

money it was believed the structure could be restored. He did not feel justified in the new circumstances, and in the absence of plans, specifications and an estimate of cost in awarding such a large contract without calling for tenders. **In view of the altered circumstances, and of the vote of last session, he declared, "I feel that I have no legal authority to depart from the rule laid down in the Public Works act that in all contracts above five thousand dollars tenders should be asked."**

Mr. Lemieux therefore moved that the contractors be paid for the work done, and that tenders be called for the reconstruction, according to law.

This motion was allowed to stand over, and in the meantime the architects were asked for an explanation. They declared that the plans which "had been approved by members of the Senate and Commons" had contemplated the pulling down of a large portion of the walls. They itemized their statement of the value of the walls, and for the first time included in it \$650,000 representing the value of the Library. They further stated that when they undertook to take down part of the upper walls they found defects in the masonry of a serious nature.

It now transpires that the so-called "approval" of parliament was secured from two score or so of the legislators who had carefully examined the plans in the room of the minister at the museum. It is also a matter for notice that in the original report of values, the library (which is not part of the ruins) was dealt with in a separate paragraph. And the defects which were discovered are now said to have represented air spaces provided for in the original specifications.

When the committee reassembled after the laying of the corner stone, Mr. Lemieux again pressed for consideration of his motion. It failed, however, to secure a seconder, and was declared lost. He therefore resigned that evening.

From the remaining members, a lengthy statement emanated two days after Mr. Lemieux' resignation on Sept. 1st. The committee in its statement re-affirms the contentions of the architects, and clears them from blame for what they did. They undertake to see to it that the work is performed economically, and well. They declare that tenders will be called for all materials used, and that "supervision will be exercised on the work to free it from all influences, or considerations of an unhealthy kind."

The country will await further developments which are already beginning to take shape.

WEAK SIR ROBERT BORDEN

After this War is over and the people get back to sane thinking, it will be a severe shock to most of them to find out how the Tories have played "ducks and drakes" with their money. They will then realize the carnival of extravagance, inefficiency and waste, to say nothing of corruption, which went on in the Militia Department presided over by an individual as wild, erratic and irresponsible as was

ever placed under confinement for the safety of the public. The administration of that Department has been an horrible nightmare, almost unbelievable in a country which prides itself on its intelligence. Firmness, strength of mind and decision of character on the part of Sir Robert Borden would have avoided most of the awful results that have flowed from Sir Sam's work, but the people of Canada are learning rapidly in these days that these are qualities which the Premier does not possess.

Sir Robert Borden has been tried and found wanting. Courtesy he unflinchingly exhibits personally honest he, no doubt, is, and likewise painstaking and hard working, but these merits are not enough in the Prime Minister of this country. He lacks what the man in the street calls "the punch." He is not, and never has been master of his own Administration, and because of that, he has lost prestige with the public, and is unfit to hold an exalted position.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTIONS.

Joint Manifesto by H. C. Brewster and Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K.C.

A joint message to the British Columbia forces naval and military, in connection with the provincial general election, signed by H. C. Brewster, leader of the Liberal party in British Columbia, and Hon. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K.C., who, although an avowed Conservative, is an apostle of clean government above all things, has been addressed to British Columbia military and naval forces empowered to vote under the Military Forces Voting Act.

The text of the manifesto follows:—

"Gentlemen,—Representing as we believe, the public sentiment of this province, we extend this message.

"To you is given the opportunity of offering your manhood in defence of our country and the preservation of its institutions and its ideals. To us at home falls the duty of maintaining those ideals and institutions in a way worthy of your splendid sacrifices. In performance of this duty we believe a united effort should be made by all lovers of clean government and efficient administration, both Liberals and Conservatives, to drive from office the men who are mis-governing our province. Proud as we would be to take our places beside you on the field and to offer our services and our lives in the country's cause, we are precluded by circumstances from discharging that splendid duty. May our lesser part be performed equally well. The least that we can do is to strain every effort towards improvement of public conditions so that we may welcome you home to a province cleaned of all that is evil, mean and sordid and blessed with high ideals and good government.

"You will exercise your franchise with nothing but the most sincere desire for the welfare of British Columbia. We do not propose to discuss issues upon which the future of this province depends, nor will we seek to influence you by promises. You have long known the record of the present government. Its tenure of office has been marked by extravagance, incompetency and wholesale corruption. A chance now is afforded to save British Columbia as you are rescuing unhappy Belgium. It is not a fight of party, but of the people against official wrongdoing. It is a fight in which not only all Liberals, but many Conservatives are united.

(Signed) "H. C. BREWSTER,
"C. H. TUPPER."