

# Our Letter from Ottawa

BY AGNES C. MACPHEIL, M.P.

It has been a particularly busy week. A variety of matters came before the Commons. From the national point of view, wheat was the most important subject. It's a highly technical matter and not always understandable to an Easterner.

There is a sharp division of opinion among the members as to the wisdom of the government wheat policy. Mr. Bennett, when Prime Minister, had set up a wheat board. Ordinarily, this board would have handled the wheat, but it was made practically inoperative by the passing of an order-in-council, P.C. 2202, on August 28th, 1936, according to which the board did not handle wheat unless the price fell below 90c a bushel, which it did not. (The same order provided for a bottom price of \$7½c.)

The price of wheat rose steadily but, in the main, this increase did not go to the farmer but to the speculator. Had the board been handling the wheat the farmer would have shared in the rise in price. He would have got an initial payment of the market price on the day of delivery and two further instalments if the rise in price warranted it. In short, he would have got the top price less handling charges. However, the government very strongly defended their position.

In discussing the usefulness of the British market for Canadian bacon and cattle, the desirability and, indeed, the actual need of a steady supply was stressed by several members. Speaking of cattle, Mr. Bennett said that it would mean a great deal if we could keep a steady flow of even 50,000 head per annum. He pointed out, too, that at one time we shipped 290,000 head of cattle a year to Great Britain. Mr. Leader, Liberal member from Manitoba, supported the same idea, saying that it was difficult to secure the confidence of the trade in Great Britain unless the flow was constant. Last year we did not fill our quota of 50,000 head and the better prices offered in the United States this year will lessen still further the number sent overseas. Mr. Leader proposed guaranteeing a certain number, even though a subsidy were necessary.

H. H. Stevens, in speaking of cattle shipments to Great Britain, stressed the expense entailed in fitting boats with equipment for handling cattle, running about \$14.00 to

\$16.00 a stall. These boats find difficulty in securing suitable return cargoes and if they are harassed still farther by uncertain west to east cargoes they lose interest in the trade. He believes that difficulty could be offset by organization among the larger shippers (only about half a dozen) who export cattle in substantial quantities.

Canada can produce bacon equal in quality to the best Danish bacon. Mr. Stevens told how a chef at the Piccadilly Hotel in London in a test of Russian, Canadian and Danish bacon, without knowing which was which at the time, selected Canadian bacon as the best. It was put up by Schneider's of Kitchener.

Yet, Danish bacon sells for from ten to nineteen shillings higher than ours on the British market, due, Mr. Stevens believes, to the fact that Canada has not made a genuine effort to put on that market the best bacon she can produce. "Grade A" bacon, which fixes the price of Canadian bacon on the British Market—and incidentally on the sworn evidence of Mr. Stanley McLean (Canada Packers) fixes the price of hogs in Canada—consisted of sides, varying in weight from 50 to 70 pounds.

Mr. McLean further admitted that hogs which went into the production of these sides included selects, bacons, lights and heavies. Mr. Stevens went on to say that if our export business were composed more largely of selects and bacons, the Canadian farmer would be getting a better price in Canada for his hogs.

In the discussion on the Foreign Enlistment Act, making it unlawful for Canadian nationals to enlist or to induce any other person to enlist for service in war against a friendly state, Mr. Cahan, Conservative member for one of the Montreal seats, made some striking and, to my mind, very important statements. He said: "In my opinion, this Parliament should again and again at every opportunity assert its sovereignty in regard to matters affecting the peace, order and good government of Canada. We have emerged from the colonial status, whether the judicial committee of the Privy Council recognize the fact or not; and when they decline to recognize it, it is absolutely necessary in the present temper of this country that they be brought to a condition of mind in which they cannot avoid cognizance of certain fundamental

## NEW ENGLAND LADIES' AID

The Ladies' Aid met at the home of Mrs. Russell Lawson on Thursday afternoon, March 4th, with a good attendance. The new president, Mrs. Frank Wiley, presided and Mrs. Russell Lawson acted as secretary in the absence of the secretary. The meeting was opened by repeating the 23rd Psalm followed by the Lord's prayer in unison. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. Several items of business were discussed and it was decided to hold a crokinole social in the basement of the Church on March 19th. Reports were given by the Sunshine Committee. A donation of \$75.00 was voted towards shingling the Church. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Ed. Wilcox for doing the carpenter work in the basement free of charge. A committee was put in to purchase an ice cream freezer for the Church. The Aid completed their quilt which has already been sold. The meeting was brought to a close by repeating the Ladies' Aid benediction. A dainty lunch was served by the hostess.

