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The
Canadian Liberal Monthly

Volume IV

September 1916 - August 1917

Published by the Central Information Office of
The Canadian Liberal Party
Hope Chambers, Ottawa
1917

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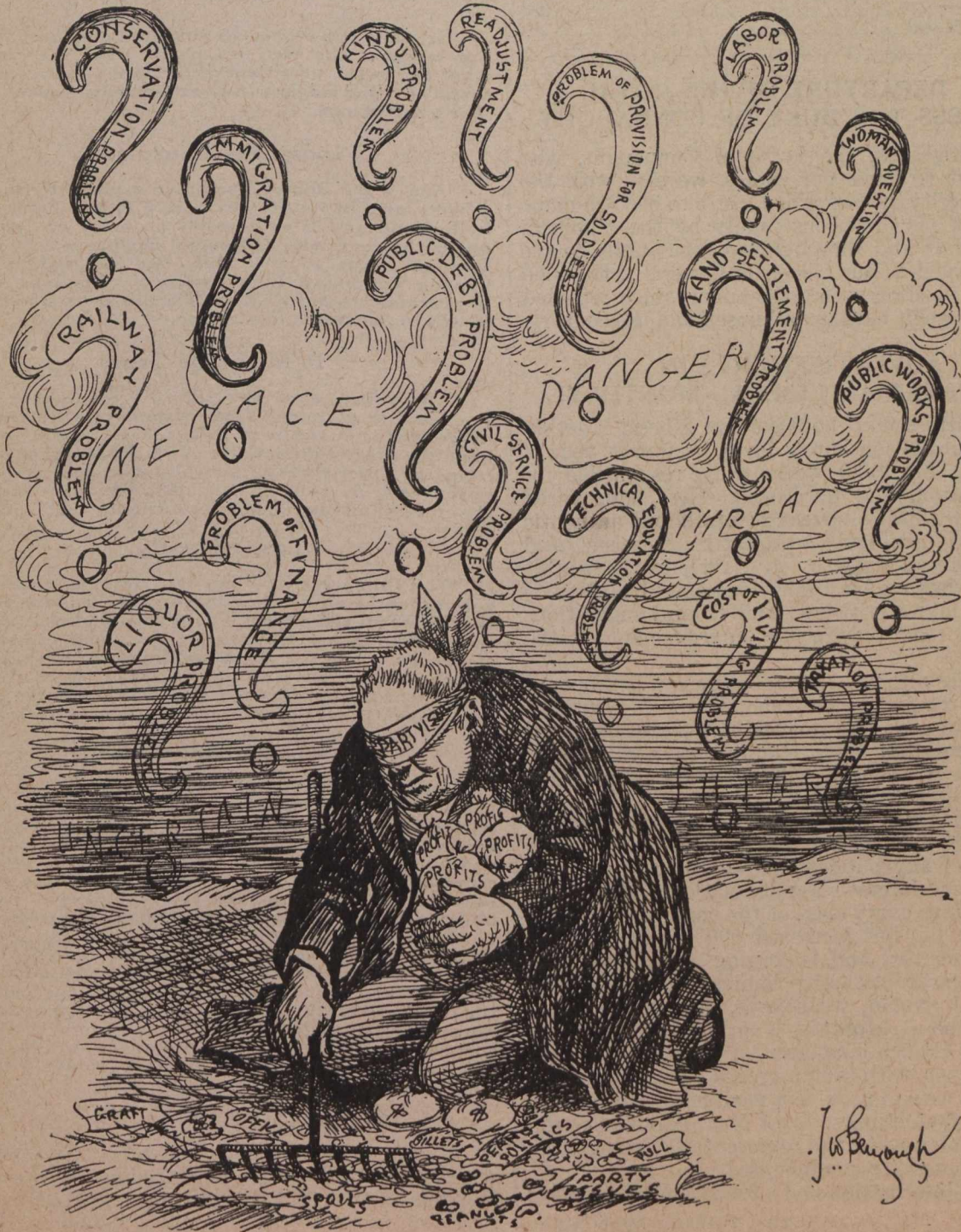
THE CANADIAN LIBERAL MONTHLY

VOL. IV. No. 1.

OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER, 1916.

TWO CENTS

NONE SO BLIND AS THOSE WHO WILL NOT SEE



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THE DEPARTURE OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

OF His Highness, the Duke of Connaught, who is about to leave our shores, we say, with the utmost sincerity, he has added lustre to his own name and that of his illustrious family by the dignified, eminently fair and thoroughly conscientious course he has pursued as our Governor-General. He filled his exalted position with great honor which reflected the highest credit both upon himself and the country.

ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE CANADIAN LIBERAL MONTHLY.

WITH this issue of the Canadian Liberal Monthly the publication enters upon its fourth year of circulation. For three years those responsible for its compilation, and publication have endeavored to include within its covers accurate and authentic information, fair, and constructive criticism, and items of general interest to its readers. In this we believe we have been fairly successfully. Nevertheless we invite criticism, and helpful suggestions which may tend toward the improvement of the periodical.

Beginning with the November issue it is proposed to increase the size of the Liberal Monthly without increasing the cost. In this additional space selected advertisements, and extra reading matter will appear. The change we believe will make the publication even more attractive.

The circulation of the Liberal Monthly is now 51,000, this being the largest Dominion-wide circulation of any publication published in Canada, and the second largest rural circulation. Its readers are drawn from every class of the community. The subscription list has increased 800 per cent in the last eight months, and is forging ahead daily. A better and more attractive vehicle for enterprising advertisers it would, we believe, be hard to find.

The Liberal Monthly is printed in both the English and French languages.

Altogether, with such a record as the above, we believe that we can provide a medium of inestimable value to manufacturers, firms and individuals who desire Dominion-wide, and representative advertising for their business, or commodities.

For full information and advertising rates apply:

THE CANADIAN LIBERAL MONTHLY,
Ottawa, Canada.

REMINISCENCES OF GEORGE BROWN

WHEN the Toronto Globe finds it necessary to sound a political bugle call, its note is usually clear, virile and penetrating. This was specially shown in an editorial published on August 24th entitled "The Ultimate Hughes' Crime" from which we quote hereunder a few extracts. Nothing that has been published in the Globe in recent years has reminded us so much of the Hon. Geo. Brown. We doubt not it will be as sweet music to the old time Liberals whose political creed is to call a spade a spade and to be unsparing in just condemnation.

"It would be a crime, the ghastliest and most murderous crime of the War, no matter what the excuse or what the cause, were General Sir Sam given a real command of living soldiers in a genuine engagement on the War's battlefield.

Indignant Canadians.

"And if Sir Robert Borden is a party to any such scheme, or if he fails to block it, if it is being promoted in England and if as a result an army of Canadians under the command of General Hughes is sent to face German forces at any time, the indignation of all Canada, of all classes and parties of Canadians will not be restrained by any political formalities or side-tracked by any explanations whatsoever.

