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AS USUAL.



A Pressing Emergency in Canada—and the Minister of Labor Responding to it.—As Usual.

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AN EARLY WARNING.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN'S declarations that the revelations of Middleman graft in war contracts came as a complete surprise to himself and the members of his Government lost considerable weight when it was asserted in Parliament that he had been warned of these abuses within a few weeks after the first contracts were let. The reference was to certain correspondence addressed by the officials of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to the Premier. Sir Robert was requested more than once to bring this correspondence before the House, but failed to do so. It was not until the annual meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association was held in Toronto that the facts as to this correspondence were made public. The report of the Executive Committee, presented on June 9, showed how plain was the warning given to Premier Borden. It said:

"On October 23, a letter was addressed to the Premier pointing out that the method of handling War orders was giving rise to a good deal of dissatisfaction. He was informed that, making all due allowance for the fact that some manufacturers might not have had the necessary equipment and that others might not have been able to guarantee satisfactory deliveries, it was apparently true that some had more than their share of business while others had gone without. In some quarters the impression seemed to prevail that War material could not be sold to the Government on its merits, but only through influence, and it was accordingly suggested to the Premier that the business should be thrown wide open and placed as far as possible with manufacturers or producers direct, **instead of through middlemen**, thus insuring competitive prices and at the same time giving the Government the satisfaction of dealing with responsible parties."

The course pursued by the Government for months after this formal protest to the Premier is the best proof that the warning went unheeded. The only inference to be drawn is that the infamous patronage system was deliberately allowed to apply to War contracts.

RESPECT FOR THE PREMIER.

ON the last day of the recent session of Parliament, Sir Robert Borden made an impressive speech in which he declared his profound sorrow at the revelations of graft in connection with War contracts and proceeded to voice his disapproval of the actions of two Conservative members, Mr. Foster of Kings, N.S. and Mr. W. F. Garland of Carleton, Ont. Conservative newspapers throughout Canada united immediately in a chorus of praise of the Premier and construed his utterance to mean that both members had been "read out" of the Conservative party. Just how far it meant anything of the kind and just how much importance can be attached to the speech of Sir Robert Borden can probably best be judged by the subsequent actions of the two men named. Mr. Foster, who resigned his seat, is again looking for the nomination in Kings and in a signed letter to the press some weeks ago declared that "there will be something of a struggle" before he gives up the idea of securing it. Mr. Garland did not resign. On the contrary he started out the very next week to fight for re-nomination in Carleton and he has been fighting for the nomination ever since. A few days ago he published an advertisement in a paper published in Carleton County in which he publicly appealed for support at the coming convention and warned delegates that "I still hold the patronage of the county." Comment on this would be superfluous.

PROBING THE WAR CONTRACTS.

SIR CHARLES DAVIDSON of Montreal, who recently retired from the office of Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Quebec, has been commissioned by the Dominion Government to institute an investigation into all Canadian contracts for war supplies. The first sitting of the commission is set for June 18. Despite warm declarations from Conservative newspapers that the enquiry is to be "wide open" and that every detail of Government purchase of war materials is to be probed there is no official assurance at the time of this writing as to just what powers have been given the Commissioner nor any detail as to how the inquiry is to be conducted. It is announced that there is first to be a "departmental" inquiry.

When the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons closed its investigation of War contracts last April in order to report to the House before prorogation, assurance was given by the Government that the investigation commenced by the Committee would be continued by the Government during the recess. The public expects that this further investigation should be along the same lines, that it should be open to the light of day and that it should be so conducted that the actual facts may be ascertained. No investigation that falls short of these requirements could be regarded as satisfactory.

CANNOT BLAME THE WAR

ON many platforms since last August Conservative politicians have sought to place all the blame for existing financial and industrial conditions in Canada on the War. During the recent session of Parliament practically every Government speaker taking part in the Budget debate put forth the specious plea that the War was responsible for all of Canada's troubles including unemployment, falling revenues and the rising cost of living. Conservative newspapers everywhere, with two or three notable exceptions, have obediently followed the lead of the politicians and have argued day in and day out that but for the War there would have been an end of hard times, revenues would have been getting back to the high levels found for years up to 1911, and unemployment and want would have rapidly disappeared from the Dominion.

