

Farmers Bank Victims Asking Borden Government for Relief

MORAL JUSTICE AND CLEMENCY FOR VICTIMS

Shareholders and Depositors of Defunct Farmers' Bank Present Memorial to Federal Government.

KING CAN DO NO WRONG

But Former Finance Minister Was Lax and Public Should Not Suffer Therefor.

OTTAWA, Jan. 11.—(Special.)—It is

understood that a memorial will be presented to the shareholders and depositors of the defunct Farmers' Bank of Canada.

The assets of the bank will not be sufficient to redeem the outstanding circulation, even after the double liability clause had been enforced against the shareholders.

Illegal Organization.

The memorial points out many illegalities in and about the formation of the bank. It is claimed that the subscription to shares never became effective, because they were all conditional upon \$500,000 of stock being subscribed bona fide, of which \$250,000 would be paid in cash.

The memorial argues that the treasury board and finance minister acted illegally and negligently in issuing the certificate authorizing the bank to do business.

The memorial points out that under the maxim, "The king can do no wrong," the shareholders and depositors are disabled from seeking relief in the courts.

The finance minister and the other ministers being agents of the sovereign the crown cannot be called upon to answer for their acts any more than the king himself had granted the certificate.

Mr. Fielding, the late finance minister is severely criticized, although the language employed is courteous and restrained.

The memorial refers to the famous \$1000 cheque issued by Travers at Ottawa to someone for supposedly political reasons, but does not comment upon it beyond suggesting that a rigid enquiry might disclose the destination and disposition of the money.

Is Old Chieftain Ready To Undertake Battle?

Liberal Paper Says Campaign Funds Are Low and He is Not Sure of Winning Even in Quebec—Besides There's Reciprocity.

MONTREAL, Jan. 11.—(Special.)—Le Pays, the vigorous Liberal paper, edited by Mr. Godfrid Langlois, M.L.A., is strongly of the impression that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will hesitate before taking the advice of The Globe by endeavoring to force the Borden government to dissolve the house and bring on an election.

"The Old Chieftain," says Le Pays, "knows that our party is not ready to undertake a campaign. In the first place, funds are needed for an election, and the committee of organization is so poor that it could not even organize revision of the lists in the district of Montreal, and we all know that elections are not won with prayers."

"Is the Liberal party, in fact, in a state to undertake a heavy electoral battle just now, even on the naval question? Since the day Sir Wilfrid Laurier went one better than Mr. Borden and offered to spend not only \$35,000,000, but at least three times that amount, are our friends quite so sure of winning even in the Province of Quebec as they were formerly? If that is the question, and then we have the reciprocity problem. If we should abandon that plank in our program we would perhaps improve our position in Ontario, but we might also lose in the west."

"In a word, Sir Wilfrid will do well to reflect before adopting the tactics of obstruction recommended by The Globe. On the other hand, the cautious organ, Le Canada, follows The Globe in asking that a policy of obstruction be carried out, and that the government be forced to dissolve the house and go before the people."

STAR DEFENCE REVIVES THE ST. CLAIR CASE

Theatre Lawyer Declares Missing Man's Pamphlet Put Thoughts of a Suggestive Show into Critics' Minds.

F. W. STAIR'S POSITION

Jury Must Say Whether He Will Be Included in Indictment—Justice Will Wonder as to Punishment.

Mr. Stair was placed on the stand

at the opening of the afternoon session to give evidence to the effect that he was in South America at the time of the performance here.

To Mr. Meredith Mr. Stair admitted that he knew the "Darlings of Paris" was booked for the Star Theatre, but that he had never witnessed the show.

Justice Middleton: If you decided that a show was not to be performed at the Star Theatre, would you have power over Manager Pierce in this regard?

"Yes; but Mr. Pierce possessed such power in my absence."

"Then you are nominally the manager of the Star Theatre?"

"Taken in that way, yes."

