

"SPARKLING BOB" FOR PREMIER.

WHILE Sir Robert Borden is assuring the country that he will make every effort to establish a union or win-the-war government after the elections, there is every symptom of a radical difference within the Tory ranks regarding any such scheme. It may be all right as an election dodge; it may help delude some unthinking voters into supporting the administration irrespective of its unsavoury record, but it is political camouflage only. Sir Robert is ruled by a stronger power within his own party and that power, represented by Hon. Robert Rogers, the hero of the MacLeod-Tellier whitewashing incident and of countless escapades in Manitoba, will have none of a union cabinet. Hon. Mr. Rogers is out for the good, old, straight line Tory party, and has no use for these new-fangled ideas of the premier's. It was because he could not have his own way with Sir Robert Borden that Mr. Rogers stepped down. He stepped down only figuratively, of course. As a matter of fact he stepped up, and very much up. To-day Mr. Rogers represents the real strength of the Tory party as represented in the last parliament. That strength is opposed to a union government, to any kind of a government except the old "spoils" sort of government, the sort where all are faithfully rewarded and the country is forced to pay the piper. That is the meaning of the famous gathering of Tory members at the Country Club as guests of the whitewashed minister a few weeks ago, when the Rogers-for-premier boom was launched upon a sea of bubbling champagne. That is the meaning of the overwhelming demonstration accorded the calumniated statesman when, a few days after the afore-said launching, he walked into the Tory caucus, presided over by the premier, and was greeted with a vociferous outburst of cheering that lasted five minutes and sent the premier's heart into his boots.

The real issue within the Tory ranks to-day is not a union government or a government equipped and constituted to win the war or win anything else. It is whether Sir Robert Borden is to continue to lead the party or whether Hon. Robert Rogers, "Champagne Bob," is to be the next premier. It is up to the voters in the last analysis, however, and both premier and pretender may be counting their chickens before they are hatched.

WOMEN AGAINST FOOD CONTROLLER'S PLEDGES.

MR. HANNA, Canada's Food Controller received a somewhat severe shock when it was announced in the *Ottawa Citizen* on Monday, September 24th that the Executive of the Ottawa Woman's Club and the District W.C.T.U. had passed a resolution that the first restrictions in food should be placed on distilleries and breweries and not upon the households and refusing to take any part in the work of distribution of the Food Pledge Cards until Mr. Hanna had taken action to curtail the use of grain by the distilleries.

The following is the resolution as passed:

"Resolved: that as the Ottawa Woman's Club is now, as it always has been, giving time and money to help win

the war, and intends to continue to do so, it, the Club, cannot take any part in the campaign for signatures to cards pledging signers to certain restrictions in the use of food.

"That in the opinion of the club, the first restrictions, Food Controller Hanna should put upon the waste of food in Canada, are not in our households, but in our distilleries and breweries, where in 1916-17 Canada wasted in the manufacture of whiskey and in the brewing of beer 159,963,000 pounds of food.

"Our parliament was closed without enacting a law prohibiting the manufacture for beverage purposes of alcohol. Our government seemed satisfied that in giving our food controller power to compel the cessation of this great waste, that it has done its whole duty; as soon as our food controller attends to the distilleries and breweries, the Club will then, (if the controller should then consider it necessary for the people to change their diet) be very pleased to assist in all efforts towards that end. Resolved further, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Hon. the Food Controller of Canada and the Premier."

What the Executive of the Ottawa Women's Club had in mind when passing this resolution was undoubtedly a statement recently published showing what food producing material has been used in Canadian breweries and distilleries for the year ending March, 1917. The figures quoted were as follows:

Grain for malting.....	98,522,300 lbs.
Corn.....	69,447,487 lbs.
Rye.....	10,430,817 lbs.
Oats.....	131,580 lbs.
Wheat.....	27,782 lbs.
Sugar, Rice, etc.....	616,369 lbs.
Molasses.....	27,416,716 lbs.
Total.....	206,593,051 lbs.

It looks as if the women of Ottawa had put their finger upon a matter to which the Food Controller could well direct his attention.

Since the publication of the above quoted resolution some Conservative newspapers have undertaken to defend the Government by stating that much of the grain used by these distilleries was not suitable to be manufactured into bread for human consumption.

Quite right perhaps. But would it not have been suitable for cattle, pigs, and other animals, thus producing more meat to assist in the reduction of the high cost of living?

FAVoured TORONTO.

What have the good people of Toronto to complain of? They are getting salt water fish at 10c a pound, fresh water fish at 12½c a pound, they have sold their worthless C.N.R. stock at a price far beyond their anticipation and have been presented free of charge with a lake frontage worth one million dollars by the Hon. Robert Rogers. What more could this Fair City desire?

The *Toronto News* is complaining most bitterly of the editorials which are appearing in the *Canadian Liberal Monthly*. It is evidently getting under the skin where it hurts?