A Deliberate Falsehood.

The very reverse is the truth. This is known to every thinking man in Canada. But the fact that they are knowingly quibbling with the truth, if not absolutely mis-stating it, does not deter the Tory speaker nor the Tory newspaper apologist. They persevere in their mis-statements because they see in them the only possible chance of misleading people who may be trustful enough to believe them.

In common with every other part of the Empire, Canada abhors the War with its horrible sacrifice of human life and suffering, but so far as business and finances are concerned, the War has proved an actual benefit to the Dominion. Canadian business would have been less, unemployment would have been greater, money would have been scarcer, but for the War. Leading business men of the Dominion have not hesitated to acknowledge this fact.

Leading Financier's View.

One of the most outspoken of recent utterances on this score came from Mr. Peleg Howland, President of the Imperial Bank of Canada. At the annual meeting of the bank, May 26th, Mr. Howland, in the course of his usual address on the affairs of the bank, and referring particularly to general conditions throughout Canada, said:

"Undoubtedly we were getting well into our period of retrenchment when the War began, and had it not broken out we would have been facing a more serious commercial condition than we are to-day.

"As it is we are getting the benefit of the increased prices for grain and produce, have disposed of large numbers of horses, many of our factories that otherwise would have been idle or slack have been busily employed, and the problem of the unemployed has been at least partially solved."

Here is another of the leading financiers of the Dominion who does not hesitate, in his duty to the shareholders and customers of his bank, to expose the fallacy and shallow falsehood of the favorite Tory argument that the War alone is to blame for present day conditions in Canada. It may be

recalled that on January 27th last, Sir Edmund Osler as President of the Dominion Bank, made a similar statement when he told the shareholders of his bank that he "refused to accept the theory that existing depression in trade was to any extent produced by the War." And it may also be remembered that Sir Edmund Osler is Conservative member of the Commons for West Toronto. General Manager Richardson of the Bank of Nova Scotia is another leading banker who told his shareholders "To be quite frank, those who blame the present depression on the War are only hugging a delusion."

LIBERAL CLUB FEDERATION OF ONTARIO.

Second Annual Meeting.

That the younger clan of Ontario Liberals are realizing the possibilities of Liberalism, was amply demonstrated at the Second Annual Meeting of the Liberal Club Federation of Ontario, held at the Ontario Club, Toronto, on May 21st.

Dr. Howard Spohn of Penetanguishene, President of the Federation, was Chairman and representatives were present from over forty clubs throughout the Province. The annual report showed a healthy condition and a membership of sixty-eight active clubs, a net increase of seventeen over the previous year. Patriotic meetings had been held throughout the Province during the year, these taking the places of the usual Liberal gatherings. The Speakers' Bureau of the Federation had provided speakers and this work was being enlarged upon.

Among the topics discussed at length were "The Federation and the War," "Individual Club Problems," "The Federation and the Clubs," "The Federation's Ideals," and "Organization." The general discussion of these subjects was at times very lively and always interesting.

Mrs. Grant Needham and Mrs. J. Harris McFadden, representing the Provincial Women's Liberal Association, were present and delivered stirring addresses.

The officers of the Federation for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, G. D. Conant, Oshawa; Vice-Presidents, R. J. Haley, Berlin; W. S. Smith, Belleville; Secretary-Treasurer, B. H. McCreath, Toronto. Executive Committee, E. A. Moore, Owen Sound; J. R. Marshall, Hamilton; Fred Lauder, Ameliasburg; A. W. Roebuck, Toronto; J. D. Wylie, Cardinal; Dr. Pickering, Forest; A. Siple, Woodstock; W. B. Preston, Brantford; Dr. Howard Spohn, Penetanguishene; and H. J. McLaughlin, Toronto.

