

Step 14.—The Civil Service has been demoralized by the wholesale dismissal for alleged political reasons of thousands of officials and by the appointment of hordes of unnecessary officials. In three years 5099 officials were dismissed, 7994 resigned (mostly forced resignations) and no less than 25,613 new appointments were made. Allowing 1,000 for suspensions and deaths, no less than 11,000 new appointments were made during a period when the country was practically standing still.

Step 15.—The Borden Government have squandered money like drunken sailors—millions upon millions of dollars—in the construction of magnificent public buildings in villages and small towns all over the country. The countryside in Tory ridings is dotted with armories which have not been of any use during the war.

There is no possible defence for these expenditures. It is sheer waste of public money, for political purposes. Sir MacKenzie Bowell used to describe this kind of expenditure as "criminal"—and it is.

Step 16.—The Government thwarted the universal desire of the people to get good roads by refusing to apportion money for the purpose, among the various Provinces according to the population. Under the Constitution the building of roads belongs to the Provinces, and money contributed for that work by the Dominion should be spent by the Provinces.

The Government wanted to spend the money themselves wherever they wanted, which clearly meant that their intention was to spend it where it would do the most political good.

Unable to get their own way they played "Dog in the manger."

Step 17.—One of the great wants of Canada is a comprehensive technical educational system in order to promote industrial efficiency so that our great national resources may be developed in the best and most economical way.

A Royal Commission appointed by the Liberals to investigate the subject made a very exhaustive report and recommended immediate action.

This Government "pigeon-holed" the report.

Step 18.—The looting of the British Treasury through the sales of war supplies. Quibble as they like, the Borden Government is held morally responsible by the people for the disgraceful robbery of the British public. The prices charged the British Government for shells and other munitions were so outrageous as to constitute a distinct blot on Canada's escutcheon.

Step 19.—The Ross Rifle.—The action of the Minister of Militia, approved by the Government, in regard to this rifle amounted almost to criminality. Notwithstanding the facts that the rifle was thrown away by the soldiers of the First Canadian Contingent, that it was reported strongly against by the Commander-in-Chief, General Alderson, in the early stages of the War, that there was overwhelming testimony from the soldiers themselves, that the weapon jammed after firing a few rounds and was

otherwise unsuitable, Sir Sam Hughes—the man of one idea, rammed it—metaphorically speaking—down the throats of everybody. Officers and men were forbidden to speak their minds about it. Even General Alderson himself is said to have been removed from his post, largely because of his outspoken utterances about the rifle. Finally driven into a corner by the persistent criticism, the Government, two years after hostilities commenced, did what they should have done at the very beginning, if they had had the best interests of the Canadian soldiers at heart, namely, they asked the British Commander-in-Chief in the field to make a report. That report was not long in coming—and was of the most decisive and unequivocal character. We have the best of reasons for believing that the report went so far as to state that it was nothing more or less than manslaughter to send the Canadian soldiers into the trenches with such a rifle. Then and not till then did the Government abandon the rifle. Such is the penalty Canada has had to pay for having a weak Premier and a wildly erratic, and childish vain and egotistical Minister of Militia. The horrible blunder has cost the country millions of dollars—and what is a thousand times worse—probably many valuable lives.

Step 20.—Camp Borden.

GRAFT, GRAFT AND MORE GRAFT.

Step 21.

The Levis Land Deal.—

Land bought in July, 1912 for \$5,500, was after passing through different Tory political hands, sold to the Government within a year afterwards for a Quarantine Station at \$32,750—or a profit of 500 per cent in one year.

The Dorval Land Scandal.—

The Militia Department paid one, Rodden, \$180,000 for a military camp near Montreal, which Rodden purchased only a year before for \$95,000.

Shield Shovels.—

Sir Sam Hughes bought 25,000 shovels—with a hole in them to spy through—patented by his 20-year old lady stenographer, at a cost to the country of \$33,750—and the shovels were thrown on the scrap heap when they reached England.

Mail Bag Locks.—

The Tory Postmaster General Pelletier—who subsequently found his health too poor to continue as Minister, but good enough to act as Judge of the Superior Court for the Province of Quebec, gave to a specially formed company of political friends, without calling for public tenders, a contract for 350,000 mail bag locks at \$1.00 a piece, that quantity being twice greater than the number of locks used in the whole history of the Department.

Mr. Foster—(Not Sir George)—a Conservative member of Parliament, was handed \$72,000 from the Public Treasury to buy horses for the Militia