

New Brunswick Man Gives Evidence Before House Committee

SAYS FARMERS ARE HARD UP

Believes That Potato Prices are Being Manipulated by a Ring.

Ottawa, April 26—New Brunswick farmers growing potatoes as a large part of their marketable crop have during two or three "lean" years exhausted both their cash and credit reserves and today find themselves in great difficulty according to F. W. Pirie, potato grower and shipper of Grand Falls, N. B., who gave evidence today before the special House committee on agriculture.

Mr. Pirie believed that the provision of loans from which farmers could draw would tide them over their present difficulties, which he believed were not a permanent condition. The difference in local prices between New Brunswick and Maine places was the difference in the duty namely eighty five cents per barrel higher in Maine than in New Brunswick. Shippers were handicapped in getting potatoes to Quebec and Ontario because freight rates were 100 per cent higher than before the war.

Witness believed that potato prices and shipments to Cuba were controlled by a powerful ring which operated at both ends. Potatoes bought in New Brunswick at \$1 per 165 pound barrel were sold in Cuba at \$4.50 per 180-pound sack. The total charges for getting these potatoes into the Cuban market were approximately \$3 leaving a profit to the shipper of \$1.50.

Prices Manipulated.

Prices were frequently increased by the ring against an independent buyer at a certain place where there was no competition, prices were often decreased.

"This ring was composed first of three large shippers, and any of the others who bothered them were taken in," the witness declared.

He did not ship to Cuba himself, but had sold to others who did so.

Mr. Pirie said many farmers were leaving New Brunswick and going elsewhere. Perhaps five per cent were leaving.

Hon. W. R. Motherwell asked why farmers should continue growing potatoes when they could diversify their efforts. Witnesses said all farmers had bought much potato machinery.

"But you want them to go further into debt to lose more money on potatoes," said the Minister.

Witness replied that loans for purchase of fertilizer were needed. Many farmers were growing other crops besides potatoes, he said.

SAYS FRENCH LACK CONSULS

Paris, April 27—"France's consular representation in the United States is a mere burlesque, but in Canada it is even worse," said Louis Thomas on his return from America. "Apparently the French Government since 1857 has not learned that Canada has a capital of its own," said Thomas, "for France is the only nation not represented there."

Thomas is advocating a revision of the whole French consular service and the placing of vice-consuls in every important city in the United States and Canada.

GOOD MARKET FOR PHONOGRAPHS

Washington, D. C., April 27—The better class of Chinese are ready purchasers of phonographs and records says P. S. Heintzleman, Hankow, in a report to the Department of Commerce. Furthermore practically every foreign family possesses a phonograph. Most phonographs, records, and accessories are marketed by dealers with headquarters in Shanghai, or some other large port. These have their own branches at many interior points. There is no reason why American phonographs, if properly advertised and marketed at reasonable prices, should not enjoy extensive sales.

OPPOSED TO MINISTER TO THE U.S.

SIR E. KEMP GIVES VIEWS

Says He Has Changed His Mind in Regard to the Matter.

London, April 27—Sir Edward Kemp, who was a Minister in Sir Robert Borden's Cabinet, speaking at a dinner of the Canada Club here last night repudiated the idea of the appointment of a Canadian Ambassador to Washington which originated in the Government of which he was a member. He said that how information he had received since that time had changed his ideas on this point the most important factor influencing the change being the consideration that other Dominions resented being represented by a Canadian when the British Ambassador might happen to be absent.

He referred also to the possibility of confusion of the various interests if other Dominions pursued a similar policy. The London newspapers which carry a report of the dinner this morning noticeably omit any reference to this statement by Sir Edward Kemp, or quotation from his address.

Sir George Brown at the same gathering urged the importance of the problem of immigration and Lloyd Graeme, the present President of the Board of Trade, said that immigration and Imperial trade were inextricably interwoven and announced that the Imperial Conference to be held in October would consider the proposal to use Britain's credit during the next five years for expenditures necessary for the development of Imperial resources. Such a development would bring about an enormous accretion of wealth, he declared, both to the Dominions and the Colonies as did this way the Empire as a whole would reap a profit within the next twenty or thirty years.

IN PROCESS OF ADJUSTMENT

Ottawa, April 27—The unit of representation in Ontario is the essential cause of the proposed change in difficulty in the redistribution committee. In all the other provinces, the question is in process of adjustment.

As regards Ontario, Conservatives want a member for every 50,000 of population while Liberals and Progressives would make it 55,000. An extra seat in Toronto is involved, that city having ten under one unit and nine under the other. While this difficulty is pending it cannot be determined what should be the subtraction from the rural representation.

