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Conservatives Will Have Command of Senate

Liberals Will Be in Minority

After a Liberal ascendancy in the Canadian Senate for upwards of fifteen years, the political pendulum has swung the other way, and the Conservatives now have a prospective majority of one. They have not got it yet but they will have when thirteen vacancies, now existing, are filled.

The death of Senator J. K. Kerr, of Toronto, causes the thirteenth vacancy. The party standing now is 43 Liberals, 31 Conservatives and 13 vacancies. When appointments are made to the vacant seats the two sides will stand. Conservatives 44, Liberals 43. There are a few Senators on the Liberal side whose attendance because of old age or ill health, is very irregular.

Baing Ships are Merchants Armed

Halifax May Be Chief American Port

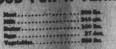
LONDON, Dec. 8—In the effort to suppress the submarine menace, many British merchant ships are being armed with guns of high calibre, so that the odds against them shall be lessened. In this connection it is recalled that the agitation for sterner war measures that led to the downfall of Asquith Ministry called for adequate measures to curb the U-boats.

If the American Government holds that the increased armament puts merchant ships in the class of war vessels Halifax will become the chief American port for trans-Atlantic shipping during the war. Britain is able to use her fleet to keep this port clear. Such a change is bound to have a big effect on the port of New York.

The arming of merchant ships is a difficult problem, since the mounting of big guns means alterations in structure. Figures show that only one out of five victims of submarines ship.

The Liverpool Express reports that the Government may assume control of all shipping concerns. It is stated that Lloyd George in his conference with the Labor leaders yesterday promised such Government control.





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