

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

<i>How Borden Backs Britain (Cartoon)</i>	89
<i>Soldiers' Votes (Montreal Gazette)—Wellington and Boots—Amusement and Disgust (Horse Buying)</i>	90
<i>Dismissals, Appointments, etc., in Government Service</i>	91
<i>Whitewashing the Bad Boots</i>	92
<i>War Contract Scandals</i>	93
<i>Their Last Refuge (Tory Flag-waving)</i>	94
<i>"Malignant Label and Slander"</i>	95
<i>Questions and Answers—"Flag Flapdoodle"</i>	96
<i>The Patronage Maggot (Editorial from Ottawa Citizen)</i>	97
<i>The "War" Taxes (Speech of A. K. MacLean, M.P. continued)</i>	98
<i>Liberal Club Federation of Ontario (Notes)</i>	99
<i>The Month in Parliament—Diary of the Month</i>	100

CORRECTION.

On page 83 of the Liberal Monthly, March number, among the quotations from the speech of Mr. A. K. Maclean on the Budget, was a table showing revenue and ordinary expenditures of the Borden Government from year to year. There was a regrettable error in this table, showing revenue from sources for fiscal year 1912-13 to be \$133,212,743.67 whereas it should properly have read \$168,689,903.45. The revenue for 1913-14 was shown as \$126,143,275.31 whereas it should have read \$163,174,394.56. The correct figures only emphasize the point they were quoted to demonstrate, viz, that while revenue has been falling steadily since 1911, expenditures have grown out of all reasonable bounds and are really responsible for the unfortunate position in which this policy has landed the Government at the present time.

AMUSEMENT AND DISGUST.

PUBLIC disgust occasioned by the amazing revelations before the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons regarding the workings of the Tory patronage system in War Contracts, has been tempered to some extent with amusement. Some of the sworn evidence has revealed a system so brazenly unbusinesslike, if not worse, as to be utterly ludicrous. Anger and disgust must occasionally give way to laughter. This is the case when reading the evidence of how war horses were bought; how political workers who knew nothing of horses but lots about "securing" votes, placed the prices to be paid for horses; how "experts" blind to everything but the chance to "tie up" votes for election day, put their official "O.K." on the aged, the spavined, the broken-kneed, the broken-winded and the decrepit such as the one that was rejected as too old in the days of the South African war and the one that was once traded for "a drake and two ducks." The Ottawa Citizen epitomized the disgusted amusement of thousands of Canadians in its issue of March 9, in the following humorous race announcement:

Connaught Park Spring Meet: Militia handicap, for spavined mares 30 years old or over. Must have been accepted by the militia department for service abroad. Distance 100 yards. Can be helped by owners for half the distance. Horses falling twice disqualified. Winner must be removed from track and grounds ten minutes of finishing race.

VOTES FOR THE SOLDIERS.

A Bill providing that Canadian soldiers on active service should vote in the trenches or wherever they may happen to be on election day, was the last measure passed by Parliament, which prorogued on April 15. Two amendments were made in the bill by the Senate. The first, to which it was impossible that the Government could take reasonable exception, provides for six scrutineers to watch the taking of the votes, three to be named by the Government and three by the leader of the Opposition. The second amendment by the Senate provided that the act should not come into force until consent had been obtained from Lord Kitchener, Secretary for War. To this amendment the Government objected and there was some debate in the Commons before it was finally agreed by the Government that it would accept the bill if the amendment was changed so that it would provide for the consent of The King-of-Council. To this the Senate consented after more debate, and the last act of a memorable session was thus consummated.

The last few days of the session gave many indications that it is the present intention of the Government to force an early election. There were many signs that the leaders who are determined to have an election while the war is in progress had succeeded in gaining the ascendancy, and that they are now engaged in an effort to pick the "softest" spot for a "Khaki" flag-waving campaign.

THE GAZETTE ON SOLDIERS' VOTES.

THE *Montreal Gazette*, usually willing to see eye to eye with the Borden Government which it so carefully supports as senior Ministerial organ in Quebec, has opinions of its own on the subject of Canadian soldiers voting in the trenches across the seas. In an editorial in its issue of April 9, the *Gazette* says "A study of the bill as reported by the special committee of the House of Commons suggests, however, that there are many difficulties in the way and the experiment may not be a success. There are Canadian regiments in Bermuda, in the West Indies, in Great Britain and in France. There may be some in Syria, Egypt or Germany by the time polling day arrives. . . . The plan is probably as simple as any that could be devised. The possible difficulties in the way of its full success, however, are many and varied. The Germans may be requiring the attention of the men on the regimental polling day, and the trenches are not favorable places for taking affidavits, filling up forms and making reports on non-military operations. It is well that a state of war is an unusual condition for this country, **because if an election occurs while it exists, there will be many failures, some irregularities and numerous causes of dispute in connection with the soldiers' voting.**" This criticism from the leading Conservative newspaper of the province of Quebec sounds strangely like the very arguments used by leading Liberals against the bill—the very arguments which leading Conservative exhorters in the House did their utmost to confound and combat.