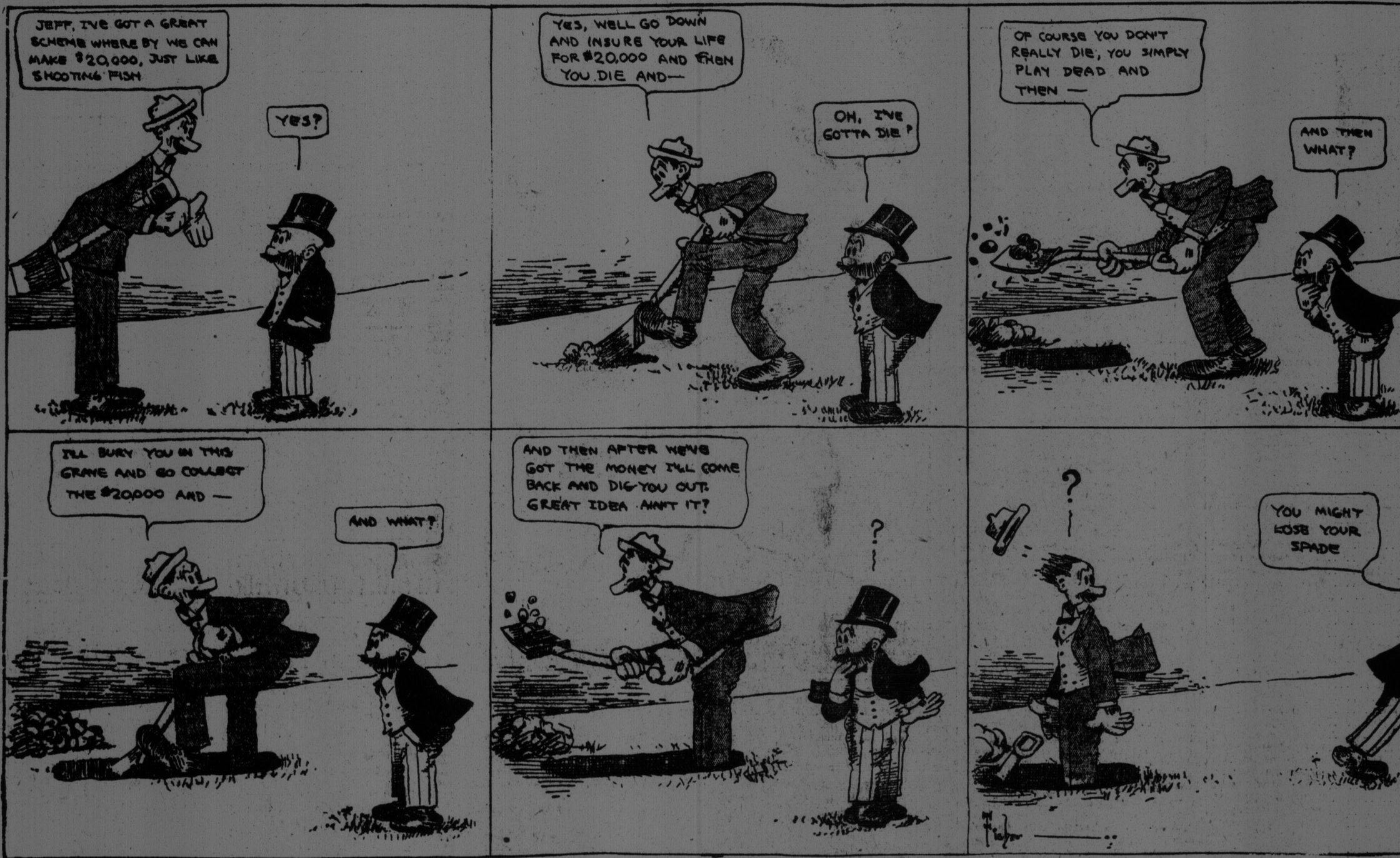


Jeff Didn't Care to Take the Chance By "Bud" Fisher



Ministers Take Long Holiday; No Business Ready For House; No Meeting Until January Next

(Ottawa Free Press)

The government has practically decided that parliament shall not be called until January. There are several reasons why the regular opening date is found inconvenient this year.