It Might Be True.

"The thing, even the thought of such a thing, suggested in yesterday's despatches from Ottawa is so monstrous that the man in the street would scout off hand the suggestion were it not for the fear that judging from the experiences of the past two years the thing might be true. And if true then God have mercy on the officers and men doomed to service in that command.

Lost His Grip.

"The Prime Minister has long lost his grip on the government even as the government has lost grip on the Canadian situation. The Allison dishonor and the Camp Borden horror are only the most conspicuous of the government's burdens. Even without them the government in an election might be resecured, but with them the government would be destroyed by the hot indignation of the very men who gave it office in 1911.

Washed in Life Blood.

"But the fortunes of any government or of any political leader in Canada are as nothing and less than nothing compared with the fate of a Canadian army on the French or Belgian front dependent on the strategy and judgment of Sam Hughes. To acquiesce in such a crime as a condition of his resignation from the government would be to wash out the reminders of political blundering in the life blood of Canadian regiments.

"It is bad enough to have to suffer his aping of Napoleon as the world's other military genius, but to allow him a chance to put his apings into practice with the flesh and blood of Canada's sons and men, no. His limelight posturings in Canada, in England, and in France are Canada's humiliation, but facing a German charge,—limelight for General Hughes—would be the blackness of darkness for his men condemned to do and die."

THE CANADIAN ANNUAL REVIEW

We beg to acknowledge receipt of *The Canadian Annual Review* for 1915, published by Mr. J. Castell Hopkins, F.S.S., F.R.G.S., Toronto. It is a living record of Canadian Affairs and a valuable work of reference.

THE SOUTH-WEST TORONTO BY-ELECTION.

THE most remarkable event of the last month undoubtedly was the election of South-West Toronto for the Provincial Legislature.

No less than four candidates were in the field, Mr. Norris, Conservative, Mr. Dewart and Mr. Waldron, Liberals, and Mr. Connor, Socialist.

What particularly attracted the attention of the country to the contest was the attitude of all parties concerned to the question of prohibition. It is to be remembered that at the last session of the Legislature, a law of total prohibition was passed, and passed unanimously, to the apparent satisfaction of the whole province, and yet prohibition was scouted by all candidates, saved Mr. Connor and he got less than five hundred votes.

The real contest was between Mr. Norris and Mr. Dewart. Mr. Norris ran as a straight supporter of the Hearst government, except on the question of prohibition which he flatly opposed. Mr. Dewart, though ranging himself behind Mr. Rowell, reserved his liberty of action as to his temperance policy. Mr. Dewart, the Liberal candidate was triumphantly elected.

There are but few Liberals now living, if indeed there be any, to remember the election of one of their faith in the Southern section of Toronto. In Tory Toronto, the Southern division always held a sorry pre-eminence. When in other parts, Toryism might occasionally be shaken and vanquished, in South Toronto, it always grimly kept its hold even on the most discordant elements.

What was the cause of this sudden and unexpected reversal?

It is probable that the personality of the successful candidate may have contributed to his victory. Mr. Dewart has the honor of having inherited a popular name in Toronto, and that name he has made still more popular. His father was in his day a clergyman of high standing in the Methodist Church and a citizen much honored by all classes, for his sweet and kindly disposition, and his sterling and manly character. The son has all those gifts in abundance. In his chosen profession, the law, he has risen to, and long occupied, a high place in the very front rank and he is, in addition, a vigorous, incisive and eloquent platform orator.

Such qualities always tell in an election. Yet the time was and not so far distant, when these qualities tried by Mr. Dewart, failed to penetrate the impervious crust of Tory Toronto.

The Prohibition Question.

It is asserted by the Conservative press, in explanation of their defeat that the liquor interests large and small, wholesale and retail, lined up against the government. We are not in a position to verify that statement. It may well have some foundation. The liquor interests always were supposed to be in close association with the Conservative organization, and from the day that Mr. Rowell promulgated his temperance policy, they are said to have sweated gold and whiskey to defeat him. The introduction of prohibition in Ontario by the Conservative administration sounded to them not only as ingratitude but rank treason, and it is

not unlikely that to them revenge was sweet.

There is also reason for believing that the attitude of the government lost to them the vote of all honest friends of temperance. The government threw themselves headlong into the contest. Ministers spoke and canvassed, but instead of squarely facing the issue, and at least defending the legislation for which they were responsible, the public was startled to hear them declare that they had "their ears to the ground." They made it clear that if thus intently listening, with "their ears to the ground," they heard ominous rumblings, they would not hesitate to retrace their steps, sacrifice principle to expediency and save their offices.

Such wobbling was met with general contempt; it disgusted even more than it irritated both friends and opponents of prohibition.

Yet prohibition does not seem to have been half so powerful a factor in the result, as the nickel question—a question to which recent events have imported a sudden and paramount importance.

Canada has by far the richest nickel deposits in the world; the only other country which in this respect approaches it, is the French colony of New Caledonia.

Nickel.

The nickel ores in Canada are exploited by the well known Mond Company, a British firm which has its workshops in Swansea, Wales, and by the International Nickel Company, an American firm whose workshops and business are in the State of New Jersey.

The International Nickel Company has long been selling the products of its Canadian mines to the governments of all the countries now at war, excepting France, and it is a fact to which we can no longer close our eyes, that the whole of the nickel which has entered into the naval and military armaments of Germany came from this country.

So long as peace reigned, both people and government were oblivious of the fact, but when war came, they suddenly were confronted with the dangerous and exasperating reality. Public opinion was seriously disturbed and alarmed. It sought to comfort itself with the thought that if nickel were sold to Germany by the American firm, the British fleet would effectively prevent delivery; it was reassured when on the floor of Parliament, Canadian Ministers repeatedly declared their assurance based on information from the British authorities, that no nickel reached Germany from the United States.

Submarines Carried Canadian Nickel.

A new factor has now arisen in the adaptation by Germany of the submarine vessel to the carrying trade, and converting it into a freight carrier.

The world learned some weeks ago with astonishment not unmixed with admiration for the enterprise, that the German submarine Deutschland had reached Baltimore with a cargo of dye stuffs. Some weeks later the Canadian people were shocked to hear that the same vessel had left on its return journey with a cargo largely composed of nickel, of Canadian nickel. They have since been appraised that

evading cruisers on the broad ocean and passing under the blockading fleet, the Deutschland had safely reached Hamburg and delivered to the German authorities its precious cargo of Canadian nickel. They now have the certainty that at this very moment, Canadian nickel is being turned into German armaments to fight the allied forces, and before them is the prospect that Canadian soldiers may be killed with shells manufactured of Canadian nickel.

This prospect, however, does not seem to have in any way disturbed the serene composure of either the Dominion Government or the Provincial government of Ontario. Both have remained singularly supine to this new condition of things—a

condition exasperating to everybody else.