In the evening a monster banquet was held at the Ontario Club, the guests of honor being Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. N. W. Rowell. The gathering included prominent men in the party from all parts of the Province. The principal addresses were delivered by the guests of honor and were an inspiration that will do much for Liberalism. Both leaders received an ovation and defined the fundamentals of Liberalism with much force. Other addresses were delivered by Federal and Provincial members and the gathering was probably the most successful of the kind ever held in Ontario.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER AT TORONTO.

Quotations from Speech before Liberal Club Federation of Ontario at Toronto, May 21, 1915.

The Pride of Liberalism

"Under our system of government parties owe their existence and receive their inspiration from traditions, and in those traditions they endeavor to find a solution for all the problems which are recurring and again recurring in the life of the people. We Liberals pride ourselves to find the source of power and our inspiration and all our traditions in that long list of statesmen who in the mother country have brought British institutions to their present standard of excellence.

The Change in Three Weeks

"To-day is the 21st of May, but the call for this meeting goes back to some three weeks ago. The atmosphere in Canada to-day, the 21st day of May, is not exactly the same as it was three weeks ago. At that time—three weeks ago—the atmosphere was charged with notions that we were on the eve of a pending election. Evidences there were, niether few nor slight, which went to show the Government had determined to dissolve Parliament within the present month of May. We had not, it is true, any formal declaration from those who have the power to speak, but it is well known that printers had been at work for days preparing literature, cartoons and posters of the most partisan character ready for distribution the moment the signal was given.

"It is known that on the first day of this month tons of ballots were shipped from Canada to Great Britain to give our soldiers at the front an opportunity to vote according to a law passed by Parliament, and that a gentleman from the city of Vancouver was sent with them in order to do the preliminary work. Still more significant, the Ministerial press was clamoring for immediate action, and, most significant of all, a gentleman high in the ranks of the party told us in a speech delivered in Montreal, which had the ring and tone of a manifesto, that the public opinion of Canada, thunder-strong, was demanding an immediate appeal to the people.

People Against an Election

"These words, that the voice of the people was demanding an appeal to the people, fell upon the people themselves with something of an astonished reception. There were no signs at that time that public opinion was excited in any way about an election, and the voice of public opinion, instead of being thunder-strong, was absolutely silent. But the moment this evidence of the intention of the Government was launched public opinion was thunder-strong—protesting that an election under existing circumstances would be a national crime.

"We do not know what has taken place in the councils of those who are the advisers of his Royal Highness, but we know there has been no dissolution.

Liberal Record Speaks for Itself

"Then it was attempted to show that we had by our action in Parliament opposed the War policy of the Government. I need not tell you what we had done in order to refute that slander.

"Our record is there. From the day that war was declared, I—speaking with whatever authority has been placed in me by the Liberals of Canada for the last 25 years or more—I, speaking with that authority, declared that not only would we not offer any opposition to the policy of assisting Great Britain in the tremendous struggle in which she was then entering, but that we would support that policy with all our hearts, our strength, our votes.

"I look forward with confidence to the judgment, not only of those here assembled, but of the whole people of Canada, that we have been true to the statement and the pledge which, in the name of the Liberal party, I then made."

Protested Increase Taxes

"It is true, when it came to the ways and means of raising the necessary revenue to carry on the War we dissented from their position. We could not agree to the fiscal measure which they proposed in order to levy the revenue. And why did we not agree? Because we were only too convinced, we were only too sure that the measure was ill-conceived, not calculated to bring in revenue, but rather to be oppressive upon the people. We put our objection, we put our protest, but we did not carry our objection farther than putting a protest before the people, leaving the responsibility to those upon whom responsibility must rest.

The Opposition in Great Britain

"Our conduct in that respect has been compared in the press of the Government with that of the Unionist Opposition in Great Britain. I challenge the comparison, I welcome it, and I am ready to leave it to the judgment of Canada. It is to the credit of the Unionist Opposition in Great Britain that, so far as they could they supported the policy of the Government. They joined with the Government in order to carry on the tremendous task which is now imposed upon the Government of Mr. Asquith.

