

POLITICAL COMPLEXION OF PARLIAMENT.

WHEN Parliament meets on the 15th Mr. Borden will face the representatives of the people with exactly the same number of followers in the Commons as he did when he became the head of the Conservative Government. There have been a number of changes in personnel, but the net result of the various by-elections since September 1911 is that the Government has one more supporter from Quebec, and the Opposition one more supporter from Ontario. Out of a total membership of 221 in the House of Commons 134 sit behind the leader of the government and 87 behind the leader of the Opposition. With Conservatives and Nationalists combined, and voting full strength, Mr. Borden can command a majority of 45; without the aid of the Nationalists his straight Conservative majority would be 23.

The standing by provinces at the first session of the present Parliament was as follows:

	Con.	Nat.	Lib.
Ontario.....	73		13
Quebec.....	5	22	38
Nova Scotia.....	9		9
New Brunswick.....	5		8
P. E. Island.....	2		2
Manitoba.....	8		2
Saskatchewan.....	1		9
Alberta.....	1		6
British Columbia.....	7		0
Yukon.....	1		
Total.....	112	22	87

With the exception of the Ontario representation being—Conservative 72, Liberal 14, and the Quebec representation—Conservative 6, Nationalist 22, Liberal 37, the political complexion of the House of Commons will be as above, when Parliament meets for its third session.

After two years in power under Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Liberals came back to the third session or their first parliament with their majority on a division increased by 18.

There are in all 87 members in the Senate. When the Borden Government assumed office, there were only 81 members, 62 Liberals and 19 Conservatives, and six vacancies. Premier Borden immediately filled the vacancies with political friends, despite pre-election denunciation of partizan ap-

pointments to the Senate. Since these appointments 18 further vacancies have occurred. Ten among the Liberals and 8 among the Conservatives. Each vacancy has been filled by the appointment of a Conservative. So to-day with its complete representation, the Senate, having regard to their political allegiance at the time of appointment, is composed of 55 Liberals and 32 Conservatives, or a Liberal majority of 23. Oddly enough the Liberal majority in the Senate is exactly the same as the straight Conservative majority in the House of Commons.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO OFFICE.

THERE was a time when Mr. Borden and his Conservative colleagues in Parliament strongly condemned the appointment of Members of Parliament to positions of emolument under the Crown. The practise, said Mr. Borden, was "vicious", and the prospect or promise of office was "subversive of honest action by Members in the House". Two years of power have belied Mr. Borden's pre-election protestations in this, as in almost every other instance. He has already appointed nine Members of the Commons to coveted positions, or, one out of every fifteen of the men who were elected in 1911 to support his policies. The list is as follows: Messrs. George Taylor (Leeds), George Gordon, (Nipissing), Dr. Daniel, (St. John), and J. J. Donnelly (S. Bruce) to the Senate; W. D. Staples (Macdonald) to the Dominion Grain Commission; A. S. Goodeve (Kootenay) to the Dominion Railway Commission; Alex. Haggart (Winnipeg) to the Manitoba Court of Appeal; Haughton Lennox (South Simcoe) to the Ontario High Court, O. S. Crockett (York, N.B.) to the New Brunswick Supreme Court.

The appointment of other Members to Senatorships or Judgeships has been practically promised for as soon as it is found safe to open the constituencies. For the nine vacant judgeships in Ontario it is stated on good authority that there are now 130 applications fyled with the Minister of Justice including the applications of a number of Members of Parliament.

SOUTH LANARK BY-ELECTION.

THE by-election returns in South Lanark mark the climax to a series of hard blows dealt the Borden Government in the Province of Ontario during 1913. This was the first vacancy to occur in the Commons representation from Ontario during the year, but was the last to be filled. The seat became vacant on the 13th of March; other vacancies were South Bruce on May 26th, and East Middlesex on June 11th. The Government brought on the by-elections in reverse order, that of East Middlesex being the first. In that election the Governments' majority was cut down by 293. In South Bruce the Government lost the seat. In South Lanark the election did not take place till December 13. The government candidate, Dr. A. E. Hanna, with the support of the Administration and personal assistance of several of the Ministers in the campaign received the bare plurality of 66 over the two candidates who opposed him, and a majority of only 133 over Colonel Balderson, who was his principal opponent. In the general elections of 1911, Hon. J. Haggart, the Government candidate received 2233 votes and had a majority of 1166; Mr. Hanna, received only 1906 votes and came within 133 of defeat.

CHANGED CONDITIONS.

"A new condition has arisen at the present time. For the first time since the year 1896 men are seeking work and are not finding work. For the first time since 1896 there is such a thing as unemployment in this country. The Mayor of Winnipeg stated yesterday according to press reports, that there were three thousand unemployed in the city of Winnipeg. He also said that three years ago he could have blessed heaven that there was not a single unemployed person in the city. To-day, as we know, in Montreal, in Toronto, in all of the large cities of Canada men are seeking employment and not finding it. That is not all, though that is bad enough. At the same time that work is decreasing, the cost of living is increasing. There is less work on the one side and a higher cost of living on the other side. We have known hard times before. There were hard times in this country from 1893 to 1896. But at that time, although there was not very much work, living was cheap. But in these modern times, in these days of the present Government, there is not sufficient work and living is dear, so that we are hit both ways. And this is Conservative prosperity!"—Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the Fielding Banquet.