Conservatives want the unit to apply to all large centres of population. The other members hold that each city should be considered separately with reference to geographical and other conditions. If the Ontario difficulty is settled it is said the other provinces present no great problem.

SERIOUS FIRE AT HARTLAND

Hartland, N. B., April 26—Fire at Waterville this morning destroyed the house and two large barns of James Pratt. The fire occurred at 10 o'clock and is believed to have started around the chimney. Mr. Pratt had left the homestead about fifteen minutes before the blaze was noticed by a nearby neighbor. It gained such headway that it was impossible to save anything.

Not only were the house and two barns destroyed but all their contents including five head of cattle and a horse, which were locked in the barns and all the household effects. The loss is estimated at about \$5,000, partly covered by insurance.

Fire at Douglas.

The dwelling of Oliver Currie in Douglas was destroyed by fire Thursday afternoon. The family was away from home when the fire broke out at about three o'clock. Alfred Williams a neighbor first noticed the flames. The loss is estimated at \$2,000 with insurance of \$700.

DRURY AND MORRISON MAKE PEACE

NO ALLIANCE WITH LIBERALS

United Farmers of Ontario to Go to Country as Separate Group.

Toronto, April 26—Within twenty-four hours after the decision of the Ontario Liberals to have no truck or trade with the Farmers' government, Premier Drury today visited U. F. O. headquarters agreed to the demands laid down on April 14 by the Farmers' Sun and smoked the pipe of peace with J. J. Morrison and members of the U. F. O. executive.

If the truce signed today lasts long enough the Farmers will go to the country as a solid group. But there must be no "broadening out" before or after the election without the consent of the organization.

According to an official statement handed out by the U. F. O. after the conference today, the Premier has pledged himself, in the event of the government lacking a majority after the election, to call a conference of the elected members, the defeated candidates and the executive of the United Farmers and affiliated organizations and be guided by the decision reached.

Two weeks ago in a speech at Milton, the Premier took up the challenge of the Farmers' Sun and refused to promise that he would not accept the support of Liberals after the election as a means of continuing the U. F. O. government in power. The Farmers' Sun had asked the Premier to give assurance of future policy to his supporters that would put an end to "the whispers of realignment after the election." What he practically refused to do two weeks ago the Premier has done now. Hon. Manning Doherty was the ambassador between the Premier and the organizations.

While declaring frankly that it was not altogether satisfied with the record of the government, the executive of the U. F. O. in a resolution today expressed the opinion that it was essential that the farmers be represented in the Legislature it was to the advantage of the organization to lend its support "to the election of all United Farmer candidates upholding the platform and principles of the U. F. O. organization."

HON. P. J. VENIOT WILL ADDRESS U. N. B. CLASS

Encaenial Exercises to be in Assembly Chamber at Parliament Building — Reunion Exercises Also.

Hon. P. J. Veniot, Premier of New Brunswick, will deliver the address to the graduating class of 1923 at the encaenial exercises of the University of New Brunswick to be held on Thursday, May 17th. The exercises will take place in the Assembly Chamber of the Parliament Buildings.

As announced before the alumni orator will be Bliss Carman of the class of '81. Mr. Carman in 1906 received the honorary degree of LL. D. from his alma mater. He is one of the most distinguished literary men among the U. N. B. graduates.

The faculty orator will be Prof. Foster Baird who will deliver the Address in Praise of the Founders. The valedictory will be delivered by C. Miles Burpee of Edmundston.

Sir George Foster to Speak

The reunion which is to be held by graduates of the University will take place the week of encaenia. On Wednesday the 16th at the University there will be a special gathering in that connection. Sir George E. Foster will be the speaker of the occasion. Dr. E. M. Kierstead, of the faculty of McMaster University at Toronto also was invited to speak but has informed Chancellor Jones that he will be unable to attend. He is a graduate of '73.

A complete program of the week's proceedings will be published shortly.

Treaty With France Is Ratified by the House of Commons

DEBATE WAS VERY LIVELY

Only Twenty five Members Could be Found to Vote Against It.

Ottawa, April 26—After an all-day debate Hon. W. S. Fielding's motion to give second reading to the proposed trade treaty with France was carried in the House of Commons tonight by a vote of 134 to 25, giving a Government majority of 109. Apart from pairs it was a solid party vote in the case of each of the three groups in the Chamber, the Progressives throwing in their entire strength with the Government.

Although a promised amendment by the official Opposition had not been forthcoming, following a dinner-hour conference of Conservative chieftains and the motion was declared carried on "yeas" and "nays," the Prime Minister insisted upon a recorded division. Loud applause greeted the Minister of Finance and Hon. Ernest Lapointe when they rose to vote in favor of the pact they were instrumental in inaugurating.

