.

"Third.—The payment to the employed of a wage adequate to maintain a reasonable standard of life as this is understood in their time and country.

"Fourth.—The adoption of an eight-hours day or a forty-eight hours week as the standard to be aimed at where it has not already been attained.

"Fifth.—The adoption of a weekly rest of at least twenty-four hours, which should include Sunday wherever practicable.

"Sixth.—The abolition of child labor and the imposition of such limitations on the labor of young persons as shall permit the continuation of their education and assure their proper physical development.

"Seventh.—The principle that men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value.

"Eighth.—The standards set by law in each country with respect to the conditions of labor should have due regard to the equitable economic treatment of all workers lawfully resident therein.

"Ninth.—Each State should make provision for a system of inspection in which women should take part, in order to ensure the enforcement of the laws and regulations for the protection of the employed.

"Without claiming that these methods and principles are either complete or final, the High Contracting Parties are of opinion that they are well fitted to guide the policy of the League of Nations; and that, if adopted by the industrial communities who are members of the League, and safeguarded in practice by an adequate system of such inspection, they will confer lasting benefits upon the wage earners of the world."

Sir Edward Kemp, Overseas Minister of Militia, made a very lengthy statement in the House on Tuesday, May 27, with regard to the work of his Department overseas since November, 1917. It would be difficult to report the substance of everything the Minister said, but the following paragraphs are extracts which should be of interest to readers:

"Those who have lost relatives in the war derive a great deal of comfort and consolation in being able to visit the graves of their dead and to read the headstones, and as time goes on such a pilgrimage will become

increasingly the custom. On the 13th of April, 1917, an organization known as the Imperial War Graves Commission was constituted by resolution passed by the Imperial War Conference, which consists of a large number of representative men. Canada's representative in that organization is the High Commissioner for Canada, Sir George Perley. There are 160,000 isolated graves on the battlefields of France and Belgium, and the total number of graves of British soldiers in those areas is comprised as follows: United Kingdom, 452,730; Canada, 43,631; Australia, 35,131; New Zealand, 11,393; South Africa, 4,450; South Africa, Native Labor Corps, 535; Newfoundland, 888; India (natives), 5,665; and British West Indies, 956. This represents a total of British graves in France and Belgium of 555,379.

"I have heard people say that it would take three years to get our soldiers back, in view of all the circumstances. I am happy to be able to say that if peace is not signed pretty soon, all our soldiers will be back in Canada before peace is signed. There will be in England after the end of this month about 80,000 Canadians. Nearly all our troops are out of France. The troops that went to the Rhine returned to Belgium some time before they went back to England. My latest report, which is dated May 19, says that at that time there were 4,516 Canadian troops in France.

"We have quite a nucleus for an air force. Nineteen of the latest and best air machines were presented to us by the British Government, sixteen through the Overseas Club and three through the Imperial Air Fleet. In addition to that we expect to get from the British Government ninety-two aircraft, made up as follows:

- 30 only Avro two-seater biplanes.
- 12 only single-seater-camels (Scout fighters).
- 50 only two-seater D.H. 9. Day Bombing Machines.

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"This is a gift from the British Government whenever we wish to accept it, and, in fact, I understand it has already been accepted. There are many other aircraft which are available for Canada. Of captured enemy aircraft there are 21 Fokkers, 39 various other enemy aircraft and 5 Gothas, which, including the nineteen to which I referred to before, make 84.

"During the period we have been at war it is gratifying to record that our soldiers have been awarded 17,000 medals, honors, and awards, including 53 Victoria Crosses, 1,885 Military Crosses, 19 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 1,204 Distinguished Conduct Medals, and 6,610 Military Medals."

The House continues to mark time, for the most part, awaiting the delivery of the budget speech, which has now been definitely announced for Thursday, June 5. The Committee on the inside civil service continues to take evidence from Deputy Ministers as to the possibility of reducing the number of civil servants, but get but little satisfaction. Dr. J. H. Grisdale, the newly-appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture, was examined last week and spoke very frankly with regard to the difficulty of disposing of employees who are either too old to do good work or are inefficient. He favored superannuation for the former and "firing" for the latter, stating that there were three or four in the department he would fire "to-morrow," if he could. The Civil Service Act, however, allows no officers of the Department to either take on or discharge an employee. All must be done through the Commission. We hardly expect the Committee to get anywhere, because they scarcely know enough about their subject to get at the truth.

Steamship Companies vs The People.

Earlier in the session we referred to a bill presented by J. E. Armstrong, East Lambton, designed to place steamships on Canadian inland waters under the control of Board of Railway Commissioners. On Wednesday, May 28, Mr. Armstrong moved the substance of this bill as an amendment to the Consolidated Railway Act which was under consideration. Boats owned by railroads are now under the control of the Railway Commission, but Mr. Armstrong's amendment was for the purpose of bringing under the control of this Commission, the boats on our inland waters and those doing coastwise trade. These boats are subject to no control of any kind as regards either, tariffs, tolls, trade arrangements or the time and manner of calling at ports. Canada has spent many millions of dollars in building canals and harbors, deepening rivers and in improving in other ways our inland waterways. To carry on this service, besides capital expenditures, the people of Canada pay about \$1,500,000 every year with no return in money and with no check upon the operations of steamship companies. To us it would seem that no discussion of any length should be needed to precede the adoption of the amendment but to our surprise, it was defeated after considerable discussion by 61 to 36. The most surprising thing of all was to see Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Railways and Canals, lead the rest of the Cabinet and all but three of the opposition in a strong attack on this measure for the protection of the public. Support for the amendment came from Union Government supporters, assisted only by D. D. McKenzie, leader of the Opposition, J. E. Sinclair, Queens, P. E. I., and W. D. Euler, North Waterloo. The whole thing was really the most disgraceful exhibition of Canadian parliamentary conduct that has taken place so far this session and there have been some instances that would make one sit up and wonder. Nothing, however, had up to this time taken place that showed up so brazenly the influence of big interests with the men elected by the people to safeguard their interests. It does seem to us that there could be no possible argument against the