Mr. Dewar vigorously assailed both the Dominion and the Provincial governments. To prohibition he paid but scant attention. It was the nickel situation, the danger of it, the indifference, the criminal indifference, as he termed it, of the two governments, which he brought to the attention of the electors of Toronto, and that situation influenced them to their independent action.

The result in South-West Toronto is evidence that the people are aroused and that they will not be trifled with. Its immediate lesson is that the nickel question must be faced and settled, and the only solution is that Canadian nickel shall not be supplied to our enemies.

TORY OUTRAGES LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

THE High cost of living is becoming a very serious matter indeed to the ordinary man with a family to support, and consequently it is a very live and important subject of discussion among the people. A hundred and one reasons are assigned for the increase in the prices of the necessities of life, but strange to say some of the more important have been over-looked. We refer particularly to the additional protection of $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ given to the manufacturers of food stuffs, shortly after War broke out, under the guise of a War tax. The imposition of this mis-named War tax of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on imported goods, means as respects food stuffs—the essentials of life—a **molehill of revenue for the Dominion Treasury and a mountain of burdens to the people**, in the shape of enhanced prices on food stuffs manufactured in Canada, without benefit to the Treasury. In short the Finance Minister, Sir Thomas White, placed an additional weapon in the hands of the large meat packers and canners to extract $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent more money from the consumer.

Let us reason this out: The tax is in addition to the ordinary customs rate of duty, which in all conscience, is high enough, and it applies to all prepared food stuffs as well as raw materials in the shape of cattle, hogs, sheep, grain, vegetables, fish and fruits. Now as every Canadian knows we are a food-producing country. We can, and practically do produce all our requirements for home consumption; indeed we have a surplus for export. The importations, therefore, whether of raw materials or finished food stuffs are trifling, and, consequently, the War tax does not bring in much revenue. Then, as is well known, the meat packers, canners and middlemen being large buyers, practically control the prices paid to the farmers for their produce, and, therefore, it is not at all likely that the farmer gets any benefit from the additional tax on these articles. **But the large meat packers, canners, manufacturers of cereal foods and other manufacturers of food stuffs knowing that imported food stuffs cannot come into the country without paying the tax are at liberty to increase their prices to the amount of the tax on all food stuffs manufactured in Canada.** And so it will be seen that this brilliant (?) piece of legis-

lation by the Finance Minister, under the cruel disguise of War necessities, is not only a farce but a criminal outrage on the common people.

Another reason for the increased cost of living and likewise an illustration of the lack of heart displayed by Sir Thomas White in dealing with the common people, is the granting of additional protection to the Canadian Sugar Refiners to the extent of 17 cents per hundred pounds, since the War broke out. This little scheme was skilfully worked. The sugar duties were increased to get additional revenue for War purposes, and in the manipulation of the schedules the Finance Minister managed to sneak to the Canadian Refiner the additional protection referred to, without a word of explanation to Parliament or the public. The sugar schedules in the Customs Tariff are of a complicated character, and it was a comparatively easy matter to put the steal over. When it is understood that over 700,000,000 pounds of sugar are consumed in Canada every year, the extent of the gift of 17 cents per hundred pounds additional protection to the Canadian Refiner can be intelligently estimated. It amounts to about \$1,350,000 additional per annum taken out of the pockets of the people by the sugar Barons. If this is not a political outrage and a deliberate robbery of the people, we do not know how to classify it. The profits to-day in sugar refining in Canada are shameful and the common people are paying the piper "How long, Oh Lord! How long" will they have to continue to do so?

The United States Nickel Company which controls the nickel deposits of Canada, and which has been earning since the War broke out at the rate of \$10,000,000 a year profit, is surely a fit subject for reasonable taxation for War purposes. Nevertheless it is alleged that the Ontario government let them off with a tax of only \$40,000 a year. The Parish Council politicians who are unfortunately in control of the administration of Ontario, would rather make the poor people pay a cent extra to see the movies than tread on the toes of the nickel plutocrats.

SOME STEPS

IN THE

DECLINE AND IMPENDING FALL OF TORYISM IN CANADA

Step 1.—The selection by Premier Borden of the weakest and most nondescript Cabinet since Confederation—a Cabinet that has done nothing but spend the people's money lavishly.

Step 2.—The inclusion in the Cabinet of three Nationalists whose political creed in brief is: "We owe nothing to England and the English."

The present Tory Secretary of State, Hon. Mr. Blondin, declared on the Hustings, no later than 1910:—

"You are intimidating the people in waving the English flag, and adding that we must contribute always and everywhere to the defence of that protector of our constitutional liberties; but we will not be made to forget that in 1837 it was necessary to bore holes in it in order to breathe the atmosphere of liberty."

The present Speaker of the House of Commons—put there by the Tory Government—declared on the stump in Quebec only a few years ago:—

"You must protest against helping England in her wars; unless you do, conscription will come next."

Step 3.—The inclusion also in the Government of the Honourable Robert Rogers, a man devoid of great intellectual powers and the high qualities which make real statesmen, but rich in guile and low political cunning, which constitute him a real menace to the State.

Step 4.—The appointment of Sam Hughes as Minister of Militia. No greater political mistake was ever made. His administration has been a riotous medley of graft, extravagance, inefficiency, pompous parade, bombast, wind, fury and farce. He apes Napoleon, and in this he reminds us of the many poor chaps in our asylums whose fixed idiosyncrasy is that they really are, Hannibal, Napoleon, Bismark or Lord Roberts, as the case may be.

Step 5.—The surrender of the Borden Government to Mackenzie and Mann. The doors of the Treasury were held wide open and Bill and Dan were invited to fill their capacious satchels. Here is a list of Tory gifts to these two ravenous promoters.

(a) A cash subsidy of \$6,000,000 in connection with the construction of the Manitoba section of the Canadian Northern Railway.—Also guarantee of principal and interest of bonds to the amount of \$4,500,000.

A straight cash subsidy of \$15,640,000.

A guarantee of principal and interest of Canadian Northern bonds to the amount of \$45,000,000.

The Tory Government also advanced \$10,000,000 in cash on the security of \$12,500,000 of these bonds.

A straight loan of \$15,000,000 in the Spring of 1916.

Step 6.—The increase in the ordinary annual expenditures of the country in three years of Tory rule—in normal peace times—from \$87,000,000 to \$127,000,000, notwithstanding that when in Opposition Borden declared that the expenditure of the Liberals amounting to \$79,000,000 was prima facie evidence of corruption. The country practically stood still during these three years yet the public expenditure aeroplaned.

Step 7.—The granting of additional protection to the manufacturers through the imposition under the guise of war tax, of an extra duty of 7½% on imported goods. In regard to food stuffs this tax enables the meat packers and the canners of vegetables, fruit and fish to charge 7½% more for their goods without benefitting the Dominion Treasury. Can you wonder that the cost of living has increased?

