

SUMMARY OF BORDEN GOVERNMENT'S RECORD.

THE following is the complete "summary of the Borden Government's Record of Legislative measures and administrative progress in two years" as given on pages 256 and 257 of the Liberal-Conservative Handbook, 1913, just issued. The comments inserted in italics which explain the facts will indicate how little real credit the record reflects on the Borden Administration:

Highways' Aid Bill, appropriating \$2,500,000 for road construction in two years. (Defeated by Senate.)

Branch Railway Bill, providing for acquisition of branch lines in Quebec and Maritime Provinces, to advantage of Intercolonial. (Killed by Senate.)

Agricultural Aid Bill. (Defeated by Senate.)

The above statements inserted in brackets are untrue. Not one of these measures was defeated by the Senate. They were amended by the Senate, and the Government itself defeated them by refusing to accept amendments. It might be added that a Government is hard pressed when it is obliged to include defeated measures in its 'record of progress.'

Development of National Ports at Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Montreal, Vancouver and Victoria.

Harbour development at Toronto, Hamilton, Port Arthur, Fort William and other ports.

Work on National Transcontinental Railway pushed with vigor.

Construction of Hudson Bay Railway so far advanced that 150 miles have been graded.

Work on Quebec Bridge proceeding with expedition.

Contracts awarded for several sections of Welland Canal.

The National Transcontinental Railway, the Hudson Bay Railway and Quebec Bridge were all national undertakings instituted by the Laurier Administration. None of the other projects are new. All the Borden Administration has done in connection with these several projects is to carry out work necessary for completion or development.

Terminal elevator of 2,500,000 bushels built at Port Arthur.

Tenders called and contract awarded for two large elevators, one at Moosejaw and other at Saskatoon.

Terminal and transfer elevators on Pacific and on Hudson Bay under construction.

This work of elevator construction is but the carrying out of the policy of the Grain Bill introduced by the Laurier Administration prior to the elections of 1911—as a matter of fact, construction has not taken place to the degree indicated.

Magnificent Dry Dock under construction at Quebec.

Similar Dry Dock proposed at Halifax and on Pacific coast.

The work of dry dock construction is an outcome of the enactment of the Dry Dock Subsidies Act by the Laurier Administration in 1910 and discussion at the time. It might be pointed out, that 'proposed' works are not in the nature of achievements.

Extension of boundaries of Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba.

These boundaries were practically arranged by the Laurier Administration as the result of conferences with the provinces. The new feature introduced by the Borden Government was a gift of \$2,000,000 from the Federal Treasury to Manitoba, which to say the least was questionable in view of the Confederation compact which requires the consent of all provinces to any alteration in the basis of Provincial subsidies.

Reduction of Cable Rates to British Isles.

This was mainly due to the Liberal Government in England and to previous negotiations of the Postmaster General in the Laurier Administration.
Inauguration of greatly improved mail service between Canada and Great Britain.

The mail service between Canada and Great Britain has never been so bad.

Reduction of cable rates to West Indies.

New reductions in regard to Marine Insurance on St. Lawrence, and reduction of Insurance at Halifax.

The advantages in this connection are so small as to be negligible in a record of Government achievements. Their existence is scarcely known.

Pensions for veterans.

This "measure" is simply part of a record of extravagance in the expenditure of public funds. The Minister of Militia estimated there would be not more than 6,000 pensions of \$100 each. Already nearly 16,000 warrants have been issued amounting to \$1,585,600 and applications for over 15,000 additional pensions are under consideration

Parcel Post system.

It is a little soon to refer to this measure which had not come into operation when the Handbook was issued. It would too be more deserving of mention had it not owed its immediate origin to the parcel lock scandal in the Post-Office Department.

Agriculture Aid Bill, appropriating \$10,000,000 spread over ten years for agricultural instruction in various provinces.

The principle of this measure was approved by both parties in Parliament. It would reflect more credit on the Administration if it did not violate the constitutional practice of annual appropriations subject to the approval of Parliament, and had it not been accompanied by a jump in expenditures for Militia purposes of from seven to fourteen million dollars. The Bill owes its merit to the work of the Commission on Technical Education appointed by the Laurier Administration.

FREE WHEAT AMENDMENT.

The Liberals in parliament have not been content in simply indicating a line of policy, but have opened battle for concrete measures calculated to meet the pressing needs and demands of the time. On January 28th, D. B. Neely, M.P., for Humboldt, Sask., at the conclusion of an able speech moved a second amendment to the address calling for the removal of the duties on wheat and wheat products, that Canada might secure free access to the United States markets for these commodities. This amendment like the one moved by Sir Wilfrid Laurier was voted down by the Government and its followers, with the single exception of Mr. W. F. Maclean, M.P.

The Legislatures of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan have passed resolutions, Conservative delegations have waited upon the Ministry, almost the entire representation of the Canadian West, Conservative as well as Liberal, have advocated either privately or publicly the abolition of wheat duties but the Government asks for other "reasons", before considering tariff changes. Monopoly and privilege have ever been deaf to the voice of the people.