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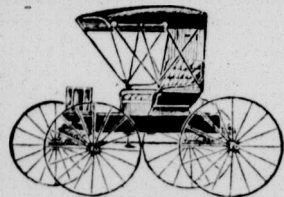
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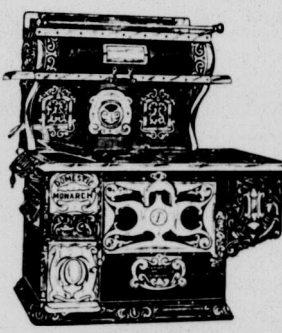
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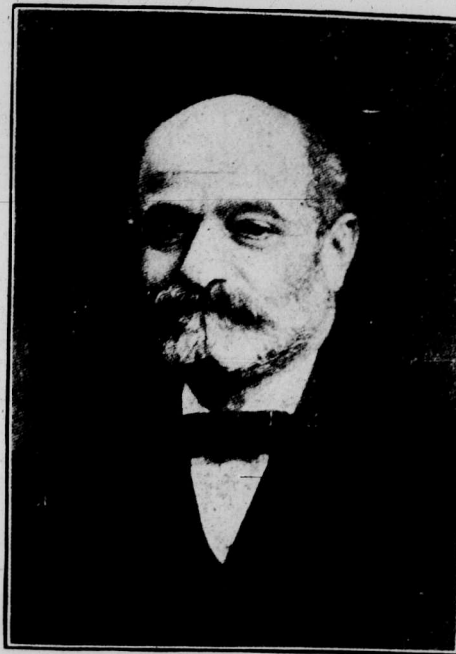


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THE FARMERS' SUPPLY CO. LIMITED
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F. W. GREEN RESIGNS

F. W. Green, secretary-treasurer of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association has resigned and J. B. Musselman has been elected to the position. Mr. Green has been elected honorary secretary and a member of the executive.



JOSEPH FELS

Millionaire philanthropist, who died Sunday, February 22.

Joseph Fels, known thruout the world as an advocate and supporter of Single Tax, died at his home in Philadelphia on Sunday night from pneumonia after a short illness. Mr. Fels was 59 years of age and was born in Halifax, Virginia. He made a large fortune in the manufacture of a well known brand of soap, and since becoming a convert to the Single Tax philosophy preached by Henry George has devoted large sums to Single Tax organizations in Canada, United States, Australia, Great Britain and several European countries. Mr. Fels' plan was to duplicate the funds raised locally, and his slogan was: "Not one dollar for charity, but millions to prevent the need of it."

Our Ottawa Letter

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Ottawa, Feb. 13.—This has been a more than ordinarily interesting week in Parliament. In addition to the introduction of a bill providing for the redistribution of the seats a variety of topics have been discussed. These include the trouble experienced by the government during the past season in connection with the establishment of terminal facilities for the Hudson Bay railway at Port Nelson, and an interesting debate involving a tariff issue, this time affecting more particularly the farmers of the Maritime Provinces.

Then there has been presented to Parliament this week the report of the commission which for many months past has been inquiring into the cost of construction of the National Transcontinental Railway by the late government.

Perhaps of all these questions the one involving another division in the house on a tariff matter affecting the agriculturists of a section of the Dominion will be of most interest to the readers of The Guide. It appears, according to Hon. H. R. Emerson, that basaltic slag which is much used by the farmers of Eastern Canada in preparing fertilizer, has, until last autumn been allowed to come into Canada duty free. At that time a protest was entered against the free entry of this material by the Cross Fertilizer Company, of Sydney, N.S. They asked that it be so classed as to fall within the dutiable list. The customs board yielded to the demand without delay with the result that the duty has since been collected. Mr. Emerson expressed the view that the collection of this duty was both improper and illegal: improper, because it was against the interests of the farmers and contrary to the intention of the customs law; illegal because the ruling of the board had not been approved by the Minister of Customs, as required by statute. "A manufacturer," he said, "demands the imposition

of the duty and, lo, it is accomplished. Increases in the tariff by this method of customs board rulings had been known before under this government. Increases by this method probably amounted to one per cent. additional in customs duty."

J. J. Hughes, of King's, P.E.I., in supporting the motion, said, "The government evidently desire to give the manufacturers all possible advantage, even to the disadvantage of others. Finding it inexpedient to raise the duty openly, it accomplishes the same thing by rulings of the customs board. If the ministry was sincerely anxious to help the farmer it would give him his raw materials duty free, but instead it prefers to place new taxes upon the farmer by the back door method."

F. B. Carvell, of Carleton, N.B., declared that the government had deliberately and without reason added at least 75 cents per ton to the farmers' first cost of slag when used for fertilizing purposes. The farmers of Carleton County alone, he said, would have to pay \$50,000 more annually for their slag because of the duties imposed.

To Protect One Manufacturer

Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Customs, in reply contended that while blast furnace slag is on the free list, the article under discussion was a manufactured article and that in consequence it should bear a duty. The attention of the government, he said, had been drawn to the importation of this product by a concern down in Sydney which has erected a manufacturing plant for the purpose of taking this slag and grinding it into fertilizer. This manufacturer imported \$7,000 worth of machinery but when he went to sell his goods he found that parties were importing this ground slag. The matter had been brought before the customs board, which had decided that the article imported was dutiable. It would appear, therefore, that this heavy imposition of duty, which will cost the farmers of the East many thousands of dollars, has been imposed to protect one manufacturer, whose equipment has cost him the comparatively small investment of \$7,000.

Apart from the minister no one on the ministerial side discussed the question and Mr. Emerson's motion was defeated on a straight party vote of 83 to 44.

The redistribution bill was introduced on Monday. As has been explained the bill simply sets forth the general principles which will guide a special committee of the house in its work of fixing the boundaries of the new constituencies.

Extravagance on N.T.R.

No one on Parliament Hill was very much surprised by the report brought down by the commissioners appointed by the government to inquire into the

Continued on Page 34

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