Step 8.—The granting (in an underhand way too) of 17 cents per 100 pounds more protection to Canadian Sugar refineries. This means a gift of over a million dollars a year to these manufacturers.

Step 9.—The point blank refusal of the Government to allow the Western farmer free access for his wheat to the United States market.

Step 10.—Sir Robert Borden and his Cabinet of weak sisters deliberately fired a Customs torpedo at British trade by imposing an additional duty of \$5.00 on every \$100 of British goods.

South Africa had to raise more money too on account of the war but declined to impose an extra tax on British goods.

Step 11.—The shelving of responsibility by the appointment of myriad Commissions to investigate all sorts of questions embarrassing to the Government.

Step 12.—The appointment by Premier Borden of one Morine, formerly of Newfoundland as Chairman of a Royal Commission to investigate the Civil Service of Canada, in the face of the fact that the self-same Morine had been dismissed by the King from his position as Cabinet Minister of Newfoundland for malfeasance in office.

Step 13.—The Quebec-Saguenay Railway steal of the Session of 1916—which is perhaps the most malodorous of all the railways deals in the history of the country. Briefly told, powerful interests in the Tory party found themselves with three white elephant railways on their hands, and the Government took them over at a handsome price—the result to the Canadian tax payer being an additional load of about \$10,000,000. This happened in war times too when every dollar is needed to preserve our existence and liberties, and was not only approved but warmly championed by the Finance Minister.

Step 14.—The Civil Service has been demoralized by the wholesale dismissal for alleged political reasons of thousands of officials and by the appointment of hordes of unnecessary officials. In three years 5099 officials were dismissed, 7994 resigned (mostly forced resignations) and no less than 25,613 new appointments were made. Allowing 1,000 for suspensions and deaths, no less than 11,000 new appointments were made during a period when the country was practically standing still.

Step 15.—The Borden Government have squandered money like drunken sailors—millions upon millions of dollars—in the construction of magnificent public buildings in villages and small towns all over the country. The countryside in Tory ridings is dotted with armories which have not been of any use during the war.

There is no possible defence for these expenditures. It is sheer waste of public money, for political purposes. Sir MacKenzie Bowell used to describe this kind of expenditure as "criminal"—and it is.

Step 16.—The Government thwarted the universal desire of the people to get good roads by refusing to apportion money for the purpose, among the various Provinces according to the population. Under the Constitution the building of roads belongs to the Provinces, and money contributed for that work by the Dominion should be spent by the Provinces.

The Government wanted to spend the money themselves wherever they wanted, which clearly meant that their intention was to spend it where it would do the most political good.

Unable to get their own way they played "Dog in the manger."

Step 17.—One of the great wants of Canada is a comprehensive technical educational system in order to promote industrial efficiency so that our great national resources may be developed in the best and most economical way.

A Royal Commission appointed by the Liberals to investigate the subject made a very exhaustive report and recommended immediate action.

This Government "pigeon-holed" the report.

Step 18.—The looting of the British Treasury through the sales of war supplies. Quibble as they like, the Borden Government is held morally responsible by the people for the disgraceful robbery of the British public. The prices charged the British Government for shells and other munitions were so outrageous as to constitute a distinct blot on Canada's escutcheon.

Step 19.—The Ross Rifle.—The action of the Minister of Militia, approved by the Government, in regard to this rifle amounted almost to criminality. Notwithstanding the facts that the rifle was thrown away by the soldiers of the First Canadian Contingent, that it was reported strongly against by the Commander-in-Chief, General Alderson, in the early stages of the War, that there was overwhelming testimony from the soldiers themselves, that the weapon jammed after firing a few rounds and was

otherwise unsuitable, Sir Sam Hughes—the man of one idea, rammed it—metaphorically speaking—down the throats of everybody. Officers and men were forbidden to speak their minds about it. Even General Alderson himself is said to have been removed from his post, largely because of his outspoken utterances about the rifle. Finally driven into a corner by the persistent criticism, the Government, two years after hostilities commenced, did what they should have done at the very beginning, if they had had the best interests of the Canadian soldiers at heart, namely, they asked the British Commander-in-Chief in the field to make a report. That report was not long in coming—and was of the most decisive and unequivocal character. We have the best of reasons for believing that the report went so far as to state that it was nothing more or less than manslaughter to send the Canadian soldiers into the trenches with such a rifle. Then and not till then did the Government abandon the rifle. Such is the penalty Canada has had to pay for having a weak Premier and a wildly erratic, and childishly vain and egotistical Minister of Militia. The horrible blunder has cost the country millions of dollars—and what is a thousand times worse—probably many valuable lives.

Step 20.—Camp Borden.

GRAFT, GRAFT AND MORE GRAFT.

Step 21.

The Levis Land Deal.—

Land bought in July, 1912 for \$5,500, was after passing through different Tory political hands, sold to the Government within a year afterwards for a Quarantine Station at \$32,750—or a profit of 500 per cent in one year.

The Dorval Land Scandal.—

The Militia Department paid one, Rodden, \$180,000 for a military camp near Montreal, which Rodden purchased only a year before for \$95,000.

Shield Shovels.—

Sir Sam Hughes bought 25,000 shovels—with a hole in them to spy through—patented by his 20-year old lady stenographer, at a cost to the country of \$33,750—and the shovels were thrown on the scrap heap when they reached England.

Mail Bag Locks.—

The Tory Postmaster General Pelletier—who subsequently found his health too poor to continue as Minister, but good enough to act as Judge of the Superior Court for the Province of Quebec, gave to a specially formed company of political friends, without calling for public tenders, a contract for 350,000 mail bag locks at \$1.00 a piece, that quantity being twice greater than the number of locks used in the whole history of the Department.

Mr. Foster—(Not Sir George)—a Conservative member of Parliament, was handed \$72,000 from the Public Treasury to buy horses for the Militia

Department for which no vouchers were produced. He says he employed two men to buy for him, but when the matter was investigated by the Public Accounts Committee these two parties were in the United States and were not produced to give evidence. The testimony adduced showed that many of the horses bought through Mr. Foster were unfit for military use. Lamé, halt, blind, spavined and knee-sprung horses were accepted, to say nothing of horses of hoary and uncertain age.

Motor Trucks.—

Motor trucks for the soldiers were bought in wholesale quantities at retail prices—at the same price as a man buying one truck would pay. In this way the Borden Government overpaid \$180,000. A remarkable feature in connection with the purchase of these trucks was that men selected to do the buying for the Government actually acted both as buyers for the Government and sellers to it.

Binoculars.—

The Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons submitted the following report regarding the purchase of binoculars for Canadian officers.

"From the evidence it appears that a number of binocular glasses were of poor quality, low range and inferior efficiency, but passed inspection and were paid for at excessive prices and this was due to misrepresentation and inadequate inspection. The evidence in this matter showed that as respects one lot of 160 glasses the middleman who sold to the Government bought the glasses for an average price of \$30.00 each and sold them to the Government at \$58.00. One pair of glasses was bought as low as \$9.00 and turned over to the Government for \$58.00.

