

general elections were held there was abundant evidence of what Canada should do. The Government chose to ignore it, and during the general election talked Conscriptio of Men and said little or nothing in regard to the shortage of food in England, France and Italy. Valuable time was thus lost and the penalty may be more serious than most Canadians realize. A statement from Great Britain says that all soldiers in England over 20 years of age have been put on short rations. We ask ourselves when will this extend to the men in the trenches in France, and what will be the result? As Lord Rhondda said recently, "**will victory slip from our grasp**" on account of the food situation?

Labour for Farms.

The crying need, and to meet the situation the government has announced that Registration of the Man Power of the Dominion is to be taken. What has become of all those National Service Cards collected some year and a half ago, and the information tabulated at an expense of several hundred thousand dollars? Was all this money wasted? Is the information contained on these National Service Cards of no value, or is the Government going to inaugurate some new system at a time when delays will be dangerous? April 1st and on is the time the farm help is required, and the Government will be held responsible if it does not supply it.

Patronage to be abolished, and Civil Service Reform.

We were told in a manifesto issued by Sir Robert Borden on Nov. 12th, 1917, that patronage was

dead, and that Civil Service Reform would take place. But it took Sir Robert Borden and his Cabinet until Feb. 13th, 1918, to pass an Order-in-Council promising not to make any more appointments to the Service except through the Civil Service Commission. The appointment of Mr. Acres as Postmaster at Ottawa and Mr. Weldon as Collector of Customs in Montreal does not give the people confidence in the Government's pledge to abolish it.

Another instance of how the patronage game is being worked in the Civil Service:—On Feb. 18th, 1918, five days after the Order-in-Council was passed, abolishing patronage, the Civil Service Commission sent out cards to scores of clerks in Ottawa who had been temporarily employed in the various Departments, asking these employees to fill in the cards, giving their name, age, qualification, experience, etc., etc. To some of these cards was attached a typewritten slip containing these words:—

"The enclosed form of application for temporary employment is sent you at the instance of Mr. A. E. Fripp, M.P. It should be filled in and returned to the office of the Civil Service Commission."

This message, to persons who had been employed in the Government Service for at least three months, and sent five days after patronage had been abolished, seems to be the limit. Why should the Civil Service Commission be exercising itself in regard to Mr. Fripp, the Conservative Member for Ottawa? Is there a close alliance between the two? When the Government drops patronage does the Civil Service Commission take it up?

OLEOMARGARINE.

Oleomargarine bids fair to have a limited sojourn in Canada, thanks to the action of the Government in favouring their Toronto friends.

When the Order-in-Council was passed permitting the importation, manufacture, and sale of oleomargarine in Canada the Government wisely made provisions for the importation from the United States of some 75,000 pounds for immediate consumption in Canada. For the manufacture, however, they would give only two licenses to Canadian Firms, with a result that now when the United States have placed an embargo on the exportation to Canada of oleomargarine, Canadians find themselves in the hands of The Swift Company of Toronto (a branch of the American Swift's) and the Harris Abbatoir Company of Toronto (40 per cent of its stock held by Sir Joseph Flavelle). A sad outlook, which probably means that just as Canada is getting used to a substitute for butter they will have to be content with what these two Toronto firms can supply, and at a price to suit the manufacturers.

COLD STORAGE EGGS AND FOOD PRODUCTS.

In the United States the Food Controller put into effect on March 1st rules limiting the trade profit in cold storage eggs.

In Canada Mr. W. F. O'Connor, the High Cost of Living Commissioner, is doing everything that is humanely possible to expose the true condition of the cold storage operation and the hoarding of food, yet our Food Controller tells us to "**Subdue the Submarine by substituting Knowledge of Prices for Gossip about Profits**, by substituting **Service for Sneers**, by substituting **Common Sense for Common Gossip**. Very good advice, but why does the Food Controller not take advantage of that paragraph in the Order-in-Council creating the office of the Food Controller which provides for the fixing of prices. The paragraph states:—

"Governing the prices of any article of food and the storage, distribution, sale and delivery thereof;"

Owing to lack of space the Second Article on Proportional Representations is held over but will appear in the April issue of The Monthly