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THE F.S. NEWMAN CO. LIMITED
WINNIPEG CANADA



Our Ottawa Letter

Continued from Page 4

sure possession of one of the transcontinental lines in order to use it as a leverage. The member for South York said that the G.T.P. and the C.N.R. are both applicants for aid. The G.T.P. had asked to be taken over, and terms could no doubt be arranged with the directors. As for the C.N.R., he thought the whole system could be purchased by the payment of ten per cent. of the face value of the stock issue. His suggestion in regard to the C.P.R. was that the government should take it over and guarantee to the shareholders earnings of seven per cent. for a period of twenty-five years, at the end of which time he would refund the money put into the stock by the shareholders. Mr. Maclean reminded the prime minister that when the late government was building the N.T.R. he had offered as an alternative the proposal that this should be a national railway. The time had now arrived, he said, when this policy could be put into effect.

Bilingualism Debated

A discussion of two days' duration, based upon a motion of Mr. Lapointe, of Kamouraska, by which it was suggested, that the house should recommend to the Ontario government the advisability of reconsidering its attitude towards bilingualism in that province, was productive of the most pronounced display of independence which has been witnessed in parliament for many a day. No less than twelve western Liberals who objected to the intrusion of this subject in parliament refused to line up with their party, while eight Conservatives of Quebec voted against the government. Apart entirely from the merits of the issue, in regard to which it was not necessary to express an opinion, the sign is taken here to portend greater demonstrations of political independence in the house in the future.

Hon. Frank Oliver was the only western member to speak on the question, and he made it very clear that while the western Liberals sympathized with the French Canadians of Ontario, they regretted that they could not share their views. They were in parliament as the representatives of the West, where there was the greatest desire for educational efficiency. He pointed out that owing to the diversity of nationality in the prairie provinces, the sparsity of population and the climatic conditions, which often reduced the school year to six months, it would be absolutely impossible from the economic standpoint, apart altogether from the viewpoint of the national good, to undertake to educate the children of the West in more than one language. The western Liberals who made this demonstration of independence by voting against the resolution were: Hon. Frank Oliver, Buchanan of Medicine Hat, Clarke of Red Deer, Cruise of Dauphin, Douglas of Strathcona, Knowles of Moose Jaw, MacNutt of Saltcoats, Thompson of Qu'Appelle, Turfitt of Assiniboia, and Warnock of Marched. Trux, of South Bruce, was the only opposition member from the East who voted against his party. White of Victoria, Martin of Regina, Cash of Yorkton, and Molloy of Provencher were absentees, but the latter, thru Hon. Chas. Maclell, informed the house that he was in favor of bilingualism, and objected more particularly to the recent change made in the educational laws of Manitoba. All the western Conservative ministers and members voted against the resolution, so that, apart from Dr. Molloy and Champagne of Saskatchewan, the West is unanimous on the educational question.

RURAL CREDITS COMMISSION

A commission has been appointed by the Manitoba government to make all necessary investigations in connection with a scheme of rural credits for this province. Authority was granted for this at the last session of the legislature. The members of the commission are: Premier T. C. Norris, chairman; Edward Brown, provincial treasurer; George A. Orlerson, member for Minnedosa, secretary; J. H. G. Malenka, member for Rattle; A. Lobb, member for Rockwood; G. W. Pratt, member for Kildonan and St. Andrews; John Graham, member for Norfolk; J. Parent,

member for Morris. It is anticipated that this committee will appoint a sub-committee to visit states to the South where rural credit systems are in operation, and the whole matter is promised a thorough threshing out.

FOX BREEDING ASSOCIATION, IN P.E.I.

In 1915 more system and greater reliability was put into the Silver Black Fox breeding industry on Prince Edward Island by the organization of the Silver Black Fox Breeders' Association, an incorporated body formed to classify, register and mark the silver black foxes in the province. This should go far to establishing reliability in the companies operating and in the truthness to type of the foxes sold. The period of high prices in fox pelts beginning 1910 caused speculation in the industry resulting in the formation of some 300 fox companies. It is interesting to note that even under the unusual depression since war broke out, the dividends were suspended, none of these companies have gone into liquidation. The breeders have added largely to their breeding stock since 1914 and carried on production on an enlarged scale. The Sales Board of the new association has recently endeavored to open up an enlarged market in the United States and believes its efforts will be very successful. During the twenty years preceding the war the natural supply of the more valuable furs fell off one-half and prices advanced three-fold. Peace it is believed will bring a renewal of previous healthy conditions.

ENVOY TO RUSSIA

Prince Christopher of Greece, younger brother of King Constantine, has gone to Petrograd, it is said, for the purpose of convincing the Czar that Greece is pro-Ally and especially loyal to the head of the Greek Church. The young prince was born in Russia and received the greater portion of his civil and military education in that country. He also spent considerable time in Great Britain with his aunt, the Queen Mother Alexandra. For these reasons his loyalty to the Allies is not questioned and the probabilities are that, as a result of his mission, there may be a change of front on the part of the Royal Family of Greece. King Constantine is married to a sister of the Emperor of Germany, and has shown himself to be very much under her influence.

HUNGARIAN PEACE INFLUENCE

As anticipated, trouble is brewing in Austria-Hungary as a result of the disagreement between Emperor Francis Joseph and Count Tisza, the Hungarian Premier. Since the outbreak of the war many differences have arisen between the Austrians and Hungarians widening the breach which already existed between the two. The latest is a request from Emperor Francis Joseph that Count Tisza should accept the Customs Union scheme which the Germans wish to see consummated between the four Central Powers. As Hungary is already more or less an adjunct to Germany and Austria the Austrian Premier naturally objects to any further coercion. Count Tisza is undoubtedly the ablest statesman in Austria-Hungary, and, rather than yield to the requests of the Emperor, will resign and go into opposition. If he should do this it might very easily lead to the making of a separate peace by Hungary, as that country already feels that she has borne the brunt of the heavy fighting and is getting little or nothing out of the wasteful struggle.

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