Bandages.—

A Conservative member of Parliament, Mr. W. F. Garland, of Ottawa, worked a dishonest scheme on the Government by having a clerk in his employ act as middleman in the purchase of bandages. This clerk got orders amounting to \$41,000 on which there was a profit of 30%. There is no doubt whatever that that illegitimate profit was intended to go into the pockets of the Conservative M.P., or his Drug Company, notwithstanding the independence of Parliament Act which provides that no member of Parliament shall be interested in financial dealings with the Government. As a result, however, of the disclosures made before the Public Accounts Committee, the young clerk refunded the whole of the profit to the Government.

Drugs.—

Madame Plamondon of Quebec, a sister of Mr. Albert Sevigny, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, sold drugs and medical supplies to the camp at Valcartier to the amount of \$23,300. An expert druggist, 45 years in business, swore that there were scandalous overcharges ranging from 70% to 300%.

J. Wesley Allison's Works.

The mention of the name, without explanation is sufficient.

Rotten Boots for the Soldiers.—

Inferior, unsuitable and in some instances rotten boots were supplied to our soldiers.

General Alderson, Commander of the Canadian troops cabled the Borden Government:—

"The boot-wear being issued to the Contingent are not suitable for rough wear in wet weather. Please cable instructions for purchase of boots here, if we can obtain them.

Hughes replied:—

"Re boots, 48,000 pairs overshoes already shipped. Will these meet your requirements?" To this idiotic message Alderson replied:—

"It has been found that overshoes do not compensate for faulty construction of boots. Some pairs are useless after ten days' wear."

Failing to get any satisfaction from the Government at Ottawa, General Alderson equipped the 35,000 Canadian soldiers of the First Contingent with British made boots.

Sir Sam Hughes has stubbornly held that he knows more about army boots than anybody else, and the manufacture of these has gone on in Canada in the millions. Yet no Canadian boots have as yet been worn to War. They are piled up in England. Canadian boots are pronounced unfit to stand the cobbled roads of France, yet we make them and ship them and pile them up in England. Two or three months ago, we understand, a consignment of Canadian boots was sent across to France to have a test made of them. We do not know the result. These are the only Canadian boots that have reached the front. Why could not Canada have made, from the first, a boot that would have met the needs of the case? There was nothing to prevent it. Canadian manufacturers of boots are just as good as there are in the world. Could we not have booked orders from France and Russia once we had shown our ability to make them? But no; Sir Sam knew more about boots than any other man on earth, and he stuck to his opinions.

Canadian Equipment Scrapped in England.—

Canada has sent transport waggons to England by the hundreds, yet only four have ever gone to France. Why? Because in the narrow roads and lanes of France the Canadian quarter-locking waggons are of little use, more particularly as they are not standardized, and if anything goes wrong with one of them no repairs are obtainable.

Take the Eaton Machine Gun Battery. Nothing came of it at all—every dollar was a waste—because nothing was standardized. The whole splendid outfit lies piled up to-day at Fulford in England, an evidence of rank bad management at Ottawa.

Or take bicycles. Thousands of wheels have been bought by the Canadian Government and sent to England. They have got no farther. They are not standardized. They would be useless at the front, because neither tires nor any other part can be replaced from stores. They should not have been bought and sent, or if bought and sent, a thorough system of supplies should have been arranged to support them in the field. They lie now in England piled up in thousands like many useless things.

There are, we believe, 30,000 leather Oliver equipments stored up in England. Canada bought them; the War has no use for them. Canada has since then bought 250,000 leather equipments of another pattern, which will probably go into the discard likewise.

THE BAD RECORD OF TORYISM IN THE PROVINCIAL FIELD.

TURNING from the Dominion to the Provincial field, what do we find?

British Columbia, one of the richest and fairest of our Provinces is almost ruined by Tory greed, graft, extravagance and incompetence.

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, a Tory of the Tories, summarized the awful situation in the following striking appeal to the electors:—

"I ask Conservatives to drive from power the government which has disgraced this Province, and which has been the servile tool of adventurers.

"I ask Conservatives to defeat every Minister of the Bowser government who shows his head.

"There are mile posts on the trail of this corrupt combination.

"What about Sir Richard McBride, and the Judas Iscariot who sold him?

"The Attorney-General was solicitor for a rascally trust company which has brought ruin and destruction on many a home.

"An indecent attempt is being made to save the sinking ship of Bowser and Company, by bribing you with your own money."

Cash for Magnates, but nothing for Soldiers.

"But for them, you and I would not have one thing worthy of consideration left in our life. Yet what do we find? Nothing in cash for the soldier. No cash except for the railroads. The legislation is a disgrace to the name of British Columbia. There is hard cash for the railroad magnates. There is hard cash for several large organizations. There is a munificent pension for the agent-general in London. There is an enormous salary and a palatial residence for him, but for the returned soldier there is promised land in a No Man's Land."

In Manitoba three Tory ex-Ministers of the Crown are before the Criminal Courts on serious charges of defrauding the Provinces. The revelations of graft in connection with the erection of the new Parliament Buildings in Winnipeg shocked the whole country.

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE.

In Ontario the Tory government has forfeited the confidence of the people by its weakness, inefficiency and vacillation—to say nothing worse.

The administration of the Hearst government has disgusted even Conservatives as was strikingly manifested in the North Perth and South-West Toronto elections.

