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GRAND TRUNK LEGISLATION WILL HAVE OPPOSITION

Liberals Believe That the Burden Will Be Too Great to Impose Upon the Country at the Present Time—Mr. Ernest Lapointe, M. P. is a Plucky Fighter—Resigns His Seat to Battle With Lavergne in Quebec East.

Ottawa, Oct. 14—In the expectation that the Government might take advantage of its privilege of going on with the Grand Trunk legislation today there was a Liberal caucus held this morning which was but slimly attended owing to so many members not having had time to return from the week-end holiday. The policy which the opposition was to adopt towards the Grand Trunk proposal was discussed. While some of the leading members present expressed themselves as being opposed to nationalization they also pointed out that there was at the present time a very strong sentiment in favor of it which would probably have to run its course. Disastrous as it might be, it was urged that what Canada should do would be to accept whatever responsibility had been cast upon them in regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific, even if that responsibility by right rested on the shoulders of the Grand Trunk, and leave that road to carry on as best it can for the present years at least when the commitments of Canada are so heavy.

Hon. W. S. Fielding, P. D. McKenzie, Hon. W. L. MacKenzie King and Hon. Charles Murphy were appointed to draw up a resolution to be presented today in case the Government went on with the matter. Its general effect would be that while the opposition would not say we should not take the Grand Trunk over at some future time conditions at present were such as not to permit of parliament putting such an addition on the debt of the country.

The matter did not come up in the house so the resolution remained in the pocket of the leader of the opposition, but it gives an idea of the course the opposition will likely pursue.

Plucky Fighter

Ottawa, Oct. 14—Liberal members here regard Ernest Lapointe as having shown himself a "dead game sportsman" in throwing up his safe seat in Kamouraska in order to do battle with Col. Armand Lavergne. The only special significance in the event is that the mantle of Laurier falls on Lapointe insofar as the late chieftain's fight against Quebec Nationalism is concerned. In 1911 and since that great conflict the old chieftain refused to have anything to do with the Nationalist movement in Quebec and he kept Quebec solidly Liberal against the most insidious propaganda and the most violent attacks. When Armand Lavergne seemed bound to run in the constituency which had been represented by Sir Wilfrid Laurier so long and seemed as well to have excellent chances of succeeding the old friends of Laurier for sentimental reasons began to feel that it would be a profanation to have succeeding Laurier one who had always opposed him but how to prevent it was the question. Col. Lavergne is very strong in Quebec East and has a vociferous following throughout the old city.

"Who will bell the cat?" began to be asked, just as in the old conclave or rats considering ways and means to make their feline enemy harmless. "I will bell the cat," said Ernest Lapointe and there is little doubt in most minds that he will do it. His course in parliament has commended itself to his fellows in French Canada as well as to the house generally. He is generally expected to succeed Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux as lieutenant of the Liberal leader in Quebec when Mr. Lemieux accepts the position offered him in Laval University. He is a real natural leader and that is why the strife in Quebec East for the honor of being Liberal leader ceased when he presented himself. He threw up his seat in Kamouraska to make it a real fight.

In the house this afternoon discussion was renewed on D. D. McKenzie's resolution providing for extensions of the Intercolonial into the non-railway sections of the maritime provinces. The only members who spoke on the motion were O. Turgeon of Gloucester and Mr. McKenzie.

Mr. Turgeon said the territory which would be affected was populated by ambitious people who would greatly enhance the production of food. He supported the contention of Mr. Legere for railway connection from Buctouche to Loggieville, for the same reason. He called on the minister of railways to proceed with the acquisition of the Caraque and North Shore railway. He had tried to have the gov-

