

SOME SAMPLE SCANDALS

HALF a dozen "deals" uncovered during the last session of Parliament reveal the methods of the Borden Government in handling the affairs and the funds of Canada. The purchase of building sites at Fort Frances, Ontario, at Levis, Quebec, and at Canning, Nova Scotia; the Bonnie Bel-air transaction; the Southampton Railway "deal"—all show the Government's sacrifice of the public funds for the advancement of the private fortunes of its friends.

On July 29th, 1913, a site for a quarantine station at Levis was purchased from W. R. Dohan for \$32,750. Four days before Mr. Dohan had purchased the property from Dr. Dussault for \$25,400 so that he netted a profit of almost \$2,000 a day on his transaction with a friendly Government. But he was not the only one to profit through the "deal". Dr. Dussault had bought the property for \$12,000 only a month before he turned it over for \$25,400 so that he doubled his money and had \$1,400 to boot. Property values increased very rapidly at Levis after the Government decided to build the new station—and when the "right men" could deal in the land that had been picked out.

When a post office site was to be acquired at Fort Frances the Government picked out a faithful Tory, Mr. A. D. George, Crown Attorney, for the job. Mr. George obtained options on two pieces of ground for a total of \$9,500. Then, according to evidence given before the Public Accounts Committee he purchased the land himself, represented a clerk in his own office as being the agent of the Government, and turned over the two properties to the Dominion for \$16,500. In the meantime, he had sold a house which stood on the land for \$1,150 so the net cost of the property to him was \$8,350 and his profit—and the country's loss through the Borden way of handling public business—was \$8,150.

The Bonnie Bel-Air deal whereby Major W. T. Roddin purchased property near Dorval, Quebec, for \$89,996, and very soon after sold it to the Militia Department for \$180,000 has already been referred to in a previous issue.

At Canning, N. S., the Government was so determined to look after the interests of a party friend that it rejected Sir Frederick Borden's offer of a free site for a public building and agreed instead to pay \$2,000 to N. W. Eaton, a defeated Tory candidate, for property he owned. This particular property has been declared to be worth only \$300 or \$400 but to make it appear as being worth more—and to make the site large enough for the proposed building—the Government offered \$1,100 for another piece of ground adjoining the Eaton land, an offer which was rejected by its owners on the score that \$1,100 was three or four times the amount honorable men should accept for the lot.

In some respects the Southampton Railway "deal" is worst of all. For this thirteen miles of railway, which was constructed by a company in which the chief figure was a Conservative member of the New Brunswick Legislature, the Borden Government gave a "double subsidy" of \$6,400 per mile under the terms of the Railway Subsidies Act which provides that a road receiving such assistance must cost, at least, \$21,400 per mile. A Government engineer sent over the road certified its cost as being \$22,954 a mile so that, apparently, the "double subsidy" had been earned. But when a law suit recently arose out of the line's construction sworn evidence was given showing that the cost of the road had been only \$12,100 a mile. In other words, the Borden Government gave the company of the Tory M. P. P. a "double subsidy" totalling many thousands of dollars to which it was not entitled. And the company got the money just about the same time that the Tory M. P. P. gave up his opposition to the candidature of a man chosen by the Government to contest a local by-election.

DIARY OF THE MONTH.

