

Senate the responsibility of initiating some of the government measures. At present the Senate is scandalously underworked in the early part of the session and atrociously overworked in the latter part. There is no reason why the Senate should not do some of the initiating and let the lower house do some of the revising. Under the present system after being idle for weeks, during the last two or three days of the session the Senators are called upon to pass a host of bills with little or no consideration.

**Menacing Tones.** The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Telegraph, a usually well-informed paper, says that at a recent meeting of the Reichstag Committee, the German ministers declared that Germany would soon have to speak in menacing tones and would, therefore, need Russia's friendship. The only country to which Germany could speak in menacing tones, and would require Russian sympathy, would be Great Britain, and any menacing tones in that direction would mean war. Great Britain has nothing to yield, nothing to surrender under German dictation, short of absolute abdication of the sovereignty of the sea. There is no quarrel between the two countries, no controversial issue, short of a direct challenge of the British right to rule the waves. If there are to be any menacing tones, the sooner they are heard the better. If there is going to be a row, there is no sense in waiting for the other fellow to start it at his own convenience. Germany is actively preparing for a naval war with somebody, and the only somebody in sight will be foolish to wait for the completion of the German preparations. The next menacing tones should come from the other side of the water. If there were a Beaconsfield or a Salisbury in power, the tones would bring matters to an early crisis.

**A Montreal Investment in Verdun.** By an agreement with Verdun now before the Quebec Legislature, Montreal agrees to pay \$4,500 a year for twenty-five years for property acquired in Verdun for the improvement of the Montreal Water Works. Compounded at four per cent. this annual payment will amount to \$187,407, which seems a big price for that piece of property even in these flush and growing times.

**Cadets and the Coronation.** There is a very natural desire on the part of the cadets of Canada to evidence their loyalty and to do honor to Canada and to themselves by taking part in the Coronation. The question, however, is beset with difficulties. Naturally, if cadets were to go to England next June, those of the Royal Military College would be first con-

sidered, but there are other cadets, in British Columbia as well as in Eastern Canada, who are equally desirous of attending the celebrations. It is, however, not at all likely that cadets will form part of the Canadian contingent to the Coronation, the arrangements originally made not having contemplated their inclusion, and it is improbable that these will be modified.

**Toronto Water Famine.** Toronto is suffering from a water famine through its one and only intake pipe being choked with frazil and sand. The situation is evidently a serious one and threatens to become more so. An emergency service of water carts has been organised, the hospitals being first supplied, and all the industries in the city depending on steam power may have to close down. The conditions show the danger of a great city carrying all its eggs in one basket. The inconvenience and discomfort caused to the citizens in their homes must be great. Toronto is unfortunate in not having a Toronto Water & Power Company, to fall back upon in such an emergency. That the city has not had the same trouble before is surprising, because there is nothing new about frazil or anchor ice in eastern Canada.

**Ontario Legislature on Reciprocity.** There was something suggestive of an Irish bull in the opposition in the Ontario Legislature, dividing the House upon an amendment reading:

"This House deploras the growing tendency on the part of members of this Government to introduce federal issues into our debates, and regrets the organized attempt of ministers and their supporters to discredit the agreement for better trade relations between Canada and the United States, which, if consummated, will prove so beneficial to Canada, and especially to the agriculturalists."

The result was a vote of 80 to 16 against the amendment. It recalls the sad case of the colored gentlemen, who started out to do a job of white-washing with a blacking brush.

**Caught in the Act.** Governor Foss, of Massachusetts, has been caught smoking a cigarette. What makes the matter serious, is the fact, that he is the vice-president of the Anti-Cigarette League, and that he was caught in the act by the lady who is the secretary of the League. His Honor's explanation is not that he did not know that he was smoking a cigarette, but that he did not know that he was vice-president of the Anti-Cigarette League. It is strange how lightly responsibility sits upon the shoulders of some public men.