

Our Ottawa Letter

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Mr. Pugsley:—"Assuredly. I answer emphatically yes."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier:—"With pleasure. I am aware there are some Liberals who have changed their policy. I am not one of them. I stick to my ideals."

Hugh Guthrie:—"I was and I am still."

"Then you have changed your mind," retorted Mr. Fowler.

Mr. Guthrie:—"Not at all. I said reciprocity was dead at that time. It was dead then for the time being."

A New Liberal Platform

Mr. Carvell made another statement which, if it has the backing of rank and file of the Liberals would indicate that the party proposes to frame a progressive policy based upon a demand for tariff reductions, and an increase in the British Preference with the object of reducing the high cost of living. "We want to resurrect the British Preference," he declared. "We want to resurrect any policy which means cheaper food for the laboring classes of Canada; we want to resurrect any policy that will afford us a chance to discuss whatever will make for better economic conditions and a reduction of the cost of living in this country. I await with the fullest confidence an opportunity when the people of this country, the producers as well as the consumers, will show what they think of the great economic question of wider markets and cheaper cost of living."

Loans on Grain and Live Stock

Probably the most interesting development of the week from the standpoint of the farmer occurred on Tuesday, when the Hon. W. T. White, minister of finance, announced that the new Bank Act which he proposes to introduce this session will contain a provision authorizing banks to lend money on grain and other products of the farm, including live stock. The announcement was made in connection with the introduction of a bill to amend the bank act by J. A. M. Aikins, member for Brandon. In view of the assurance of the finance minister that the object aimed at would be covered in the amendments to the Bank Act, Mr. Aikins will, in all probability, not proceed with his bill, but the explanation he made in reference to it may be taken as an explanation, in part at least, of what Mr. White's legislation will provide. Mr. Aikins said: "Section 88 of the Bank Act authorizes the bank to lend money to a purchaser or shipper of or dealer in agricultural products, no matter what the quantity may be or where stored; but it does not authorize the bank to lend money to the farmer on his threshed grain, no matter how great the quantity or how well stored. The act also provides that the bank may lend to a manufacturer of goods, wares and merchandise, on the security of the goods, wares and merchandise; but it does not authorize the bank to advance money to the producer of grain, although it is perhaps the best security that can be given, because so readily convertible into money. The bill is intended to remedy this by providing that the bank may lend to a person engaged in farming upon the security of his threshed grain and agricultural products."

"What about live stock?" queried W. M. Maclean.

"A great many people desire that the bank should be authorized also to advance money on live stock," resumed Mr. Aikins. "I am in entire sympathy with that, but the urgency is not so great, nor are the reasons so apparent. We all know that the farmer needs money, especially the Western farmer, immediately after the threshing has taken place, for the purpose of paying liabilities incurred in respect of that threshing and his other farming operations, and also for the payment of accounts incurred during the summer. In the West the period between the termination of harvesting operations and the commencement of winter is short. For that reason the farmer ought to be permitted to devote as much time as he can to fall plowing and to preparing for his next year's crop. At present the

only way in which he can pay his liabilities which ordinarily amount to about fifty per cent of the threshed crop is by selling that crop; and, in order to do that, he must during the time I have mentioned haul his grain to market, and that takes up a large portion of his time. This bill is intended to obviate that, and give him the opportunity of taking his grain to market when he thinks proper. It gives the further advantage that all these loans are made on the pledge receipt, which is a very simple document and thus obviates the necessity of chattel mortgages. It will also obviate the necessity of the farmers hauling hurriedly their grain to the railway stations, which creates congestion, not only at the station, but all along the line. It gives the farmer an opportunity of disposing of his grain when he thinks proper. Meanwhile he can store it without cost on his own farm."

W. F. Maclean rose at once to urge that live stock be included in the bill, and this brought the Minister of Finance to his feet, with the important official announcement that the amended Bank Act would cover loans on all products of the farm.

EUROPE FEARS BIG WAR

London, Nov. 28.—The possibility and danger of a greater war than that between the Balkan states and Turkey absorbs public interest far more than the first bout of diplomacy between the belligerents outside of Constantinople. The steps toward mobilization which Austria and Russia are taking, although but preliminary precautions, have made possible a vision of the vast consequences, which, as far as Great Britain is concerned, are nothing less than appalling.

The British public, apparently, has no desire to sacrifice lives and money, paralyze commerce and risk the navy over the settlement of the status of the Balkan peninsula. Yet, it is uneasy because ignorant of how far Great Britain's diplomatic engagements with France and Russia extended in the direction of an alliance and of how much likelihood there is that the government will be driven into a conflict in which one or both of its partners in the entente may be engaged.

The Liberal press is unanimous in urging Great Britain to preserve neutrality. The majority of the Conservatives demand the same policy.

Peace Negotiations Fail

The latest news received here to-night overshadows the breakdown of the armistice negotiations, probably over the demand of the Bulgarians for the evacuation of Adrianople, to which Turkey will not listen. The Turkish view is that while the allies have no more reserves which they can draft upon, Turkey is drawing a plentiful supply of fresh troops from Asia and is able to continue the war for another year. The Turkish military authorities assert that Adrianople can hold for another month and that the Chatalja lines are impregnable. Hence, Turkey's position is not desperate enough to warrant her accepting humiliating terms.

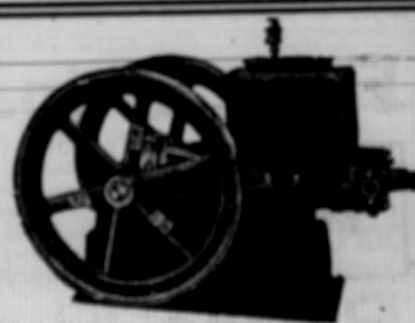
Conference of Great Powers

Sir Edward Grey's proposal that the ambassadors of the six great powers, Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary and Italy, should assemble in one of the capitals with the view of emphasizing the points arising out of the Balkan war on which the nations are already in agreement, is understood to have the support of Germany, France and Russia.

The idea is to endeavor to avert the disposition to drift into an alignment of the two groups of powers forming the triple alliance and the triple entente in opposite camps over isolated questions, such as caused the tension which existed early this week.

William Berry, of Alabama, has just secured the arrest of Freeman Long, a negro, who murdered his father forty years ago. Berry was only nine years old when he vowed he would hunt down the murderer, who broke out of jail while on trial for the crime.

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