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PATRONAGE EXTRAORDINARY.

THAT the Conservative party is devoted heart and soul to the system of patronage for political purposes is a matter of common knowledge. But that it has reached a state where party organizers will publicly boast of their success in securing "jobs" for the needy faithful is almost enough to cause surprise. At the annual meeting of the Ottawa Conservative Association on May 9th, the Secretary issued a report in which he apparently looked for great credit for the fact that during the year he had written 2,219 letters for Government positions for members of the Association, resulting in 1,461 being given employment. Modestly, he admits that the majority were temporary jobs, but "quite a number," he boasts, were permanent positions. The Secretary is to be congratulated on his success, but it must be remembered that he could not have attained it unless he found sympathetic co-operation from the people in higher places than himself who can provide the "jobs" and authorize the appointment with the wave of a hand.

THE QUEBEC ELECTIONS.

THE Liberal government of Quebec, led by Sir Lomer Gouin who has enjoyed the unquestioned confidence of the people of his province for eleven years, received well earned endorsement in the general elections on May 22nd. The extent of the Liberal triumph was rather greater than could have been foreseen, as it represents a net gain of ten seats, making a Legislature composed of 75 Liberals and 6 Conservatives. That the Conservative party had little heart for fight against a government so strongly entrenched in the respect and confidence of the people was shown by the fact that on nomination day no less than twenty-three Liberals were returned unopposed.

The result in Quebec is a tribute to the sturdy principles of Liberalism which the Gouin government has worked out in actual practice by ad-

ministering the affairs of the province for the benefit of the people, notably in connection with road improvement, colonization, aid and instruction in agriculture and general public instruction. To those Conservatives and Conservative newspaper organs who strain their eyes to see some other reason for the result, we commend the hearty tribute of the Montreal Star, a staunch Conservative paper, which said on May 23rd, "So complete a mandate to a government could not be secured in this or any other province without a pretty general obliteration of party lines. Quebec—having a long and painful experience in annual deficits and in piling up the prize provincial debt of the Dominion—has a hearty welcome for a business administration; and the party squabbles which cost us so dearly in the past have been forgotten."

WILFUL, CHEERFUL WASTE.

FROM half a million to a million dollars of public money is being wasted every year in useless and unnecessary Government printing and through lack of proper methods, according to Col. John A. Currie, Conservative member for North Simcoe. Col. Currie is Chairman of the Committee on Public Printing and therefore in a position to know. Introducing the report of the Committee to the House on May 13th, he protested particularly against the enormous waste caused by the printing of Government bluebooks, tens of thousands of which are sent out annually to people who make no use of them. He also protested against the system whereby the number printed is a matter of mere guesswork. "Thousands of tons of books are published every year merely to be destroyed—to be thrown aside as junk," he said.

Col. Currie argued that it should not be necessary for him to urge upon Parliament the duty of considering means of saving money. He pointed out that the Government is carrying on an advertising campaign in favor of "Thrift and Production." "If we take our own advice in regard to this matter of printing we can save from half a million to three-quarters of a million dollars a year" said Col. Currie in proceeding to show further instances of unbusinesslike methods which he held could be cured readily by the application of standards of reasonable meeting of necessary demands and by proper supervision of the whole business of Government printing.

According to the statement of Col. Currie there is an absurd and needless duplication of statistics by the Trade and Commerce Department and the Customs Department from month to month. There is also a great waste in distribution as mailing lists have never been checked up and all kinds of expensive books and pamphlets are being printed and sent through the mails in the names of thousands of dead persons and organizations no longer in existence. His statement, on the whole, indicates a degree of wasteful carelessness on the part of the Government officials which is little short of criminal and is still another striking commentary on a Government which preaches economy and thrift to the people of Canada but has been shown to be utterly averse to practising what it preaches.