

investors a loan of a like sum, and unable, because of his financial methods, to obtain this loan at a figure comparable with that of previous loans.

So, too, the year has witnessed an evident growth of opposition to the militaristic tendencies of Toryism. The storm of popular protest against abnormal and extravagant expenditures on militia and militarism in Canada may curb further fantastic and wasteful excesses along this line, and 1914 is not likely to witness a recurrence of increased militia expenditures by millions, of special transcontinental military trains and of hundred-thousand dollar military junkets to Europe at the public expense. Liberalism has withstood successfully during 1913 the efforts to have Canada drawn into the furnace of European controversy and European militarism.

Excesses and Restrictions in Parliament.

In so far as legislation was concerned the main items of the Government's attempted programme were the Highways' Aid Bill, the \$35,000,000, "Emergency" Contribution proposal, the Government Railways Branch Lines Bill, the Aid to Agriculture Bill, the \$15,000,000 gift to Mackenzie and Mann, and the lavish provision for public expenditures on borrowed money. Without exception, all these measures were marked by the one outstanding characteristic of having been deliberately designed as a means of placing the Cabinet in possession of large sums of money over the expenditure of which Parliament would have no further control. All were part of a well laid plan which seeks an irresponsible executive as a method of retaining political power by possible corruption of the electorate and undue influencing of constituencies.

Of these measures the last three alone survived the disclosures made by the Opposition. What there may have been of public need or of value in the three first, was sacrificed by the Government itself because of its inability to secure the grants in a form which would have helped to serve illegitimate ends.

The climax came in the restriction of the liberty of debate and of public discussion by the peoples' representatives in Parliament through the closure, and the arbitrary method of its introduction in the House of Commons.

To the lasting shame of the Borden Government, it will ever be recorded that, though thwarted in many other endeavours to restrict the liberties of the Canadian people, it was successful in taking from their representatives in Parliament the greatest of all safeguards of popular rights and liberties, an untrammelled freedom of speech within the halls of Parliament on matters of concern to the welfare of the nation as a whole.

Extravagances in Administration.

In enunciating his famous Halifax platform, Mr. Borden referred to degrading broken pledges, opportunist policy, stolen elections, indecent public appointments and robbery of the public assets, and said, "Those who know me best are aware how little I have desired a public career; and if I thought such an outcome possible I would turn with unspeakable aversion from the task before me". The past year has been a strange commentary on those brave words. Opportunist policy! Witness the revelations of Henri Bourassa in *Le Devoir* during May and June exposing all the details of the secret alliance between the Nationalists of Quebec and the Tories of Ontario. Stolen elections! Witness the by-elections in Macdonald and Chateauguay with their sordid details of wholesale bribery and corruption known to Mr. Borden and condoned by him. Indecent public appointments! Witness the continued dismissal of hundreds of civil servants on trumped-up charges of partisanship and the appointment of political workers without regard to merit or efficiency. Witness also, as one illuminating instance, the appointment of Capt. Landry, in Nova Scotia, a convicted and sentenced forger, liberated by the Minister of Justice in order that he might assume his job. Robbery of the public assets! Witness the exposures in Parliament of the Prince Albert land deal where a portion of the public domain worth at least \$100,000 was given away to a Conservative politician as a homestead! witness the contract entered into by the Postmaster-General for 350,000 mail bag locks at one dollar apiece, sufficient to supply the country for at least a quarter of a century. These are but a few of the instances of dishonest expenditure and "robbery of the public assets."

Frequent and prolonged absences of Ministers from the Capital were evidences of indifference to public duty too apparent on the part of several members of the government. The world circling tour of the Hon. Geo. E. Foster had in it the semblance of possible service, though little in the way of accomplishment. But the waste of public money in unnecessary travelling was most flagrantly exemplified in the cases of the Ministers of Militia and Labor. The trip of the Minister of Militia with a party of 24 officers, lady secretaries, and others, to Europe, on a combined military and pleasure expedition, was an expensive innovation, Hon. Mr. Crothers, Minister of Labor, committed a similar political indiscretion in going to England on a two months semi-holiday jaunt while hundreds of men were out of work on account of disastrous industrial disturbances on Vancouver Island. He aptly referred to himself as "Minister of Play".

Has the review of the year brought to Mr. Borden "unspeakable aversion for the task"? Three months of compelled absence from the Capital in search of rest and renewed health tell something of the strain that has been put upon him. The year has its moral for him as well as for the country as a whole.