

SOME STEPS

IN THE DECLINE AND IMPENDING FALL OF TORYISM IN CANADA

Step 1.—The selection by Premier Borden of the weakest and most nondescript Cabinet since Confederation—a Cabinet that has done nothing but spend the people's money lavishly.

Step 2.—The inclusion in the Cabinet of three Nationalists whose political creed in brief is: "We owe nothing to England and the English."

The present Tory Secretary of State, Hon. Mr. Blondin, declared on the Hustings, no later than 1910:—

"You are intimidating the people in waving the English flag, and adding that we must contribute always and everywhere to the defence of that protector of our constitutional liberties; but we will not be made to forget that in 1837 it was necessary to bore holes in it in order to breathe the atmosphere of liberty."

The present Speaker of the House of Commons—put there by the Tory Government—declared on the stump in Quebec only a few years ago:—

"You must protest against helping England in her wars; unless you do, conscription will come next."

Step 3.—The inclusion also in the Government of the Honourable Robert Rogers, a man devoid of great intellectual powers and the high qualities which make real statesmen, but rich in guile and low political cunning, which constitute him a real menace to the State.

Step 4.—The appointment of Sam Hughes as Minister of Militia. No greater political mistake was ever made. His administration has been a riotous medley of graft, extravagance, inefficiency, pompous parade, bombast, wind, fury and farce. He apes Napoleon, and in this he reminds us of the many poor chaps in our asylums whose fixed idiosyncrasy is that they really are, Hannibal, Napoleon, Bismark or Lord Roberts, as the case may be.

Step 5.—The surrender of the Borden Government to Mackenzie and Mann. The doors of the Treasury were held wide open and Bill and Dan were invited to fill their capacious satchels. Here is a list of Tory gifts to these two ravenous promoters.

(a) A cash subsidy of \$6,000,000 in connection with the construction of the Manitoba section of the Canadian Northern Railway.—Also guarantee of principal and interest of bonds to the amount of \$4,500,000.

A straight cash subsidy of \$15,640,000.

A guarantee of principal and interest of Canadian Northern bonds to the amount of \$45,000,000.

The Tory Government also advanced \$10,000,000 in cash on the security of \$12,500,000 of these bonds.

A straight loan of \$15,000,000 in the Spring of 1916.

Step 6.—The increase in the ordinary annual expenditures of the country in three years of Tory rule—in normal peace times—from \$87,000,000 to \$127,000,000, notwithstanding that when in Opposition Borden declared that the expenditure of the Liberals amounting to \$79,000,000 was prima facie evidence of corruption. The country practically stood still during these three years yet the public expenditure aeroplaned.

Step 7.—The granting of additional protection to the manufacturers through the imposition under the guise of war tax, of an extra duty of 7½% on imported goods. In regard to food stuffs this tax enables the meat packers and the canners of vegetables, fruit and fish to charge 7½% more for their goods without benefitting the Dominion Treasury. Can you wonder that the cost of living has increased?

Step 8.—The granting (in an underhand way too) of 17 cents per 100 pounds more protection to Canadian Sugar refineries. This means a gift of over a million dollars a year to these manufacturers.

Step 9.—The point blank refusal of the Government to allow the Western farmer free access for his wheat to the United States market.

Step 10.—Sir Robert Borden and his Cabinet of weak sisters deliberately fired a Customs torpedo at British trade by imposing an additional duty of \$5.00 on every \$100 of British goods.

South Africa had to raise more money too on account of the war but declined to impose an extra tax on British goods.

Step 11.—The shelving of responsibility by the appointment of myriad Commissions to investigate all sorts of questions embarrassing to the Government.

Step 12.—The appointment by Premier Borden of one Morine, formerly of Newfoundland as Chairman of a Royal Commission to investigate the Civil Service of Canada, in the face of the fact that the self-same Morine had been dismissed by the King from his position as Cabinet Minister of Newfoundland for malfeasance in office.

Step 13.—The Quebec-Saguenay Railway steal of the Session of 1916—which is perhaps the most malodorous of all the railways deals in the history of the country. Briefly told, powerful interests in the Tory party found themselves with three white elephant railways on their hands, and the Government took them over at a handsome price—the result to the Canadian tax payer being an additional load of about \$10,000,000. This happened in war times too when every dollar is needed to preserve our existence and liberties, and was not only approved but warmly championed by the Finance Minister.