amendment, especially since no one wishes to put undue checks upon legitimate trade and commerce. Surely the Board of Railway Commissioners could be expected to do the fair thing by the companies. However, as a victory for the steamship companies there was no discount on it whatever. There is this that should be said nevertheless, and it is that if members had all been in their places when the vote was taken there is a strong probability that the amendment would have carried. A division should be taken on the third reading so that voters can see how individual members stand on this question.

The Agricultural Estimates.

Friday, May 30, finally saw the passing of the agricultural estimates, which showed an increase of \$487,818.40 over last year. On the whole, perhaps the discussion on the estimates should be considered satisfactory although very few members were present and of these only a very few knew enough about the Department of Agriculture to criticize or discuss the estimates intelligently. Only the Minister, however, has details of the estimates so that no one else is in a very good position to know just how to detect the weak spots if there are any. All they have is an item of, say, \$800,000 for the development of the live-stock industry and the discussion cannot help but be very general unless someone has a special grievance or a knowledge of the various lines of work undertaken by each branch. We regret that space does not permit us to give a full resume of the discussion that did take place as this covers 40 pages of Hansard, but readers who are interested should be able to obtain a copy of the Hansard of May 30 through their local member. Quite a lengthy general discussion occurred during which the Minister was highly complimented on the appointment of Dr. J. H. Grisdale to the position of Deputy Minister and many candles were lit in the kitchen of the opposition to guide the Minister himself back into the Liberal fold. Jno. Best, Dufferin, urged the erection of an interior elevator for the farmers of Ontario, as has been asked for previously by deputations of The United Farmers of Ontario and Dr. S. F. Tolmie, Victoria City, B. C., urged the erection of a cold storage terminal at Halifax in order to encourage live-stock production. Dr. Tolmie, who is President of the National Live-Stock Council, also spoke at some length on the possibilities for live stock development in Canada. The following statement by the Minister is also somewhat noteworthy since it deals with a condition of affairs in agricultural education in Canada that has long been unfortunate and wasteful:

"There is expended in Canada through the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture approximately \$7,500,000 annually. I am convinced that from the national point of view we are not getting the results from that expenditure that might be secured. In my judgment, there should be closer co-operation and better co-ordination between the federal and provincial activities. I found on making inquiries that in many cases federal and provincial activities were overlapping—that both federal and provincial departments were in certain cases carrying on the same line of work. Now that is a waste of effort, and I might add also, a waste of money. At this particular time when our national expenditure is mounting very rapidly, and we shall have to face in the future heavy taxation and probably difficulties in raising the necessary revenue, it is of the greatest importance, not only in the field of agriculture, but in every other field, that there should be the closest co-operation and co-ordination between federal and provincial activities. I have already mentioned this matter to a few provincial ministers of agriculture, and they were quite sympathetic with the idea. This is an important matter, and I hope it will be more fully inquired into during this year."

The Minister also announced that he would include in the supplementary estimates the sum of \$50,000 for the establishment of accredited herds of cattle free from tuberculosis, in Canada. An outline of the accredited herd system was given in "The Farmers Advocate" recently.

E. S. Archibald Gets Directorship of Farms.

E. S. Archibald, who has been Dominion Animal Husbandman since 1912, steps up and succeeds Dr. J. H. Grisdale as Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms System. Mr. Archibald was born at Yarmouth, N. S., and was the first to receive a diploma issued by the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, at Truro. He entered the third year class at Guelph in the autumn of 1906 and graduated in 1908. Subsequent to this he was for a time Instructor in Agriculture and Experimentalist at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, which position was vacated for that of Professor of Agriculture and Farm Superintendent at the same institution. In June of 1912 he accepted the position of Dominion Animal Husbandman, in connection with the Experimental Farms System, and during the last seven years has paid considerable attention to all branches of the experimental work in connection with the Government farms, in addition to his own special duties as Animal Husbandman; Mr. Archibald has thus acquired a very intimate acquaintance with the extensive system over which he now presides and the broad knowledge of general agriculture, so acquired, will be invaluable to him and the industry as a whole.

In view of the fact that it is an avowed policy of the Minister of Agriculture to promote officials, it is expected that G. B. Rothwell, who has been a very successful and efficient assistant to Mr. Archibald, will receive the appointment of Dominion Animal Husbandman.

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Market

With the cattle, quotations lower on a butcher's further drop Wednesday was in a six hundred unsold. O firm was filled for shipper's purpose. In anticipation of the pens, fourteen h from the Kleinburg at \$17, a re loads fed 1 Waterloo, C hundred po balance of prices rang Outside of and prices 1 prices does present. A fallen to lo \$3, being weeks, and those of C vailing dur with labor consumption very sparir contributing ten hundred sold general on Monday, day nothing \$14.25. Of steers and pounds, one hundred po Monday; ot from \$14 to 5 were made f and bulls w other grades early in the cows at \$1 later to \$12 a cows sold f common fro fair demand prices ranged ing to weigh stockers sol market rule previous we sold at \$18 jority of the to \$17, med common fro

Lambs an lambs sold light sheep f and heavy hundred. The hog n declined \$1 watered hog on Monday. Thursday th hundred. Of the disp