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## THE LIBERAL ATTITUDE.

THE Montreal *Gazette*, the leading organ of the Conservative party in the province of Quebec paid a fine tribute to the attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal party since the outbreak of the War, when it said in the course of an editorial on January 27th:

"There is no fault to be found with the attitude of the official Liberal party, in Parliament or out of it. Its attitude has been in general keeping with that of the Unionists of Great Britain. Its leaders recognized that when Great Britain was at war the whole Empire was at war. They recognized also that the responsibility for action rested upon the government of the day, and quietly assented to all that it was proposed to do. In this they strengthened the ministers' hands for the great work events have put upon them. For the first time since Confederation, it may be said, a great political issue arose and was dealt with by Parliament as something not to be used to help or hurt a party cause. All this was well, and is duly appreciated."

## GOVERNMENT ORGANS PROFIT.

THE extent to which the loyal Conservative party newspapers of the Dominion have profited from government business during the last fiscal year is shown in the report of the Auditor General.

The Montreal *Gazette* heads the list with a total of \$153,000, of which \$148,000 was for Government printing. The Winnipeg *Telegram*, the organ of Hon. Robert Rogers, drew down \$44,059, of which \$38,000 was for printing. *L'Événement*, Hon. Pelletier's Quebec paper, got a little over \$30,000; *La Patrie's* bill was a little over \$28,000; The Moncton *Times* came in for \$23,000, and The St. John *Standard* for \$27,058. Other Conservative newspapers were awarded as follows: *Fredericton Gleaner*, \$3,434; *Halifax Herald*, \$7,181; *Hamilton Spectator*, \$8,657; *London Free Press*, \$9,148; *Toronto Mail & Empire*, \$9,561; *Toronto News*, \$7,657; *Toronto World*, \$6,722; *Toronto Telegram*, \$3,629.

## BY ELECTIONS FOR HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SIX vacancies in the House of Commons, caused by death or Government appointments of sitting members to positions in the gift of the Government, have been filled. In pursuance of the political truce declared at the outbreak of the War, there were no party contests, the nominee of the party holding the vacant seat being returned without opposition except in the constituency of Terrebonne, where an independent Conservative was put in the field against the regular Government nominee.

The nominations held on February 1st resulted in the election of the following new members: in Westmoreland, Arthur B. Copp, succeeding the late Hon. H. R. Emmerson; in Jacques Cartier, Jos. A. Descarries, K.C., succeeding the late Hon. F. D. Monk; in Prince Albert, Sask., S. J. Donaldson, former M.P.P., Saskatchewan, succeeding James McKay, appointed to Supreme Court bench; in London, Ont., William Gray, succeeding the late Major Thomas Beattie; in South Waterloo, Ont., F. Stewart Scott, succeeding the late George A. Clare. In Terrebonne, the regular Conservative nomination for the vacancy caused by the appointment of Hon. Bruno Nantel to the Railway Commission of Canada was given to G. Rochon, law partner of the former Minister of Inland Revenue. The nomination apparently did not meet with the approval of a large section of the Conservatives of Terrebonne, with the result that J. A. Beaulieu was put in nomination as an Independent Conservative. The election on February 8th, resulted in the return of Mr. Rochon.

## DEPRESSION NOT CAUSED BY WAR.

EXISTING depression in the trade of Canada cannot be blamed on the War, according to Sir Edmund Osler, Conservative Member of Parliament for West Toronto, and President of the Dominion Bank. At the annual meeting of shareholders of the Dominion Bank, held at Toronto on January 27th, Sir Edmund, as reported in the *Toronto News*, "intimated that he refused to accept the theory that the existing depression in trade was to any extent produced by the War. Anything that we may have suffered, said Sir Edmund, is more than offset by the higher prices we have obtained for grain and the large orders placed in the country for war material."

At a time when it has become the accepted thing to account for falling revenues and hard times generally by putting the whole blame on conditions created by the War, it is interesting to find that Sir Edmund Osler is not the only authority on financial matters who refuses to accept this plausible excuse. It is a coincidence that it was on the same day, January 27th, that General Manager Richardson of the Bank of Nova Scotia, at the annual meeting of the bank held at Halifax, said, as quoted in the press. "To be quite frank, those who blame the present depression on the War are only hugging a delusion, for the reaction from speculation, extravagance and over-expansion was inevitable, however much it may be aggravated by war conditions."