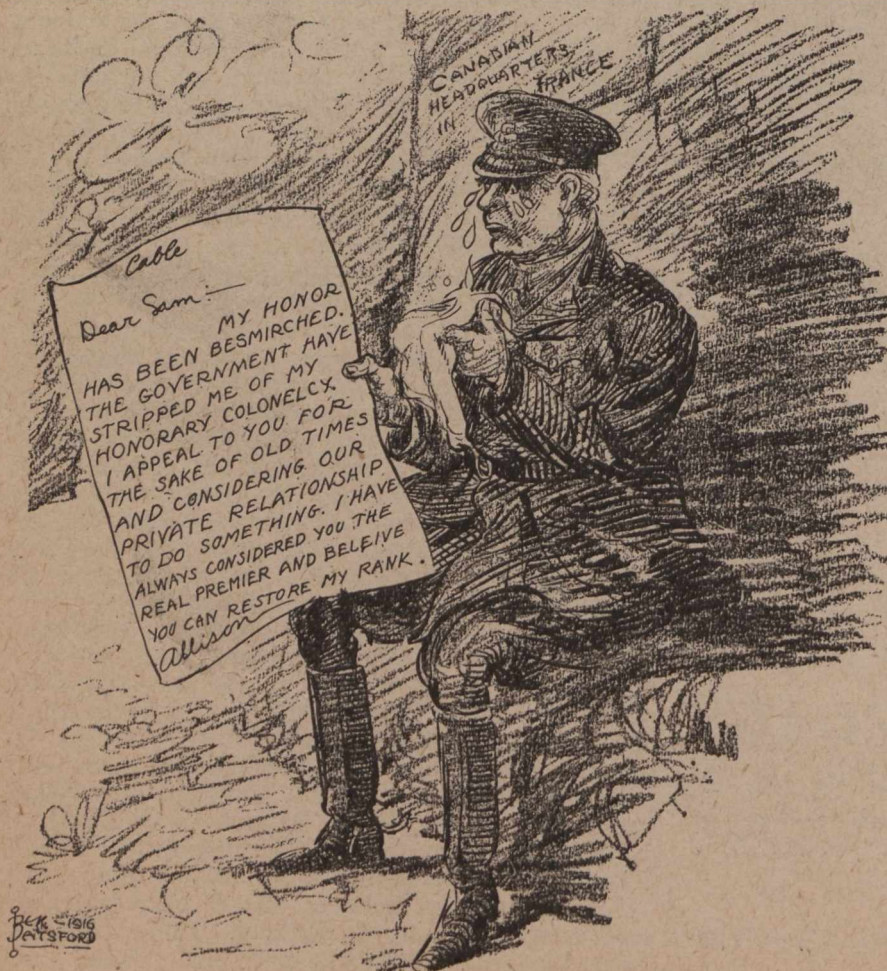
Down in New Brunswick the Tory Premier, Hon. J. K. Fleming was driven from office not many months ago as the result of the findings of a Royal Commission which investigated charges of graft.

The finding of the Commission was that \$71,000 had been collected as political toll from holders of timber licenses and that Fleming, the Tory Premier, "was well aware that such moneys were being collected for a purpose unquestionably improper."

The Commission further found that Fleming, "directed, the disposition of such moneys."

Another finding was that Fleming was guilty of compelling a railway contractor to pay \$2,000 toll.

And yet this same man, Fleming, is to-day Tory candidate for the Federal Parliament.



"My Guide, Counsellor and Friend."

OTTAWA PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

On September 1st, His Royal Highness, the Governor-General, in the performance of his last important official duty in Canada, declared the corner stone of the new Canadian Parliament Buildings to be "well and truly laid." The ceremony was an impressive one, and the scene historic for the corner stone in question is to form the commencement of the structure which is to house the legislators of the Dominion for generations to come. Will the generations of the future be able to say in the words of Canada's Royal Governor that the work of reconstructing the Parliament Buildings which was started in the Year of Grace, 1916, was "well and truly" done?

Already serious differences of opinion have occurred in connection with the policy so far pursued. The terms of the contracts made with the Lyall Company without competition and before the cost and extent of the new work could be known led to the resignation of Hon. Charles Murphy from the joint parliamentary committee which is to supervise the work, shortly after its creation. And six hours after the ceremony of laying the corner stone was completed, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, another of the Liberal members of the supervising body also resigned, his resignation being based on the belief that the policy pursued toward rebuilding the historic pile was both unsound economically, and also illegal. There now remains five Conservative members, including the Chairman, Hon. Robert Rogers, and two Liberal members only on the committee. Two days after Mr. Lemieux resigned these members issued a lengthy statement (the third of its kind) explaining to the public the policy pursued since the burning of the building on Feb. 3rd, 1916, and defending that policy.

It will thus be seen that there are two distinct opinions on the matter of the rebuilding.

When the question of reconstructing the Parliament Buildings came up first for consideration, and for long after, there were few men in Canada, including the legislators who did not believe that the work was to be one of restoration, and not of complete reconstruction. From outward view, after the fire had subsided, the beautiful Norman Gothic structure stood, so far as the front was concerned, almost undamaged, with the exception of the crowning masonry of the Tower. On Feb. 17th, shortly after the fire Messrs. Pearson and Marchand, the architects, after a careful examination of the ruins declared it as their opinion that the outer walls were little damaged, and that there were two million dollars' worth which could be utilized "in position." This, they explained later, included the Library. In the month of May, acting on this report, Parliament voted a sum of \$1,500,000 "for the restoration of the Parliament Buildings," the word "restoration" appearing in the estimates.

A joint committee composed of five Conservatives, and four Liberals, with Hon. Robert Rogers as chairman, was nominated by the leaders of the Government and the Opposition respectively to supervise this work of "restoration." Proceeding, apparently on the assumption that the work was

to be one of "restoration" the committee made arrangements to meet the Lyall contracting firm of Montreal, on a basis of cost plus percentage. The sum for the services of the company amounts to eight per cent on the first four millions, and seven per cent on the next million, no further payment it is alleged will be made if the cost exceeds five million dollars. But this latter statement does not take into account the Stock Room for the Library or the New Power House which are also to be constructed in addition to the Parliament Building proper. Then the Government leases the plant of the company and pays it a rental of 20 per cent. per annum besides agreeing that "breakages, repairs, transportation of plant" will form part of the cost of the building. It will thus be seen that the greater the cost, the greater the remuneration to the contractors.

There can be little doubt that the understanding at first was that the two million dollars' of standing walls were to be utilized. But when the committee reassembled at Ottawa in July, they discovered that not one stone of the majestic pile which still stood at the time Parliament rose remained upon another. The work of demolition was complete, even the walls of the New West Wing which had defied the flames, having been dynamited and destroyed. It was no longer a work of "restoration" but of complete reconstruction which faced the "supervising" committee.

Liberal members of the committee expressed surprise. Hon. Robert Rogers, Hon. Dr. Reid, and other government members of the body renounced knowledge that any such instructions had been given to the contractors. The Minister of Public Works placed the blame, or responsibility on the shoulders of the architects. **The fact remained, however, that walls previously valued by the Architects at \$2,000,000 had been destroyed—on the cost plus percentage basis.**

It is for the public to judge whether or not Mr. Rogers was ignorant of the work of destruction. In the first place, it may be pointed out that neither he nor Dr. Reid could enter, or leave their respective offices in the West block without seeing with their own eyes the daily process of the work of destruction. In the second place Mr. Rogers himself is on record in one of the daily papers of Ottawa dated July 7th, as having remarked to a party of newspaper owners whom he conducted over the ruins: **Now gentlemen, you can see for yourselves why the parliamentary committee which is co-operating with me in this work decided that all these old walls would have to come down.** And in the third place it would seem to be inconceivable that two architects who had formerly reported on the existence of \$2,000,000 worth of walls which could be utilized "in position," would take upon themselves, without consulting anyone, to reduce these walls to rubbish.

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux was not satisfied with the explanation. He took the ground that the vote of Parliament, and the powers granted the committee only contemplated the restoration of the buildings, and that with a moderate amount of

money it was believed the structure could be restored. He did not feel justified in the new circumstances, and in the absence of plans, specifications and an estimate of cost in awarding such a large contract without calling for tenders. **In view of the altered circumstances, and of the vote of last session, he declared, "I feel that I have no legal authority to depart from the rule laid down in the Public Works act that in all contracts above five thousand dollars tenders should be asked.**

Mr. Lemieux therefore moved that the contractors be paid for the work done, and that tenders be called for the reconstruction, according to law.

