

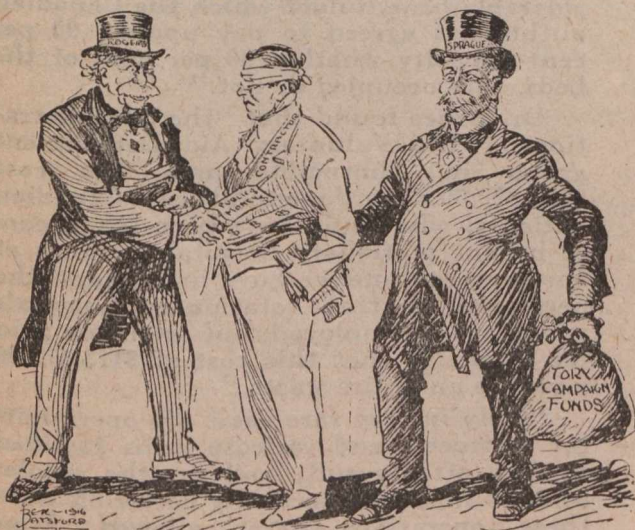
tinue to serve it according to my own ways as heretofore."

Sir Wilfrid did not say "NO" to real national service. He has issued call after call to the people of Canada in his numerous speeches, and will continue to do so, more especially to his own compatriots. But he properly objected to being made a party to a sham Commission, not representative of the whole people and therefore not likely to be productive of good results. Sir Wilfrid in a word asked that Sir Robert Borden take the proper view of national service and not the political view.

We Close With the Following Pertinent Extract from "Toronto Saturday Night," Sat., Oct. 28th, 1916.

The attempt on the part of Sir Robert Borden to hand a lemon to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in the shape of a seat on the National Service Board, has had little or no effect on the general situation. As often pointed out in these columns, the possibilities of any success crowning a movement of this sort, at this late date, are very doubtful indeed. Now that the beans are spilled, it was thoughtful of Sir Robert to ask Sir Wilfrid to come forward and share the responsibilities. The mismanagement of our man power in connection with the war has been such that nothing that can be done will ever repair the damage. Muzzling Bourassa would probably be the most effective method of still accomplishing a little something, but, of course, this will not be done. But asking the Liberal leader to share the responsibilities of Conservative mismanagement was rather a good idea, the only trouble is the Old Man saw the point of the hook, and concluded not to bite.

AN ELECTION WINNER.



HON. ROBERT ROGERS: "My right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and those who are associated with him will at least do me the tardy justice of acknowledging that, if I do not know much of anything else, perhaps I know a little about winning elections."

Extract from speech of Hon. Robert Rogers, delivered in the House of Commons on April 7th, 1913. See Revised Hansard, page 7269.

THE ROGERS-GALT EPISODE.

THE cuttle fish when pursued by its enemies emits a black inky liquid which obscures the water and permits it to escape. That humans can emulate

the humble cuttle fish, and go it one better, was well illustrated in the Rogers-Galt episode at Winnipeg recently. The Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works in the Borden government, and the self-styled election manipulator for the Conservative Party, being harassed and driven into a corner, resorted to the palpable trick of confusing the issue by raising another of a quite unexpected and startling character. A brief recital of the facts leading up to the denouement may be interesting and instructive.

The Manitoba Liberal government appointed a Royal Commission to investigate charges of alleged graft in the construction of the Agricultural College in Manitoba when Mr. Rogers was Minister of Public Works for that Province, and they appointed as Royal Commissioner Mr. Justice Galt, who prior to his appointment had been a Conservative in politics, and, as a matter of fact, was appointed to the Bench on the recommendation of Mr. Rogers himself. That seemed an eminently fair appointment from the standpoint of the Manitoba Liberal government. If they had appointed a Judge who had previously been a Liberal, Mr. Rogers and the newspapers he controlled would have raised the loudest kind of a howl. Mr. Rogers surely could not have expected better treatment from his political opponents than to be tried by one of his own friends.

At the hearing startling evidence was submitted. Mr. Carter, a contractor, swore that his firm submitted a tender for the construction of the power house at the College, such tender amounting to \$60,229, and was given the contract at that price. His firm signed the contract and had started upon the work, when one day the Hon. Robert Rogers telephoned Mr. Carter and asked him if his tender on the power house was not low. Naturally Mr. Carter replied that it was, whereupon Rogers said the government would help him out, and subsequently a new contract was entered into for the sum of \$68,929. A few days after this a Conservative agent, named Sprague approached Mr. Carter and obtained from him \$5,000, and afterwards \$2,500 as political contributions. Mr. Rogers' defence is that the Provincial architect told him that the tender was too low and that the contractor would lose money and he, Rogers, feeling that it was not in the public interest to have any contractor lose money, decided to raise the contract price. Unfortunately the Provincial architect, Mr. Hooper by name, is dead, and so Mr. Rogers' statement cannot be verified.

We do not think we need say much more, the facts speak for themselves. The astonishing part of it is that in the face of these disclosures, the Hon. Robert Rogers is still a Minister in the Borden government. In England disclosures of that character automatically end the public life of any public man, but the Borden government has standards of its own and the highest political morality is not one of them.

SIR CHARLES DAVIDSON'S REPORT.

IF you will pardon an atrocious pun Sir Charles Peers Davidson appears to be taking his own time about allowing the Public to peer into his judgment in the charges of graft in the Militia Department.