H. B. Lennox, K.C., M.L.A., Mr. Stair's counsel, who argued that that he had never witnessed the section of the code, agreed to drop the plea on the assurance from his lordship that the matter of whether or not Mr. Stair should be on the indictment would be left to the jury.

In his argument to the jury, J. W. Curry, K.C., reminded them that Mr. Stair was away at the time, and therefore was in no way responsible. This left the matter with Mr. Pierce, the manager. As far as he is concerned it must be remembered that the Star Theatre was in a circuit and that Mr. Stair didn't know the nature of the show until it was performed at the theatre.

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Hennig for Calgary.

F. S. Hennig, superintendent of the Island filtration plant, has been offered \$4,000 per annum to become head of the Calgary water-works system.

Hennig protested against the way the work was done, and his discharge was advocated by Judge Winchester.

BEATTIE NESBITT MAY NOT RECOVER

Dr. Graham Chambers Says Condition Is Dangerous—Traverse Case to the March Sittings.

THE BRAINY WARD.

Mayor Hocken and Controllers Foster, O'Neill and Church are all proponent of Ward 2. Burrah for Ward 2.

Women and Children Massacred. ATHENS, Greece, Jan. 11.—Muslims today massacred thirty women and children and pillaged and burned two hundred and twenty houses in the village of Keramisza, in the Turkish province of Epirus, a short distance from the Greek frontier.

The victims were driven out of their flaming houses and took refuge in a cavern. They were pursued by the Muslims, who first tortured and then slaughtered them.

In the villages of Turpola and Nidra, in the same region, a number of notables were massacred and many houses burned.

THE DUCHESS IS IMPROVING

CITY WILL LET HAZEN DEFEND PLANT FIRST

Board of Control Instructs Commissioner Harris to Give Engineers a Chance Before Discharging Them.

BLOW IT UP, SAYS FOSTER

"Pure Water Expert" Thomas Davies Anxious to Help—Purity of Water Supply Not Impaired.

"We have left the matter in the hands of the commissioner of works," said Mayor Hocken, when asked as to filtration developments after the private meeting of the board of control held in his office Saturday.

"Information as to what is really wrong is hard to obtain. Commissioner Harris' report says that the leakage is inward, while others, who are expected to know, say that the reverse is the case. In any case, according to a porterscript to his previous report, the purity of the water supply is not impaired, and that there is no leak into the six foot tunnel crossing from the city to the plant. It reads: 'It is fair to state that, if there is a leak into the six foot steel conduit or the tunnel crossing island and bay respectively it would show in this tank as a leakage into the clear water reservoir.'"

"Where do you think the real leak is?" Controller Monchay was asked. "Goodness knows. The experts should be able to say that. I shall be looking forward to Mr. Harris' report as compared with the reports of our own engineers. I would presume that the water leaks from the filters into the reservoir."

"Blow it up," Foster said. "What would you do with the filtration plant?" The word asked Controller Foster.

"Blow it up," was the reply. "It doesn't seem like it, but when you begin to patch and patch, you keep spending money, and accomplish nothing. It would be cheaper for the city to start all over again, with something new. We might spend as much on repairs as would construct a new plant, and be just where we are now."

The happenings of the past few days have practically sounded the death-knell of slow sand filtration for the City of Toronto, a great deal of agitation for the mechanical system of filtration has been in order during recent months. Some candidates during the recent election, especially R. M. Yeomans, made it their principal plank. Mayor Hocken has tacitly signified his willingness to adopt the latter system, and has even suggested a trip by council to Montreal to see them in operation at Westmount, where they are reported to be giving ample satisfaction.

Thomas Davies, the mayor's opponent for his position, called at the mayor's office to offer his "sympathies," as he termed them, and suggested that when the council has done its utmost towards solving the difficulties, and then in all probability falls, he will step in and pour oil over the troubled waters. The note he left with Secretary Wilson reads: "To the lamentable conditions existing in the filtration plant is certainly deplorable. However, things are rarely so bad but what they might be worse. I shall be pleased to come to your assistance and that of my fellow-citizens in getting out of this perplexing trouble, now so prominent in the minds of every ratepayer, and, as soon as the decks are cleared, I will make you a proposition which will be sure to please you, and at the same time render it quite unnecessary to seek outside help or advice." (Signed) Thom Davies, ex-alderman, engineer and pure water expert.