This motion was allowed to stand over, and in the meantime the architects were asked for an explanation. They declared that the plans which "had been approved by members of the Senate and Commons" had contemplated the pulling down of a large portion of the walls. They itemized their statement of the value of the walls, and for the first time included in it \$650,000 representing the value of the Library. They further stated that when they undertook to take down part of the upper walls they found defects in the masonry of a serious nature.

It now transpires that the so-called "approval" of parliament was secured from two score or so of the legislators who had carefully examined the plans in the room of the minister at the museum. It is also a matter for notice that in the original report of values, the library (which is not part of the ruins) was dealt with in a separate paragraph. And the defects which were discovered are now said to have represented air spaces provided for in the original specifications.

When the committee reassembled after the laying of the corner stone, Mr. Lemieux again pressed for consideration of his motion. It failed, however, to secure a seconder, and was declared lost. He therefore resigned that evening.

From the remaining members, a lengthy statement emanated two days after Mr. Lemieux' resignation on Sept. 1st. The committee in its statement re-affirms the contentions of the architects, and clears them from blame for what they did. They undertake to see to it that the work is performed economically, and well. They declare that tenders will be called for all materials used, and that "supervision will be exercised on the work to free it from all influences, or considerations of an unhealthy kind."

The country will await further developments which are already beginning to take shape.

WEAK SIR ROBERT BORDEN

After this War is over and the people get back to sane thinking, it will be a severe shock to most of them to find out how the Tories have played "ducks and drakes" with their money. They will then realize the carnival of extravagance, inefficiency and waste, to say nothing of corruption, which went on in the Militia Department presided over by an individual as wild, erratic and irresponsible as was

ever placed under confinement for the safety of the public. The administration of that Department has been an horrible nightmare, almost unbelievable in a country which prides itself on its intelligence. Firmness, strength of mind and decision of character on the part of Sir Robert Borden would have avoided most of the awful results that have flowed from Sir Sam's work, but the people of Canada are learning rapidly in these days that these are qualities which the Premier does not possess.

Sir Robert Borden has been tried and found wanting. Courtesy he unflinchingly exhibits personally honest he, no doubt, is, and likewise painstaking and hard working, but these merits are not enough in the Prime Minister of this country. He lacks what the man in the street calls "the punch." He is not, and never has been master of his own Administration, and because of that, he has lost prestige with the public, and is unfit to hold an exalted position.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTIONS.

Joint Manifesto by H. C. Brewster and Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K.C.

A joint message to the British Columbia forces naval and military, in connection with the provincial general election, signed by H. C. Brewster, leader of the Liberal party in British Columbia, and Hon. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K.C., who, although an avowed Conservative, is an apostle of clean government above all things, has been addressed to British Columbia military and naval forces empowered to vote under the Military Forces Voting Act.

The text of the manifesto follows:—

"Gentlemen,—Representing as we believe, the public sentiment of this province, we extend this message.

"To you is given the opportunity of offering your manhood in defence of our country and the preservation of its institutions and its ideals. To us at home falls the duty of maintaining those ideals and institutions in a way worthy of your splendid sacrifices. In performance of this duty we believe a united effort should be made by all lovers of clean government and efficient administration, both Liberals and Conservatives, to drive from office the men who are mis-governing our province. Proud as we would be to take our places beside you in the field and to offer our services and our lives in the country's cause, we are precluded by circumstances from discharging that splendid duty. May our lesser part be performed equally well. The least that we can do is to strain every effort towards improvement of public conditions so that we may welcome you home to a province cleaned of all that is evil, mean and sordid and blessed with high ideals and good government.

"You will exercise your franchise with nothing but the most sincere desire for the welfare of British Columbia. We do not propose to discuss issues upon which the future of this province depends, nor will we seek to influence you by promises. You have long known the record of the present government. Its tenure of office has been marked by extravagance, incompetency and wholesale corruption. A chance now is afforded to save British Columbia as you are rescuing unhappy Belgium. It is not a fight of party, but of the people against official wrongdoing. It is a fight in which not only all Liberals, but many Conservatives are united.

(Signed) "H. C. BREWSTER,
"C. H. TUPPER."

OUR INCREASING BURDEN OF TAXATION.

THE manner in which Customs taxation is increasing under the present protectionist government is graphically illustrated by the comparative trade figures for the twelve months ended with July of 1916, 1915, and 1914 just issued by the Trade and Commerce Department. Taking first the total importations of dutiable and non-dutiable merchandise entered for consumption, the following table is illuminative:—

Year.	Total imports.	Total duty collected	Percentage.
1914	\$563,178,684	\$ 97,094,410	17.24
1915	419,370,836	78,784,427	18.78
1916	622,986,550	121,906,788	19.56

The percentages enumerated above represent the average ad valorem rate of duty collected on all goods imported into Canada during the years mentioned. In other words while the tax on every \$100 worth of goods imported for consumption into Canada for the years ended with July, 1914 was \$17.24, it increased to \$18.78 in 1915, and to \$19.56 in 1916.

This year's percentage is the highest record since 1891, when the average ad valorem duty was 20.974. When the Conservative government went out of power in 1896 it stood at 19.109. Thereafter it commenced to fall, never exceeding 16 and a fraction from 1900 until 1912, when the present government took office. In 1912 the percentage was 16.694. In 1913 it had increased to 17.087, while the rise has been steady ever since as is indicated by the above table.

On dutiable goods the comparison is probably even more startling. In 1912 the percentage of duty collected was 25 and a fraction. In 1914 it had exceeded 26; in 1915 it had exceeded 31, and in 1916 it bids fair to reach 34 percent.

A FEW POINTS TO THINK OVER.

Increased Railway Rates.

The Railway Commission is an institution which has been of great benefit to the public. It is, however, a human institution, and because of that is liable to error. We have no desire to criticize unfairly, but it seems to us that the recent action of the Commission in granting and approving substantial increases in railway rates in Canada, East of Port Arthur, is evidence of hasty and bad judgment.

The ink was scarcely dry on the Commission's judgment when the annual financial statement of the C.P.R. was published and showed the net earnings to be the greatest by far in the history of the Company. The older railways, were undoubtedly, hard hit by the falling off in industrial activity in the early stages of the War, but they are now, and have been for a long time, enjoying good revenue.

The Board appears to have made the mistake of applying a permanent remedy to cure a temporary condition. The undoubted effect of their decision will be to increase the cost of living which is already almost unbearable.