Features of the day's debate were the addresses of the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen and Hon. Mr. Lapointe—the one a vigorous and unequivocal denunciation of the pact, and the other an eloquent defence of the measure by one who was the chief assistant in framing it.

The commercial treaty between Canada and France, which has met with much criticism since its introduction by Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, was again the storm centre of debate in the House of Commons today. Headed by Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, leader of the Opposition, Conservative members attacked the treaty. They compared it with the former treaty of 1908, declaring that every change made was to the advantage of France.

The treaty was a mere surrender on the part of the Minister of Finance to France, Mr. Meighen asserted. Mr. Fielding had been "helpless" by reason of the stand which he had taken on tariff matters while in opposition.

From the Government benches Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Marine defended the treaty, the net result of which, he argued was to lower tariff rates. The treaty would improve the facilities for trade with France. Opposition to the treaty in the Canadian Parliament would be received by France with mixed feelings, but it would assist the French Government in getting the treaty passed.

Hon. Hugh Guthrie declared that in regard to fish the products of the Maritime Provinces had been well looked after, but the canned salmon of British Columbia would pay thirty-five as against twenty-five percent.

J. L. Brown, Progressive member for Lisgar, held that on the principle that half a loaf was better than no bread he would accept the treaty.

JACK LONDON'S WIDOW ADOPTS FRENCH CHILD

Paris, April 27—Charmian London, widow of Jack London, became the foster mother of a French child this week, the newest arrival of a family of sixteen, whose father is a laborer in a smelter in the densely populated district of Aubervilliers. The entire neighborhood made a gala day of the christening, which took place in the old community church, attended by the whole municipal administration, from the Mayor down to the janitor of the town hall.

The boy's name was Raffrally, but it is now London. His godfather is the publisher of the French translations of Jack London's works. Besides adopting the infant Mrs. London undertook to help the family, and her generosity was the subject of several short speeches at a dinner following the christening. An impromptu concert and ball for the benefit of the children of the neighborhood ended a day such as Aubervilliers rarely sees.

THE PERFECT HUSBY A BIRD IN A ZOO

Cincinnati, O., April 27—A "perfect husband" has been found among the denizens of the Cincinnati Zoological Garden. He's a "bird".

Black African Hornbill is the genus of the "perfect husband," and he gains his title because and he gains his title because mate. He builds the nest, and while she is raising the family maintains the strictest guard over his home.

The nest is constructed in a hollow tree and the male Hornbill leaves a small opening so he can feed his mate during hatching period. The aperture is so small that the female, with the aid of her steel-like bill, can protect herself against any predatory animal.

This is the first African Hornbill seen at the Zoo in 32 years.

CLERGYMAN GIVES ADVICE TO TOURISTS

Tells What to Do When Bitten by a Dog or Homesick.

London, April 27—The Rev. Frank Tatchell, vicar of Midhurst, has written a most original tourists guide which deals with subjects it is impossible to find in the guide books used by tourists. For instance he tells what to do when lost what to do if a dog tries to bite you what to do after falling overboard and how to drive away homesickness and the blues. The vicar is a seasoned traveler. He says: "If you are lost you are exposed to three dangers—fear cold and hunger—of which the first is the most deadly. Sit down until your panic is over and then resist the temptation to go uphill into the freer spaces. Instead go down hill."

The ordinary traveler can subsist on his own fat for a week he contends, but if pushed to the limit he can temporarily sustain life by chewing pieces of his boots.

If the tourist gets into a mob in the East the Vicar advises militancy thus "Hurt one in the crowd and hurt him quickly and you will be able to slip away."

"If you are attacked by a dog shove your hat at him and when he takes hold kick him under the chin."

To drive away homesickness and the blues and induce sleep, this seasoned traveler suggests singing and whistling in bed and letting out "piercing yells with your head wrapped in the bedclothes."

MAJESTIC LARGER THAN LEVIATHAN

New York, April 27—The Shipping Board's statement that the Leviathan after being reconditioned, is now the greatest ship afloat in point of gross tonnage, is challenged by the White Star Line, owners of the steamship Majestic. It looks as though the Department of Commerce will be asked to remeasure the Majestic to see if she is not really 60,000 gross tonnage.

According to Lloyd's Register, the tonnage of the Majestic is 56,551, and that of the Leviathan 54,282. The Shipping Board maintains that the Leviathan is now 59,956 after being reconditioned.

Received Diploma.

Kenneth R. Quartermain of Kings clear received a diploma as one of twenty-one graduates of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N. S., which conferred diplomas last night.