"Does it mean that the Opposition were dumb? Does it mean they were not critical? Does it mean they were simply recording clocks to the will of the Government of Mr. Asquith? No. Don't you know that the Opposition would not support the policy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon a certain measure? Mr. Lloyd George, in his speech which has become famous, declared there was an enemy more dangerous to Britain than the German army. That enemy was the liquor traffic, and he stated he would introduce measures in order to limit, or, if possible, extinguish, that traffic, but immediately, as you know, the Unionist Opposition came out in opposition to the policy of Mr. Lloyd George.

British Precedent in Parliament

"On the 5th of May the newspapers of this country reported the speech which Mr. Lloyd George delivered, only hinting a policy of new taxation upon wine, beer and spirits. Immediately Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the financial critic of the Opposition, declared that he would oppose these taxes. In other words, he did not favor the policy of Mr. Lloyd

George in that respect. Did he do more than we did ourselves? Yes, he did more, because the opposition of the Unionist party in Great Britain, and I must say of the Nationalists also, and some of the Radical members, prevented Mr. Lloyd George from carrying on his policy as he had conceived it.

Blaming the Senate

"But we did not prevent the Canadian Government from carrying on their fiscal policy. It is to-day on the statute book. The Senate of Canada has been pretty much blamed, but there is no reason at all for the Senate of Canada being blamed, because the Senate, well understanding its duties and remembering that in fiscal matters the voice of the Commons ought to be the dominating voice, would not oppose that measure and it was, therefore, carried.

Not the Time for an Election

"I do not disguise that in time of peace I am a party man. I have been entrusted with the confidence of a great portion of the Liberal party for a long time past. We have our differences with the Government of the day. I am anxious for the return of the party to which I belong because I believe we have the true policy for this country and not the men who are now in office. **I speak honestly that which I believe in the interests of the country when I say there should be, there ought to be, a change of Government or a different policy pursued, but I do not care, for my part, so long as the War lasts, to open the portals of office with that bloody key.**

Liberals Forced to Prepare

"But we have been told, and it has been made a grievance against us, that we were making preparations in view of a possible election. I have nothing to conceal in that respect. We have made preparations of late. After the War was declared in the month of August, we gave loyal support to those in whom the Canadian people placed confidence in 1911. Nay, we did everything we could to prevent party differences, but when we saw that preparations were being made for an immediate dissolution, when we knew the men who were pressing and pressing the Prime Minister and some of his colleagues for an immediate dissolution, we would not have been true to the duties which we owe to ourselves, to the Canadian people, if we had not made some preparations, so as not to be caught absolutely napping should the moment of dissolution come.

"But I have this to say to the Prime Minister and his colleagues: I do not care for an election. Let the Prime Minister and his colleagues say that there shall be no election as long as the War shall go on, and I will pledge myself and the party that we shall stop all preparations and think of nothing but the War.

Not Too Late to Act

"It seems to me that it would have been fairer, it would have been more in accordance with the fitness of things, it would have been more in accordance with what the Government owed the country, if they had stated frankly, 'yes' or 'no,' we shall or shall not dissolve. It is not too late,

it can yet be done, and the country may be spared at once the incubus under which it has been laid for the last few weeks or months. We cannot compel the Government to do it, though, and, though we cannot compel the Government to do what in our judgment ought to be their duty, we know what our duty is. We are in this uncertainty to-day—we do not know whether the Government is going to dissolve or not, but in so far as I have authority over the destinies of the Liberal party, I have only this to say: we shall not do one thing to prevent the Government from going on with the War policy.

The Duty of Liberalism

"What is the duty of the Liberal party under such circumstances? The duty of the Liberal party, so far as we conceive it, so far as we will exercise it, is to see that the War is prosecuted to an end and to a final victory. Of course, if the Government dissolves this month or the next, or before the summer, or at any time during the War, it shall be our duty to accept the challenge and to present our policy."