HUGE COST OF PARTY ELECTIONS SAPS INDEPENDENCE OF M.P.'S

In Close Districts Five Thousand Dollars Is Needed For Legitimate Expenses—Should Electors Put Up the Money or Leave It to Party Organizations?

OTTAWA, Jan. 11.—(Special.)—What does it cost to run an election, and who puts up the money? It is said that \$5000 is needed for legitimate expenses in a riding at all closely contested. There are some districts, of course, where a party nomination may be equivalent to an election, but these are few and far between. Even Carleton, Ontario, is quite warmly contested; the result is always the same, but none the less there is a contest.

In Quebec, when the Laurier star was in the ascendant, the Liberal nomination did not always mean election, because some Independent Liberal candidate might take the field. In Maisonneuve, after the death of Raymond Prefontaine, the government candidate was badly beaten by the Labor leader, Alphonse Verreille, who has held the seat ever since.

Expenses out west. Out west, election expenses are much higher than in the east. One candidate in a western riding in 1908 had to pay \$500 in cash to have a letter delivered to some distant part of the riding. The messenger, in order to make time, had to hire fresh horses as often as possible, had a good deal of canoeing to do, required a companion to help him portage and the like, and probably spent a considerable portion of the \$500. Then his time, two or three weeks, was worth a good deal. The election expenses of this candidate amounted to many times \$5000, and left him financially crippled. In some by-elections where national interest is aroused remarkable amounts of money are spent for legitimate and illegitimate expenses. The public is pretty well informed as to the expenditure in the London by-election of 1905, and rumor speaks of the delighted voters fairly swimming in money at a recent by-election in Manitoba.

The ordinary member of parliament must contribute to many clubs, associations, churches and charities every year, and must spend, or have expended for him, a considerable sum of money at every general election. If he puts up all this money himself, he is practically paying for the privilege of serving the people. If it is put up for him, he is under an obligation to the person or persons who put it up. Even tho the money be furnished by the political party to which he belongs, the member of parliament so elected ceases to be a free man. He must be regarded as an ingrate. Not only this, but he is soon made to understand that the party will not finance him at the next election.

POOR MAN TIED UP. The Grain Growers' Guide, the farmers' mouthpiece of the west, points out that a member of parliament with little or no income beyond his seasonal indemnity of twenty-five hundred dollars, cannot be independent. Should, therefore, only wealthy men be elected to parliament? Assuredly not. We desire, it says, our representatives to be wealthy in brains and rich in honor, but we do not require them to be landed proprietors, or big figures on the stock exchange.

Twenty-five hundred dollars a year is not to be sneezed at, and it may be that some members of parliament, when elected, were netting less from their profession or business. A frugal man with a frugal wife, living in a small town or village, could out of this income maintain his family and pay his board at the capital during the session.

But where is such a member to get the money to run an election? He is compelled to call on the party campaign chest, or the great corporations who are constantly haunting the halls of parliament looking for subsidies and all kinds of legislation, and, if all reports are true, according to The Guide, these corporations are permitted, if not invited, to contribute to party funds at every general election.

Unfortunately, some members of parliament, by their long absences from home, lose their practice if they are professional men, or are unable to attend to their business if they are business men, and at the same time perceive their expenses at Ottawa, especially if they bring their families to the capital, considerably exceeding the seasonal indemnity. These men are subject to temptation from the lobbies and other agents of the big corporations who haunt the parliament building in search of such prey.

LET ELECTORS PAY EXPENSES. The Grain Growers' Guide, in discussing this general question, suggests that the electors who desire a certain man to represent them in parliament, should carry on his campaign and pay all his election expenses. Then The Guide points out that such a member of parliament would be independent of party control and of corporation influence.

