

out of the sixty gave nominal relief to the basic industry of agriculture by reducing the duty from 17½ to 12½ per cent on mowers and reapers—one class out of seventeen agricultural implements mentioned in the tariff schedules. It still left the implement makers in a position to continue reaping the profits of enhanced prices behind the tariff walls. Wider markets for the farmers and reduced tariff taxation for producers and consumers alike were refused. The Government plainly and unequivocally came out for protection all around as a permanent tariff policy. Government speakers clearly showed that the tendency of the administration was to raise rather than lower the tariff.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's amendment epitomized the cleavage between Liberalism and Conservatism on the tariff issue. It summed up the preceding demands for free wheat, free flour and free agricultural implements and laid down the general principle of downward revision with a gradually enlarging measure of fiscal freedom, while having at the same time due regard to factitious conditions built up under the protective system. The long debate which followed made it clear that the Liberal party stands for a gradual lessening of tariff taxation until it is reduced to meet only revenue requirements; for a fiscal policy that will meet at once the basic requirements of the agricultural industry, that will check the growth of combines and monopolies and that will give relief to the consumers from the high cost of living. Sir Wilfrid's amendment was defeated by a vote of 88 to 46, a Government majority of 42.

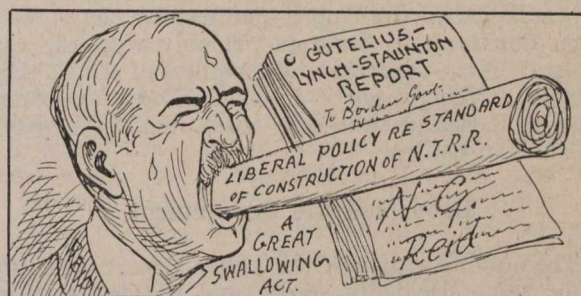
The tariff issue took up in all its various phases almost half the time of Parliament. The result leaves the issue more clearly defined than ever before as the most important issue of national politics. The Liberals stand for the common people; the Conservatives stand for tariff privilege and monopoly. Meanwhile industrial depression and unemployment continue and the cost of living is still steadily rising. The Government offers no solution, but waits on time and the "education" of the farmers to remedy conditions. The Liberals offer a permanent solution to recurring periods of industrial depression and point to the first steps in that solution.

The Lobby, the Railways and Politics.



Apart from the tariff the most important and the most dangerous legislation of the session was the commitment of the country to a junior partnership with Mackenzie and Mann, the immediate pledging of \$45,000,000 of the country's credit for an insolvent enterprise under conditions which left the two railway promoters still in control of the undertaking, and the assumption of obligations already amounting to

more than the present National Debt, to say nothing of any future liabilities which Mackenzie and Mann are free to incur. The revolt of Messrs. R. B. Bennett and W. F. Nickle, two of the Government's strongest supporters, and their severe arraignment of the evil effects upon the whole political life of the country of the boldest and most open lobby in the history of Parliament, first drew public attention to the portent and iniquity of the partnership. The succeeding debate, lasting for four weeks, with the rejection by an obedient Government majority of every one of the dozen Liberal amendments offered both in the Commons and in the Senate emphasized the refusal of the Government to make the interests of Mackenzie and Mann subservient to the interests of the people.



Although perhaps not so serious in its result yet almost equally serious in its intention was the effort of the Government to make political capital for itself at the expense of the National Transcontinental Railway, at the expense of Canadian credit abroad and at the sacrifice of what Parliament planned and the people endorsed in the construction of a transcontinental line from Moncton to Prince Rupert. The debate on the "scandal" report of Messrs. Gutelius and Lynch-Staunton took up nearly two weeks of the session. The result was to show the unfounded character of the charges, the sinister political motive behind them and to call public attention to the fact that no dishonesty had been shown in the expenditure of nearly \$150,000,000 in the construction of the road under Liberal administration. At the close of the session the Government admitted that the degrading of the road was to cease and that the momentum grades and sags which had been permitted during the past two years, and commended in the Gutelius-Staunton report, were to be eliminated.

The Farmers' Bank Bill and Its Moral.

Particularly illuminative of the political morality of the men now temporarily at the head of the Conservative party in Canada was the introduction by the Government in the Commons of a bill to vote \$1,200,000 from the public treasury to reimburse the Farmers' Bank depositors. The measure was the result of ill-considered pre-election pledges by a score of Conservative candidates in Ontario and was forced upon the Government by considerations of mere political expediency. In the words of one of their own supporters (Mr. W. F. Nickle) it was vicious in principle and established a dangerous precedent unwarranted either by the report of Sir William Meredith, the Royal Commissioner appointed to investigate all the circumstances, or by any consideration of sound statesmanship. The six months' hoist to the bill moved by Mr.