## CHERRY GROVE W. I.

Mesdaes James and Merton Pendleton were hostesses to the Cherry Grove W. I. on Thursday, March 4th. The meeting opened with the Ode and prayer, after which the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A letter was read from Miss Gladys Graham of Markdale, soliciting orders for flowers, when needed by the branch, the same to be filled by her ex-employer at The Orchid Shoppe, Toronto. It was moved that the Secretary write letters of condolence to the Hodgson family and Mrs. Wm. Stephenson in the loss of their Mother and Sister respectively. The program consisted of a splendid paper, "The Conquest of Cancer," by Mrs. Jack Bradey; a reading, "Be Careful What You Say," by Mrs. Geo. Swanton, and a contest by Mrs. M. Pendleton was won by her mother, Mrs. W. A. Dickie. A dainty luncheon was served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. C. Williamson, Mrs. J. Bradey and Mrs. G. Swanton. The next meeting is to be held on Thursday, April 1st, at the home of Mrs. Wes. Winterburn.

## SHOP IN MARKDALE

During his term as Secretary of State, Mr. Cahan attempted to prepare a bill on Canadian nationality which would amend and consolidate the laws of Canada relating to it, but was, he said, unable to proceed with the matter "For the reason that, while the permanent officials of the various departments of government are intelligent and richly experienced in the administration of the departments, their minds are very obtuse indeed to the reception of new ideas which concern general public policy in matters only incidentally affecting their departments." Such frankness is most helpful, particularly from a man of Mr. Cahan's standing.

The difficult years, which we hope are behind us, have been a harvest for small loan companies, which arrange credit for people suffering from great financial stress. At least two of them have been before the House this session asking for changes in their charter. Both the House of Commons and the Senate have shown strong opposition to the rates charged. For instance, one Company named a 2% rate per month, which sounds easy but actually runs about 27% a year. Families that fall into the toils of such concerns must have the utmost difficulty in extricating themselves.

The Finance Minister, Mr. Dunning, asked that the bill be referred to the Banking and Commerce Committee and definitely promised that the Superintendent of Insurance will be asked to continue gathering all available material in connection with the problem of small loans and at the next session of Parliament will ask the House to consent to the appointment of a special committee, whose it will be to study the whole need in this field.

However, on second reading of the bill is the place to protest the principle, which a number of us did. I said I couldn't see how people

(Continued on page seven.)

# Can You Name the Two Best Known Men throughout the County of Grey and Living in the following Municipalities: Artemesia, Chatsworth, Euphrasia, Flesherton, Glenelg, Holland, Markdale

An entertaining Contest open to Everyone, with Bonuses to Winners who are Paid-in-Advance Subscribers and to Subscribers who Secure One or More New Subscribers

## PRIZES

FIRST \$3 to \$9      SECOND \$2 to \$6      THIRD \$1 to \$3

SEE PAGE 1 FOR FULL PARTICULARS

## BALLOT

Name two men from each municipality whom you consider the best known

- No. 1, Artemesia .....
- No. 2, Artemesia .....
- No. 1, Chatsworth .....
- No. 2, Chatsworth .....
- No. 1, Euphrasia .....
- No. 2, Euphrasia .....
- No. 1, Flesherton .....
- No. 2, Flesherton .....
- No. 1, Glenelg .....
- No. 2, Glenelg .....
- No. 1, Holland .....
- No. 2, Holland .....
- No. 1, Markdale .....
- No. 2, Markdale .....

Signed .....

Address .....

If you are not a Subscriber, but are a member of a Subscriber's Family, give name The Standard is addressed to :

Subscriber .....

Address .....

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Date ..... Time .....



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