

# The Wheat Situation In Canada Is Showing Sharp Improvement

Sales to Great Britain Jump—Outlook For the Future Brighter.

Ottawa.—The expectation of Canada's successful emergence from the huge commitments in respect of wheat holdings is now fairly confident.

John I. McFarland, chief of the selling agency of the Co-operative Wheat Pool, who is in closest touch with the international situation, declared here at the weekend that "the situation is steadily improving in all its factors." The improvement, he thinks, is likely to be sustained and increased. Great Britain, which has been buying extensively in other countries in degree because the price was lower, is now turning back to Canada. This is for two reasons—the high quality of Canadian hard wheat, which is an essential of good milling, and a shortage in foreign countries of supply.

It has never been officially stated how much wheat Mr. McFarland had on his hands, but 240,000,000 bushels has often been mentioned as the quantity and not denied. The banks financed the selling agency and the Government guaranteed the financing. The commitment at one time was very large.

Now, it is understood, the wheat is moving with prospects of exports increasing. This will be beneficial not only to the holding interests and to the Government but also to water and rail transportation.

When Parliament resumes its sittings, the grain board bill will be put through. This will replace and regularize the activities now carried on by Mr. McFarland who will remain the directing mind. It will, however, be a Government-created body, entitled to deal not only in wheat but in all kinds of grain and one of the indicated purposes is to encourage the production of coarse grains instead of everything being staked on wheat.

The board will have power to nationalize the grain business, though it is believed that no such authority will be exercised in full. The regular grain trade is unlikely to be driven from business.

It will be considered a master stroke for Mr. McFarland and the Government, which has backed him, if the wheat surplus is reduced to the size of the ordinary carry over. Of this, the prospect is now reported to be most encouraging.

Of the success of the co-operative movement in Argentina in its attempt anew an anti-dumping treaty, Mr. McFarland expresses doubt in view of the reported hostility of the Argentine Government.

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## The Political Scrap Book

**THE MOVE** on the part of the New Brunswick Government to stabilize the price of eggs during the period of peak production has been generally approved. It has been arranged to adopt regulations which will set the price paid to farmers for their best eggs during the period from April 15 to June 15, at not less than 16 cents per dozen.

**HEPBURN** and the Ontario Government are not being held up to the people of New Brunswick as glowing examples of what the Liberals are doing. As a matter of fact Hepburn is being given a back seat by the Liberals just at present. Certainly New Brunswick does not want agovernment like that operating in Ontario. The repudiation of contracts is not considered the highest function of a government these days. The people of New Brunswick are fortunate in having a Premier who has a high sense of honor and a government that is working for the people along honorable lines.

**THE LIBERAL** Party in New Brunswick seems to have its campaign underway. Its chief concern seems to be along the lines of charges against the Government. This sort of campaign was started last year and some of it centered around the purchase of a road grader. It was then charged that New Brunswick paid more for a grader than did Nova Scotia. Eventually it was discovered that the New Brunswick machine was a more modern affair than that purchased by Nova Scotia, and that the price paid was the proper one. So that charge went up in thin air.

**NOW THE** Liquor Commission and its business are being used as material for the Opposition. More charges are being made from the public platform and the latest threat is that "unless an enquiry is held without delay we (the Liberals) propose to rend the veil of secrecy which has long concealed the administration of the liquor business in this province and take the lid off." It is hoped that the Liberals of New Brunswick do not propose to do with liquor what Hepburn has done with it in Ontario.

**J. B. McNAIR**, of Fredericton, who is President of the New Brunswick Liberal Association, at a meeting in Woodstock recently said that the Government had no definite agricultural policy. He said that the Government should give the farmers expert advice and guidance in solving the difficulties with which they were confronted. One thing Mr. McNair seems to forget and that is that the farmers of New Brunswick generally are experts in their business and that they resent experts telling them how to grow produce, when they know more than most of the experts. What is wanted is a market for the goods produced. The present Government is doing all that can be done in the way of providing markets. More is being done just now than has been done by any other New Brunswick Government. A comparison with Ontario will show that New Brunswick farmers are getting more for their produce than do the farmers of Ontario, which is the richest of the provinces. In the present changing conditions definite agricultural policies would be a mistake. The problems must be met as they arise and that is just what the present Government is doing.

**SO FAR** as definite policies are concerned the Liberals appear to have only one policy and that is to condemn anything and everything which the Government attempts. Action toward fixing the price to be paid for eggs is one of the progressive moves of the present administration and shows how the present-day problems are being handled for the benefit of agriculture.

## Mounted Police Doing Good Work In New Brunswick

Cost to the Province \$100,000 Less Than Former Police.

An extract from the official report of the last session of the New Brunswick Legislature reads as follows: The leader of the Opposition has criticized the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and taken a crack at the Attorney-General about slot machines. Was he to be understood as approving of the habit of young men wasting money in slot machines that never gave back on a 50-50 basis? Did he consider the Attorney-General should be criticized? Let him, Premier Tilley said, ask the Women's Institutes, whose good Liberal members had given thanks for the protection afforded in their various country districts by the R.C.M.P. In some places the force had made it safe for women and children where previously they had been liable to be molested. The present force was costing \$100,000 per year less than the former force and was giving good service in road traffic and many other ways.

