



PADDING THE ESTIMATES—WHY?

"He (the Minister of Finance) is asking for \$158,000,000 on Consolidated Fund Account. He has made the statement that he did not intend to expend between \$20,000,000 and \$30,000,000 of that money. . . . I do not know whether this is constitutional or not. It seems to me to be trifling with Parliament. The first is that the Minister of Finance has lost control of his colleagues at the head of the large spending departments, if he ever had control, and he is obliged to come to Parliament and say that the Government intend to expend between \$23,000,000 and \$30,000,000 less than the Estimates, in order to protect himself from his colleagues. . . . Another reason that suggests itself is that when preparing these estimates the Government expected to have an election this year and they deliberately padded the estimates in order to deceive the public. If that is the case we have a degree of political obliquity which is a discredit to the Dominion."

Mr. J. J. Hughes, M.P. (Kings, P.E.I.)
House of Commons, Feb. 25th, 1916.

DAVIDSON INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED.

The Davidson Commission completed its work of taking evidence in connection with war contracts in Canada at the end of last Month, which serves as a reminder that although the Commission had been at work investigating almost continuously since last May, only one prosecution arising out of the investigation has been undertaken by the authorities. As the result of glaring revelations at Regina, in connection with the purchase of fodder for horses at the Regina remount station, one minor official was arrested and subsequently convicted and given sentence of imprisonment on charges of fraud, uttering forged documents, etc. It was on the 15th of April last, the concluding day of the last session of Parliament, that Sir Robert Borden, from his place in the House, declared in regard to any person who "commits any fraud or imposition on the Government and the people of this country" in connection with war contracts, that "there are courts of justice in this country and the doors of the penitentiary are yawning for every man who commits such an offence." Sir Robert at the same time declared that his Government proposed "to investigate every suspicious case, to exact restitution and punishment so far as the laws of this country will permit." It would appear that the doors of the penitentiaries are still yawning, and little has been heard to date of restitution.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

1916.
February.

- 2 CAPE BRETON LIBERALS, annual meeting addressed by G. W. KYTE, M.P. (Richmond), W. F. CARROLL, M.P. (Cape Breton South) and others.
- SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATURE unanimously adopts resolution requesting transfer to province of School Lands and funds held by Federal Government.
- 6 HON. CHARLES MARCIL (Bonaventure) and DR. ALFRED THOMPSON (Yukon) at Patriotic Meeting, Renfrew, Ont.
- SIR WILFRID LAURIER at public meeting in aid of RED CROSS FUND, Ottawa.
- 8 WEST ELGIN (Ont.) LIBERALS, annual meeting at St. Thomas.
- 10 OPENING OF NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATURE.
Announcement of appointment to SENATE of W. H. SHARPE, (Former M.P., Lisgar, Man.), succeeding late Senator Kirchoffer, and J. S. McLENNAN of Sidney, N.S., succeeding late Senator McKay.
- NORTH WEST TORONTO LIBERAL ASSOCIATION, organization meeting, election of officers, etc.
- 12 SOUTH OXFORD (Ont.) LIBERALS, annual meeting at Ingersoll, addressed by W. M. MARTIN, M.P. (Regina), E. W. NESBITT, M.P. (N. Oxford), M. S. SCHELL, Liberal Candidate, and others.
- 13 HON. W. J. ROCHE at patriotic meeting, Brockville, Ont.
- 14 SIR SAM HUGHES, recruiting meetings at Bobcaygeon, etc.
- 15 SENATOR FINDLEY YOUNG died at Killarney, Man.
- 17 LENNOX (Lennox & Addington) CONSERVATIVES, annual meeting at Napanee.
- 18 Hon. W. M. Hughes, Premier of Australia, sworn in at Ottawa as member of Privy Council of Canada.
- 24 FRONTENAC (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES, annual meeting, addressed by J. E. EDWARDS, M.P.
- OPENING OF ALBERTA LEGISLATURE.
PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTION in PEEL (Ont.), W. J. LOWE (L) elected over J. R. Fallis (C), majority 329.
- 25 HON. R. ROGERS and W. GRAY, M.P., (London) at patriotic meeting, London, Ont.
- 26 PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA; Vancouver, M. A. Macdonald (L) elected by majority of 4116 over Hon. C. E. Tisdall, Minister of Public Works and L. D. Taylor, Independent. In Rossland, Hon. Lorne Campbell, Minister of Mines, elected by majority of 9 over Mayor Wilson (L) and W. W. Lefaux (Socialist) the latter polling 49 votes.
- 27 GEO. H. BOIVIN, M.P. (Shefford, Que.) at recruiting meeting Massey Hall, Toronto.
- 28 KINGSTON (Ont.) LIBERAL CLUB, opening of new quarters, address by HON. GEO. P. GRAHAM and others.
- 29 OPENING OF ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.