ernment take this over two years ago and again last year. He called the attention of the house to the fact that the export trade over that line had given the I. C. R. more than 1,300 cars of lumber last year, which had been hauled from Gloucester Junction to Montreal as well as hundreds of cars of fish to St. John and Halifax. The traffic it gives the trunk line was four or five times what it received therefrom. The revenue of the line was about \$80,000 per annum and it gives three or four thousand to the I. C. R. He had opposed the building of branch lines in the maritime provinces by private enterprise as it was well known they were not built so much for revenue as for feeding the trunk lines. The only one they have in the maritime provinces is the I. C. R. Therefore every branch should be taken over. If the I. C. R. had been owned by a private corporation it would have taken over the private lines long ago. The government had received in surplus traffic from the branch lines twice as much as it would cost to take them over, and by improving the lines the service would be doubled. The government has always given the reason for not taking the lines over that they could not come to terms with the owners; but so far as the Caraque line was concerned they have agreed to accept any independent award, such as from one of the railway commissioners or a judge of the exchequer court. When it comes to transaction involving hundreds of millions, like those with the C. N. R. or the Grand Trunk they are ready to precipitate action. Mr. McKenzie closed the debate repeating the arguments he had used when he introduced the resolution.

WHAT GOVT. MAY DO FOR THE VETERANS

Ottawa, Oct. 14—Deliberations behind closed doors which will probably settle the important question of additional assistance to Canada Fighting men were commenced this morning by the members of the special committee on the Soldiers Civil Re-Establishment bill. Hon. J. A. Calder, presided. There had previously been a meeting of several members of the committee at which a tentative outline of the report to be made to the house was considered. It is believed, however, that it will take several days to work out the details as it is the intention of the committee to make a full and comprehensive report to parliament.

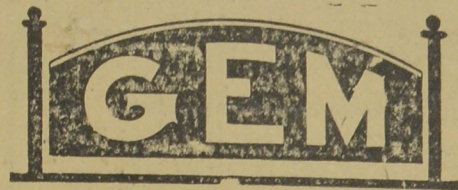
There is little expectation on the part of members of parliament that any of the plans of additional assistance made by the various soldiers organizations will be accepted in the form in which they were made.

The request most likely to be granted is that put forward by those who fought with the imperial forces to be put on the same footing as members of the C. E. F., in connection with the payment of gratuities. During the hearing of evidence the committee was quite apparently impressed with the stories of hardship experienced by Canadians who in many cases had been advised to enlist with the British army and thereby missed the more generous scale of Canadian pensions and gratuities.

May Help Students.

The demand that Canadian University students, whose college courses were interrupted by the war, should be given an opportunity to complete their studies may also receive favorable consideration, it is thought (by many members of the committee, it being recognized that a strong case was made out on behalf of the students while the committee was impressed with the argument that the country will suffer if this course is not adopted.

As for the larger question of a further gratuity for all who served during the war it is a fairly safe assumption that the committee will take the advice given to it by Sir Thomas White when he told them that in his opinion the time had arrived when further assistance should be confined to needy cases.

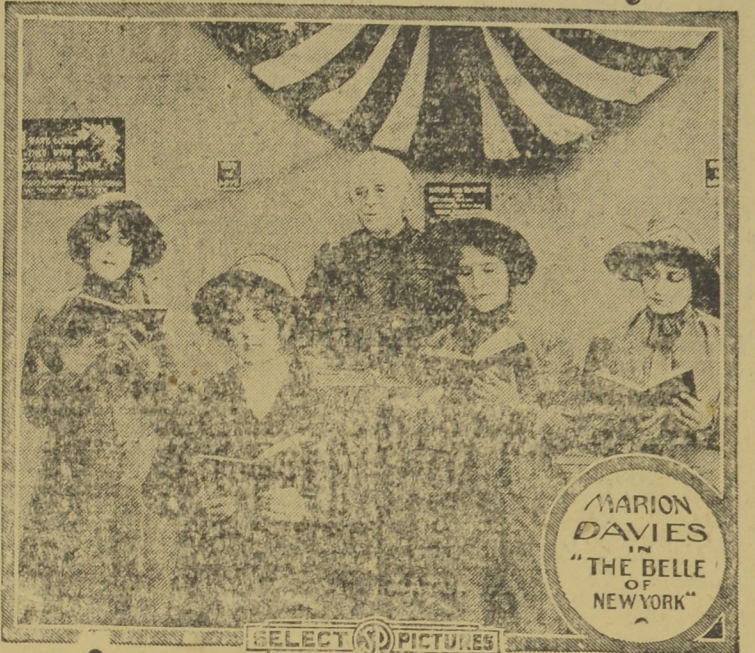


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