## The WEEK In Ottawa

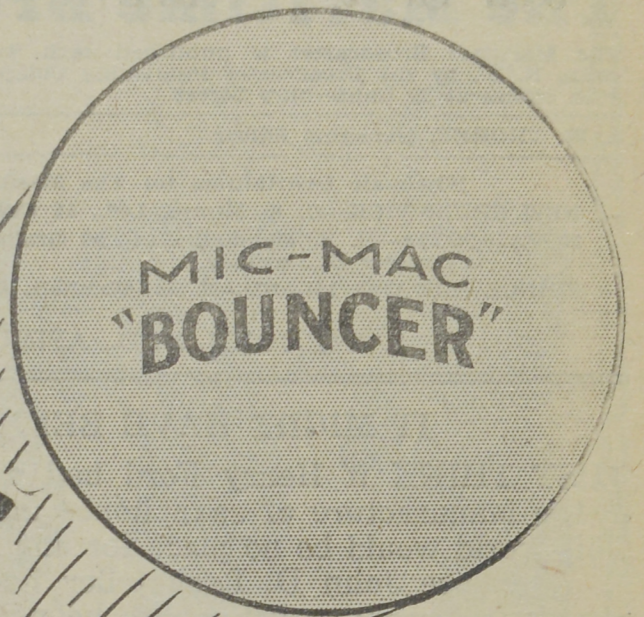
By FREDERICK EDWARDS

Ottawa.—Getaway day (Wednesday) on Parliament Hill saw the Liberals indulge in a second day's blockade of the \$33,000,000 construction bill which is designed to put thousands of men back into employment. Their thirst for knowledge was amazing, though tinged with a certain carnival spirit probably due to prospects of the five weeks holiday without the strain of sitting with their tongues in their cheeks, saying nothing and doing nothing.

Apart from a few questions of importance as to government policy, the Liberal quizzing, led by Hon. Ernest Lapointe (Lib. Quebec East), ran the gamut of enquiries as to the depth of water in Quebec harbor to complaints regarding dredging in the Fraser River. Nothing constructive to help the government, but a barrage of piffing, sectional pin-pricking questions that the ministers concerned strove manfully to answer.

The result? Only that this important measure which would

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bring the joy of re-employment to thousands of men and their families is hoisted until after May 20, the date parliament resumes. Left in committee stage, with the government anxious to get the program of works started but unable to do so until the Liberal blockade ends and the bill gets its third reading.

One of the stumbling blocks to progress was the proposed million-dollar tunnel between the mainland and Toronto Island. This lasted so long that Railways Minister Dr. R. J. Manion definitely charged the Liberals with blocking tactics. Their angry denials seemed a little vehement.

Minister of Mines Wesley A. Gordon is after gold. He said: "Northern Canada holds enough gold to pay for all the mistakes since Confederation . . . holds the salvation of the country." And so he has made plans to send out 900 men on 180 geological surveys to seek gold and water, with the idea of supplementing present geological data on government records to assist prospectors in future searches through mineralized areas. Some 40 parties will be in charge of competent geologists. The government will spend \$1,000,000 on the work.

Distribution of the government's prospecting groups will be as follows: Nova Scotia, 12; New Brunswick, 4; Quebec, 15; Ontario, 30; Manitoba, 20; Saskatchewan, 40; Alberta, 8; British Columbia, 20; Northwest Territories, 10; and the Yukon, 5.

Prime Minister Bennett expects to return from England the middle of May in good health to join "in completing the legislation which was undertaken at the commencement of this session," he said in an official statement issued on the eve of his departure for the King's Silver Jubilee celebrations. He added that so long as he was spared in health and vigor it would be his "proud privilege" to continue to render service to his country.

Finance Minister Edgar N. Rhodes told the House that the government will recommend a donation of \$100,000 to the King George V. Silver Jubilee Cancer Fund for Canada. This fund was initiated by the Countess of Bessborough as a special thank-

## Cabinet Shuffle At Ottawa Now Seen Before Election

Guthrie Is Likely To Retire; Cahan Mentioned For Post.

According to a despatch from Ottawa to the Montreal Star there is likely to be some change in the federal cabinet before the general election. It is expected that two "fathers of the House of Commons," Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Minister of Justice, and Hon. Charles Marcell, will retire this year.

Mr. Guthrie, with Hon. Charles Marcell, shares the distinction of seniority. Mr. Guthrie entered the House of Commons in 1900 as a Liberal. Subsequently he joined the Union Government, and then became a straight Conservative. Any variation in his political adherence has never affected his capacity to be returned from the same constituency. But it is known that he has run his last election. Mr. Guthrie will probably become chairman of the Railway Commission, though under certain circumstances he might go to the Bench. The portfolio of Justice, along with Finance, has a ranking status. Probably one of the present ministers will become Minister of Justice. In that connection, Hon. C. H. Cahan and Hon. W. A. Gordon are mentioned.

Any reconstruction process is unlikely till after the session.

offering gift to His Majesty on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his accession to the throne.

Wednesday afternoon, in good spirits and his real self again, Mr. Bennett posed for newsreel cameramen on the occasion of his departure for the King's Silver Jubilee celebrations. He left Ottawa Thursday for New York and sailed on the S.S. Berengaria Good Friday. On Tuesday evening he was host to the parliamentary press galleryites for three-quarters of an hour, when he flashed his old-time wit with all his characteristic vigor.