

A. K. Maclean was voted down by the Government majority. Then came the striking and expected de-



nouement in the Senate. The Government's own bill was killed in the Upper Chamber by the votes of eleven Conservative Senators palpably with the consent and on the suggestion of members of the Cabinet. No more striking piece of double-dealing with electors and with Parliament was ever attempted in the history of Canadian politics.

Labor and the Government.

The administration of the Labor Department came in for some decidedly severe and merited criticism during the session. On February 10th, Mr. Alphonse Verville, the Labor member for Maisonneuve, moved a vote of censure on the Minister of Labor for his persistent negligence and absolute indifference in regard to the claims and the rights of the coal miners concerned in the labor disputes on Vancouver Island. These disputes have been in progress for more than two years, causing an industrial loss of at least half a million dollars. The mines in question, as shown by the correspondence produced in the House, are largely Mackenzie and Mann interests. It was charged that the refusal to appoint a Board of Investigation and Conciliation as required under the Industrial Disputes' Act, which it was the duty of the Minister of Labor to enforce, was due to the request made by Mackenzie and Mann officials that no such action be taken. The defence made by Hon. Mr. Crothers in the House was practically that he had done all that should be expected of him in making a personal investigation and in endeavoring, though without success, to bring the parties together. There the matter still rests and the Minister after running away from the trouble last year and holidaying in England is now again holidaying and has apparently washed his hands of the whole matter. In this connection it may also be noted that the Government turned down a motion made by Mr. Verville that the granting of aid to the Canadian Northern be made conditional upon their agreeing to the appointment of a board of investigation as now desired by the men and as provided for by law.

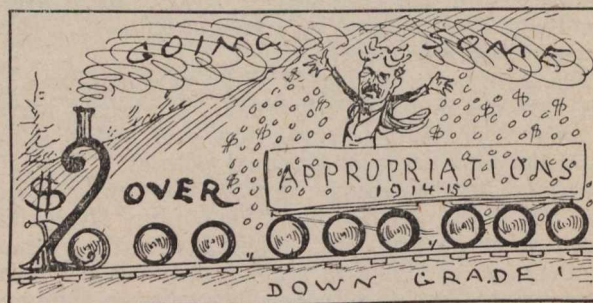
Electoral Reform Shelved.

Early in the session a resolution was proposed by Mr. A. K. Maclean, and strongly supported by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other Liberals, declaring that steps should be taken to make more effective and more stringent the laws against electoral corruption. This was in line with one of the Premier's most emphatic pre-election pledges. The question was referred to a

special committee and at the close of the session that committee had not reported. As yet the only evidence of any desire on the part of the Government to redeem the pledge have been the Chateauguay and Macdonald by-election scandals.

The Financial Record.

The Government's financial record for the session leaves nothing to boast of but much to defend. The Budget statement of the Minister of Finance, presented on April 6th, showed a falling-off in revenue for the past year of some \$25,000,000 with an increase in total expenditure of some \$40,000,000 and an addition of about \$20,000,000 to the National Debt. The appropriations voted for the present year, exclusive of special statutory expenditures of millions more for Fenian Raid bounties and exclusive of the \$45,000,000 for Mackenzie and Mann and \$16,000,000 for the Grand Trunk Pacific, totalled over \$208,000,000. For militia purposes there was a total vote of nearly \$15,000,000 or double the expenditure for militia and defence during the last year of the Laurier Government. And while these votes were being put through the revenues of the country were decreasing at the rate of about \$3,000,000 per month. Instead of retrenchment there was practical effect given to the policy bluntly advocated by Mr. Donald Nicholson, the Conservative



member for Queens, Prince Edward Island—"Dash away and spend the money". The result will be seen next session in a probable addition of about \$40,000,000 to the National Debt.

The Naval Issue and the Unholy Alliance.

Finally, as an illuminative commentary on the bogus "emergency" of last session and the continued existence of the Unholy Alliance, there remained untouched on the order paper at the close of the session the bill of Mr. D. O. Lesperance, a Quebec Nationalist supporter of the Government, to repeal the Laurier Naval Service Act. That bill was introduced early in the session. For obvious reasons the Government allowed no discussion thereon. The contribution proposals of last session and the "emergency" were barely referred to by Premier Borden throughout the session. Appropriations for the naval service were still voted under the Naval Service Act, but there was one sign of gradual repentance and of a desire to get back to safe ground. An innocuous and comparatively ineffectual scheme for a volunteer naval militia without any warships was launched and the \$200,000 required as a beginning was voted under the much-abused and "to-be-repealed" legislation of the Laurier Government.