To increase the salary, so that men will seek election to parliament for the sake of the salary, would probably not improve conditions.

What, then, is the remedy? To elect wealthy men is not to solve the riddle, because experience shows that the wealthiest members of parliament are seldom seen in their seats. But until the riddle is solved we can have few truly independent men in parliament. To increase the indemnity as it is now proposed, by \$500, is the merest makeshift.

Some of the best men in parliament would find themselves unable to finance an election campaign, and are virtually forced to submit to a system which saps their independence and the vitality of parliament. They live economically, even meagrely, so far as their personal expenses are concerned, but they cannot get out of the rut. Perhaps many of them would not do so if they could. Even should they go to the senate, or bench, they would not get away from the party influences which control them in the house.

LONDON VIEWS ON FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Improvement in Position of European Banks Not as Favorable as Figures Would Indicate.

BANKERS APPREHENSIVE

Pending New Security Issues Are Likely to Strain Markets—Time For Extreme Caution.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—(Special to The Sunday World.)—The London correspondent of The Evening Post cables as follows today: The two interesting developments of the week, on this side of the ocean, are the improved position of the principal state banks and the activity of new security issues. The improvement at the banks is slightly misleading, however, because the past week's increase of £2,500,000 in the reserve of the Bank of England and of £3,100,000 at the Bank of Germany, really represented recovery from exceptional weakness. When the returns are compared with this week a year ago, both institutions show a distinctly less strong position. The important proposals made in Germany for smaller note issues with a view to increasing the bank's gold reserve, indicate the feeling on the continent. It is impossible to say precisely what the terms are which the Bank of France is offering to attract gold imports. There is no doubt entertained, however, as to their being both exceptional in character and extraordinary in the amount of inducement tendered. There still literally exists a famine of gold in France, caused by the European diplomatic horizon clearing up soon and completely, the resultant situation may become really serious.

Bankers Are Very Cautious. Here at London no reduction in the bank rate is yet discussed, and in fact it is generally admitted that the present indications justify the ultra-cautious policy pursued at the end of December. It is still true, however, that the outlook is wholly obscured by European politics; the feeling being that fresh complications were to be threatened in the Balkan settlement, it would mean trouble for the markets. Concerning New York, the belief prevails that barring reaction from your present trade activity, this year's average money rate in the United States is likely to be higher than that of 1912. Notwithstanding your large export trade, American credit balances in Europe are very so large as to possibly be imagined, and your position on foreign exchange is constantly being affected by the automatic marketing of that part of your railroads' short-term indebtedness which was placed abroad. Some fear is expressed, however, that your gold exports to Paris may mean that your market cannot be relied on later to help in providing for Argentina's gold requirements, which will be large.

Big Loans Are Pending. It is still evident that very large foreign loans are only awaiting settlement of the peace negotiations before speaking a market. All leading bankers agree that continuance of the present pace in general trade, together with an extensive boom in new securities, would create a considerable strain. The past week's public announcements of such issues foot up several million pounds, while innumerable private placings of two and three-year obligations have occurred, including some from America.

EMPEROR WILLIAM ACTS AS FIRE CHIEF

Took Control of Fire Brigade When Blaze Threatened New Palace.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—A cable from Potsdam says Emperor William assumed a brand new role today, that of fire chief, when a blaze for a time threatened a compartment in the New Palace.

When the flames were discovered the Kaiser immediately took command of the palace fire brigade, which was quickly reinforced by the Potsdam fire department. At the head of the men the emperor directed the streams of water that played on the fire. Under his guidance the firemen confined the blaze to two rooms of the wing of the palace where it originated.

The emperor was an interested spectator while the fire lasted, and a large crowd gathered, for from a distance it looked as tho the entire palace was burning.

Their work done, the firemen were thanked by the Kaiser and treated to wine from the imperial cellars.

SUNDAY WEATHER

Decidedly colder—snow.

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LADY ASQUITH, WIFE OF THE EARL OF ASQUITH, WILL VISIT TORONTO TUESDAY.