The Naval Policy

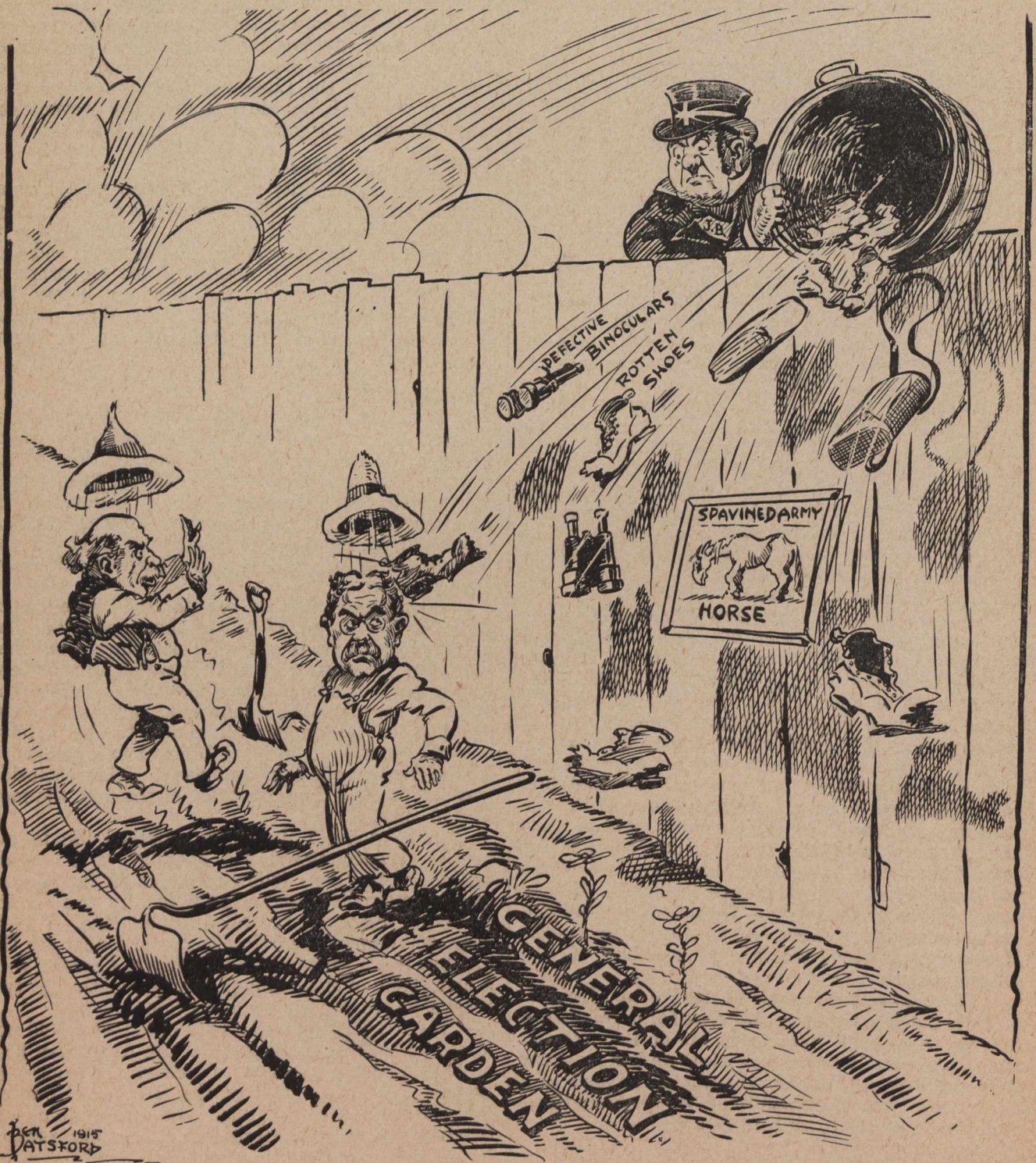
In his concluding remarks, the Liberal leader referred to an article in the Toronto News which sounded to him very like a premonition of an election. It was under the heading, "Rejected," and stated, "on authority which it believes to be incontrovertible, if the Laurier Government had succeeded in the general election of 1911 all the tenders for the Canadian war vessels would have been rejected."

