

in the main wealthy men. It is natural enough that to him the prices of stocks and bonds, rather than the prices of the necessities of life, should reflect the progress of the country and the well-being of its people. In the Cabinet besides him are four or five colleagues commonly reputed to be millionaires, and others not so wealthy who are generally believed to be the nominees of particular interests. From this Cabinet of combined wealth, consumers may expect little in the way of legislation calculated to lessen the ever increasing cost of living; combines and trusts may continue to multiply their exactions without fear of restriction; railway and other monopolies may look for a still larger share of the wealth which the community creates. Where the rights of the many come into conflict with the privileges of the few, a way to justify privilege is likely to be found. Two years have been sufficient to give ample evidence of these tendencies.

### Machine Methods and Boss Rule.

How largely the "political boss" and "machine methods" contributed to the success of the Conservative party at the polls is necessarily a matter of surmise. That the Tory campaign fund was the largest ever possessed by a political party in Canada has been the boast of men who profess to know, and that it was made such through contributions from interested sources in Canada supplemented by contributions from the United States and Great Britain, there are strong grounds for believing. Be this as it may. This at least is certain that when, in the formation of his cabinet, Mr. Borden passed over the heads of all elected members to take in Hon. Robert Rogers of Manitoba, and Hon. Frank Cochrane of Ontario he conveyed the impression that some acknowledgment was due to this source as a factor in his success; and in choosing Mr. Rogers as his right bower, he has made it evident that it is to the political machine he proposes to look as the main instrument of retaining power.

It would perhaps be unfair to saddle Mr. Robert Rogers with all the unscrupulous acts of the Borden Administration. Some of his colleagues, the Hon. Dr. Reid, for example, during the Renfrew by-election did not hesitate to tell the electors openly that they could hope for little from the administration unless they sent a supporter to Parliament. But Mr. Rogers has boasted that he knows something about winning elections and the disgraceful methods adopted in the Macdonald by-election in Manitoba are known to be his. As Minister of Public Works he even went so far, for the purpose of influencing the result of a Provincial by-election in Nova Scotia, as to publicly announce expenditures which would be made in the riding, before even parliament, whose duty it was to vote the money, had been aware of them. In the appropriations for the present year he has jumped the proposed outlays on public building and public works from \$12,364,045 the amount expended on current and capital account in the last year of the Laurier Administration to \$47,680,751. It is known that this enormous increase is wholly unwarranted.

The resort to the spoils system in dismissals and appointments, and the reckless use of public moneys as a means of bestowing patronage to reward party service are the crudest methods of using power to serve party ends. One has only to look at the list of dismissals—so large that complete returns could not be given to parliament—and at the numerous commissions and other appointments to realize that the Government in using these methods has lost regard for even the semblance of public decency.

### Militarism and Imperialism.

Of the use that was made of "the flag" in the general elections of 1911 nothing need here be said. The cry of "annexation", where there was no thought of annexation, was raised to serve party ends; just as was the cry of "emergency", when there was no emergency, last session. The one helped to win the elections as the other helped to provide the Government with the instrument of the closure. To such lengths have the Conservative party gone in trafficking with a people's patriotism.

But it is becoming apparant now that there are yet other ends which it is intended the flag shall serve. With the announcement from Europe that the Minister of Militia and Defence of Canada and his staff have spent days in inspecting the strategic positions between France and Germany, comes a deepening of the conviction that behind all else there is in the mind of the present Government the fostering of a new Imperialism, coupled with Militarism, which is to change the self-governing relations as they exist between the different parts of the British Empire to-day, and substitute therefore a policy of centralization which will serve to draw the Dominions without pretext or voice into the vortex of old world conflicts.

The following quotation, illustrative of conditions in the United States at one stage of their development, and paralleled time and time again under Toryism in Britain, is significant of what may be expected in Canada once the Borden Government becomes established in its methods. This passage might well have been written of the present federal Administration.

"Against the Commonwealth three forces, distinct but convergent are now arrayed. They are Plutocracy, Militarism and Imperialism. The three instinctively conspire; to the plutocrat, Imperialism is politically congenial, while he feels that militarism impregnates society with a spirit of conservatism, and may in case of a conflict of classes furnish a useful force of repression."

The efforts of Mr. Borden and some of his supporters in Parliament to transfer control in many directions from the self-governing dominions to an imperial council, the wanton extravagance of Colonel Hughes, and the support given him by the government in military expenditures and display, the desertion of his post by Mr. Crothers, the Minister of Labour and the use of the militia to settle industrial differences on Vancouver Island, are incidents which suggest themselves so naturally that the reader might suppose this passage had been written in reference to them instead of having been published, as it was, more than a decade ago. History is forever repeating itself, and Plutocracy, Militarism and Imperialism having converged in other countries at other times, it is scarcely probable that Canada will escape this baneful combination. Indeed, it looks as though already its shadow were being cast across the Dominion and that the struggle of Liberalism and Conservatism in Canada during the next few years may be the determining of whether this shadow shall darken or disappear.