- June 1914.
- 1 **ONE THOUSAND UNEMPLOYED** march to the City Hall, REGINA, seeking work.
 - 2 **COLONEL SAM HUGHES** tells the Commons that **TECHNICAL EDUCATION** is **LESS VALUABLE THAN DRILL HALLS**.
 - 2 Motion of **SENATOR MURPHY, (C.)** for six months' hoist for bill extending provisions of Fenian Raid bounty act defeated by one vote.
Amendment to the Government's Canadian Northern proposals offered by **SIR WILFRID LAURIER**, providing for **GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP** of the railway, **DEFEATED** by 42 to 85.
Amendment of **ALPHONSE VERVILLE**, Labor member for Maisonneuve, providing that no aid be granted Mackenzie and Mann until they agree to the appointment of a **CONCILIATION BOARD FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND LABOR TROUBLES** **DEFEATED** by 38 to 45 and Government's Canadian Northern bill passed "on division".
 3. Motion of **A. K. MACLEAN (L.)**, for six months' hoist for bill to reimburse the depositors of the Farmers' Bank defeated by 18 to 55.
 - 4 Inquiry into the Dugal charges against **PREMIER FLEMING**, of New Brunswick, and **H. F. McLEOD, CONSERVATIVE M. P.** for **YORK, N. B.**, begun at St. John.
 - 5 Motion of **J. H. SINCLAIR, (L.)**, for investigation into failure of other banks before reimbursement is granted to the depositors of the Farmers' Bank. Defeated.
Bill to guarantee the bonds of the Grand Trunk Pacific to the amount of \$16,000,000 agreed to by the Commons.
 - 6 **LIBERAL SENATORS** set forth **objections to Canadian Northern** proposals of the Government and urge **reconsideration** of the measure.
New Canadian loan of £5,000,000 **POORLY RECEIVED** in London and **ADVERSELY CRITICISED** by English newspapers. "Scandal" report of **G. HOWARD FERGUSON** on **TRENT VALLEY CANAL** criticised in the Commons by **HON. SAM HUGHES** as well as by Liberal members.
 - 8 Motion for **SIX MONTHS' HOIST** for bill to **REIMBURSE FARMERS' BANK DEPOSITORS** carried in the Senate by **VOTES OF CONSERVATIVE SENATORS**.
HON. WILLIAM FUGSLEY'S motion of censure upon the Government for **MISMANAGEMENT** of the **NATIONAL TRANSCONTINENTAL** lost "on division".
Senator Thomas Coffey, (L.), dies at London, Ontario.

- 9 **HON. J. D. REID**, acting Minister of Railways, tells the Commons that the **momentum grades** upon the Transcontinental, which had been praised by the Gutelius-Staunton report and condemned by the Liberals, are to be **ELIMINATED**.
Canadian Northern bill **PASSES** in the Senate.
Government's plan for a **VOLUNTEER NAVAL RESERVE** discussed in the Commons; Government's continued vacillation and dishonesty in dealing with the **NAVY QUESTION** condemned.
- 10 **LIBERAL** motion to **REDUCE THE MILITARY EXPENDITURES BY \$3,000,000** defeated by the Government majority in the Commons.
Premier Borden gives notice of resolution for an address to the Imperial Parliament asking amendment of British North America Act to provide for **INCREASED WESTERN REPRESENTATION** in the **SENATE**.
- 11 Redistribution Bill and resolution regarding Senate representation discussed in the Commons; on motion of **E. M. Macdonald, (L.)**, Redistribution Bill amended to provide for **FOUR MEMBERS FOR PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND** if the necessary amendment to the British North America Act was made by Imperial Parliament.
- 12 Redistribution Bill **PASSED**.
Senate **AMENDS** resolution regarding Western representation by providing that proposed change should not become effectua until the next Parliament; Government **REFUSES** to accept the amendment and thus kills the resolution.
HON. L. P. PELLETIER rejects Senate amendment making increases in **POSTAL RATES** under the proposed Post Office Bill subject to the control of the Treasury Board and ratification by Parliament; proposal for **INCREASED WAGES FOR RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS** and other **POSTAL EMPLOYEES** defeated through **MR. PELLETIER'S ACTION**.
PARLIAMENT PROROGUED by the Duke of Connaught.
- 21 Knighthoods conferred on **PREMIER BORDEN, HON. GEORGE E. FOSTER, SENATOR deBOUCHERVILLE, J. A. M. AIKENS, M.P.**, and **DR. T. G. RODDICK**, of Montreal.
- 23 Liberals of Argenteuil, Quebec, addressed at Lachute by **HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX, HON. SYDNEY FISHER, ANDREW PHILPS, M.L.A., J. A. C. ETHER, M.P.**, and **A. E. McMASTER**.
- 25 **W. G. BASHFORD, (L.)** elected in Provincial by-election in **NORTH QU'APPELLE, Sask.**, and **J. G. GARDINER, (L.)**, in **ROSTERN, Sask.**; North Qu'Appelle carried by the Liberals for the first time since 1905; Liberal majority in Rostern greatly increased.
- 29 **WHITNEY GOVERNMENT SUSTAINED** in Ontario; Government, 84; Liberals, 25; Labor, 1; Independent, 1; Liberals increase representation in the Legislature and reduce popular majority of the Government.