Sir Thomas White advocates private thrift in order that the public Treasury may benefit, but what about public thrift. So far as we can see Sir Thomas has given no attention whatever to the riotous extravagance of the Militia Department. Evidence of that extravagance can be seen on every hand. Official high-powered, luxurious imported motor cars, of which there are scores if not hundreds, are not confined by any means to official use, but are to be seen at the doors of "movies", and engaged in the transportation of the families of the "Brass caps" on their shopping and pleasure expeditions.

A fleet of these cars stands at the doors of the Militia Department all the time, so that not a moment may be lost in taking the higher officials to and from their meals, in many cases two blocks distant. Some of the officials live in an apartment building immediately in the rear of the Department, but of course it would be seriously detrimental to their dignity if they had to walk, and still more so if they used the alley way between the two buildings.

One of the notable features of this War is the creation of a new and large list of very wealthy men in Canada who have had riches thrust upon them through improvident war contracts given by a committee for which the Minister of Militia and the Government are morally, if not constitutionally responsible.

When the inside history of the War comes to be written there will be no more sordid chapter in it than that reciting the story of the looting of the British Treasury in shell and other munition contracts in his country. Evidence like the Montreal Ammunition Company being able to pay, and actually paying, 750% dividends to its shareholders inside of one year, entirely as a result of Canadian made contracts for munitions for the British Government, puts any question as to the ratio of profit being fair, entirely outside the realm of discussion. The plain simple fact is that the British Government has been robbed, and most shamefully robbed, in the house of its friends. A Cromwell with his Iron-sides is needed to wipe away with an iron hand, committees or governments which countenance or approve such actions.

The description in a third-rate English newspaper of Sir Sam Hughes as the "Kitchener of Canada" is painful enough to draw tears from the lachrymose glands of a flour barrel.

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper at Vancouver.—

"Then Sir Charles turned to the question of political party patronage and commented on Mr. Brewster's (Liberal leader) statement that he would not have any hand in patronage.

"I believe Mr. Brewster stands above any statesman of Canada in having the courage of his convictions and in declaring frankly that he is opposed to patronage. It is not only unique—it is grand."

North Perth and South-West Toronto have given the Conservatives hay fever.

DID SIR SAM SWALLOW HIMSELF

It is a well known and well understood canon of constitutional government that the Cabinet appears as a unit before the people. Ministers may disagree amongst themselves in the Council Chamber, but when the decision of the Cabinet is arrived at it is treated as unanimous, and as such goes out to the public. Bearing this in mind, a curious situation has developed as a result of the action of the Government in stripping John Wesley Allison of his title as Honorary Colonel. Sir Sam Hughes, in the face of the evidence given before the Meredith-Duff Commission, openly championed this man Allison,

declaring that his confidence and trust in him had been strengthened rather than weakened, that he would sooner trust him than any man at the Commission, lawyers and judges included, and that he was entitled to wear a little crown. Now Sir Sam is a very important member of the Cabinet (some people go the length of saying he is the boss of it), and it seems clear in the face of his attitude towards Allison, that either, he must have swallowed his principles or the canon of constitutional government referred to has been violated. Which is it?

GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT OF CONSOLIDATED FUND.	Month of July, 1915.		Total to 31st July, 1915.		Month of July, 1916.		Total to 31st July, 1916.	
	\$	cts.	\$	cts.	\$	cts.	\$	cts.
REVENUE:								
Customs.....	7,240,321	65	27,467,544	55	9,806,742	47	43,369,485	50
Excise.....	1,734,472	09	6,612,316	57	1,965,434	42	7,624,235	68
Post Office.....	1,200,000	00	4,700,000	00	1,350,000	00	5,550,000	00
Public Works, including Railways and Canals.....	1,152,374	11	4,550,546	88	2,479,345	93	8,376,811	19
Miscellaneous.....	1,327,917	81	2,517,944	38	1,264,508	37	2,718,402	74
Total.....	12,655,085	66	45,848,352	38	16,866,031	19	67,638,935	11
EXPENDITURE.....	16,551,474	30	29,376,327	22	17,684,295	89	28,212,341	30
EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT, ETC.								
War.....					29,151,429	45	51,324,460	54
Public Works, including Railways and Canals.....	3,808,273	35	8,883,364	94	2,320,366	69	6,489,281	21
Railway Subsidies.....	112,245	00	357,297	65			185,298	20
Total.....	3,920,518	35	9,240,662	59	31,471,796	14	57,999,039	95

DIARY OF THE MONTH.

1916 August.	1916 August
4 Patriotic meeting on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, addressed by SIR GEORGE PERLEY and others.	REID and others.
Patriotic meeting at Regina, Sask., addressed by W. M. MARTIN, M.P., COL. EDGAR and others.	B. F. Smith, M.P.P. for Carleton, sworn in as Minister of Public Works in New Brunswick government.
Patriotic meeting at Montreal addressed by SIR ROBERT BORDEN and HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX.	18 Canadian Club, Ottawa, addressed by SIR GEORGE PERLEY.
Patriotic meeting at Sherbrooke, Que., addressed by HON. W. G. MITCHELL, HON. J. L. DECARIE, HON. E. L. PATENAUGE and HON. ARTHUR MEIGHEN.	21 HON. FRANK COCHRANE inspects Halifax Harbour works.
Opening of special session of Prince Edward Island Legislature.	SIR GEORGE FOSTER returned from England.
5 SIR ROBERT BORDEN reviewed troops at Valcartier.	South-West Toronto Provincial By-Election. Hartley Dewart, (Liberal), majority 662.
7 Patriotic meeting at Arundel, Que., addressed by SIR GEORGE PERLEY.	22 HON. ROBERT ROGERS addressed convention of Union of Canadian Municipalities at Montreal.
9 Methodist camp meeting at Berwick, N.S., addressed by SIR ROBERT BORDEN, who also reviewed troops at Aldershot, N.S.	25 SENATOR F. T. FROST died at Smith's Falls.
New Palace Station at Quebec opened. Speeches by HON. J. D. REID, HON. T. C. CASGRAIN, SIR LOMER GOUIN and others.	27 Montreal Young Conservative Association at Louisville, Que., addressed by HON. P. E. BLONDIN, A. BELLEMARE, M.P. (Maskinonge) and others.
10 Commercial Club, Halifax, addressed by SIR ROBERT BORDEN.	28 HON. C. J. DOHERTY at recruiting meeting of Jewish Reinforcement Company, Montreal.
11 Conservative Club, Halifax, addressed by SIR ROBERT BORDEN.	29 SIR GEORGE PERLEY addressed Empire Club, Toronto.
13 Demonstration at Lachute, addressed by SIR GEORGE PERLEY.	30 SIR GEORGE FOSTER addressed Toronto Exhibition directors.
17 SIR THOS. WHITE presented colors to 156th Battalion, at Brockville, Ont. Addresses by SENATOR TAYLOR, HON. J. D.	31 HON. ROBERT ROGERS addressed opening of Essex Fair at Windsor, Ont.

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stands up
in the course of
talking frankly that
it is not only

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1916