In the first place, members of the administration have taken annually long holidays this summer, and some of them are still enjoying themselves away from Ottawa. As a result no business has been prepared for the session, and this accumulation of routine business will keep them so busy for weeks that they will have little time for legislation.

There has been some difference in the government over this. Hon. George E. Foster, who was sent to Australia last session, objects to being side-tracked again. He has to leave to go to London, South Africa and Newfoundland, starting in January, for meetings of the Imperial trade conference. He will be away all winter. If parliament were called in November Mr. Foster would be able to make an appearance in parliament. Hon. Robert Rogers does not care to see Mr. Foster shine in parliament or anywhere else, and he, as usual, is going to have his way.

The financial situation is such that Hon. Mr. White does not want to meet parliament any earlier than he can help. With a bumper crop in the west, he feels that time will work for the improvement of his budget statement. He, too, wants the ex-finance minister, Foster, to have as little show as possible, and, therefore, favors parliament sitting

at a time when Mr. Foster must be out of the country.

Some of the ministers feel that Colonel Sam Hughes is running wild with militia expenditure and they would like to put the curb on. They realize that this will take time, persuasion and pressure. On the other hand Colonel Hughes would like time for the preparation of an elaborate programme of military development based on Sir Ian Hamilton's report.

There are a number of by-elections which have to be held before the session opens and in a number of ridings the government will have to do a good deal of organizing before writs issue. South Bruce is one of these.

A number of additional constituencies will be opened by the appointment of such members as E. A. Lancaster, M. P., A. C. Boyce, M. P., and O. S. Crockett, M. P., to the bench. Their ridings will have to be prepared for election.

There may be some difficulty about getting supply through parliament between January and the close of the fiscal year at the end of March but this year the government meets parliament for the first time with the gag of closure in its hands and feels that it will be more easily able to silence discussion than has been the case in the past.

Hon. Winston Churchill, and Premier Borden are understood to be framing up another naval programme for the Canadian parliament to deal with at the coming session and this will take time. Therefore everything points to opening in January.

TORY GOVERNMENT FEARS TO TEST PUBLIC OPINION

Ottawa, Sept. 11.—The four pending by-elections in South Bruce, Chateaugay, East Middlesex and South Lanark will take place early in November, probably during the first week of the month. The government has delayed the holding of the elections as long as it could despite the declarations of Mr. Borden, when in opposition, that no constituency should remain unrepresented for a longer period than three months at most. In the case of South Lanark and Chateaugay the constituencies have been vacant for more than twice the period set by Mr. Borden, in opposition, as the limit. In South Bruce and East Middlesex the vacancies have been unrepresented since spring.

The government is not anxious to test public feeling in any of the constituencies, but it is felt that no excuse can be offered for any further indefinite delay.

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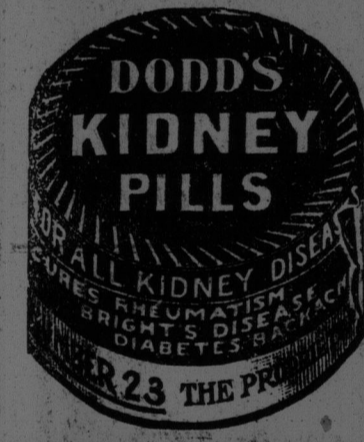
lay. Efforts are now being made to straighten out party difficulties and differences in Chateaugay and South Lanark where candidates have not yet been selected. Hon. Robert Rogers has gone to Montreal to consult with the party workers there in regard to Chateaugay and arrange for a vigorous campaign during the coming month.

The chief difficulty at present is in securing a satisfactory candidate of the Nationalist-Conservative persuasion. Nationalist members of parliament who were in the city this week ridicule the story that Henry Bourassa would be an independent candidate. They say that his candidature would simply serve to split the anti-Laurier forces and insure the election of the Liberal candidate.

Prussian police were empowered to prohibit the defacement of landscapes by the erection of billboards and other signs and pictures.

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