"Why should this be brought in?" commented Sir Wilfrid, "if not to create the impression that the Laurier Government were not sincere in what they did? I know what the Canadian Government to-day has not done. They have not accepted the tenders, nor given the contracts, but as to what the Laurier Government intended to do, I have only this to say: I, in 1909, brought in a resolution for the creation of a Canadian navy. This resolution was accepted by the Opposition of the day. the men now in office.

"In so doing I took my political life in my hands. I encountered the hostility of a certain section of my own fellow-countrymen in Quebec, called Nationalists, and also the enmity of a certain section of this province, called Imperialists. I knew what was impending before me, and I thought the day had come when it was the duty of Canada, with a population of eight million people, fronting on two oceans, to provide for our own defence.

"If our policy had been prosecuted we would not have had to take the support of the Australian fleet or the Japanese cruisers to defend the shores of British Columbia. I defy the Toronto News to bring its proof, if proof it has. **But it has no proof, because there is no such thing, and the reason is, I am not built that way. With such weapons as that I will not fight. With such weapons I do not want to win. When the time comes we will make a fair fight, whether we win or lose. No Liberal will have to blush for the active support which you will have given us."**

ONE OF THE REASONS--



WHY THERE WAS NO JUNE ELECTION.

THE DOMINIONS AND NAVAL DEFENSE.

EXPERT authorities on Empire defense have had time, since the high seas were cleared of mauling German warships some months ago, to study the lessons afforded by the actual experiences of war. Among British experts there is a complete unanimity of opinion. Actual war conditions have proved many things, but none so clearly as that the one weakness of the British Navy has been a lack of sufficient fast cruisers. What such cruisers might have done toward lessening the effectiveness of German submarine warfare we will probably not be allowed to know officially until the War is over. Another point on which the experts agree is the principle that Dominion navies have been justified by practical experience since last August. Without exception they argue that if the lessons of the War are to be taken to heart, the readjustment of Imperial defense after the War must mean that each of the self-governing Dominions will have its own navy, built, maintained and controlled by itself in times of peace, but always at the service of the whole Empire when the needs of the Empire might call it away from home waters.

The point is clearly made by Mr. H. W. Wilson, writing in the May number of *United Empire*, the official journal of the Royal Colonial Institute, London. In an article entitled "The Work of the Navy in War," Mr. Wilson compares the experiences of Australia and New Zealand, drawing therefrom a plain lesson which is of special interest and value in Canada. Mr. Wilson writes, in part:

Dominion Navies, or Contribution?

"On one vexed point of policy the War, and the events which immediately preceded it, have shed light—the question whether it is best for the Dominions to maintain navies of their own in time of peace, or, in place of building ships, to contribute money to the British Navy. Australia followed the first course. As the result she had one battle cruiser (*The Australia*), two light cruisers, three destroyers and two submarines in Australian waters when war broke out. This was fortunate, as Admiral von Spee's powerful fleet escaped from Tsingtau and eluded the British China squadron. But for the Australian force, the Australian coast would probably have been raided and the Australian coast towns laid under contribution or destroyed. This would have been a grievous humiliation for the Empire and for the Mother Country. Moreover, when the chase of von Spee began, the *Australia* was in a good position to head him off and drive him east."

"The other plan was tried by New Zealand. She built a battle cruiser at her own cost, but—under pressure from the British Admiralty—with signal patriotism placed the ship at the British Government's disposal. As the result, the British Treasury forced the British naval authorities to reduce the meagre shipbuilding proposals by the equivalent of one battle cruiser. So that New Zealand's disinterestedness did not actually strengthen the British

Navy. A ship which would otherwise have been built by the Mother Country, was built at New Zealand's expense. Had New Zealand retained control of her ship, an extra Dreadnought must have been laid down by Great Britain. And in that case it is probable that, had the New Zealand ship been stationed in China waters, as was originally intended, von Spee would have been destroyed at the outset of his career and the *Emden* would never have escaped to commit depredations on British commerce. The loss of the *Good Hope* and the *Monmouth*, with the gallant Cradock and 1,500 lives, would have been averted—the one serious defeat which the British Navy has sustained in the War."

Mr. Wilson, it may be noted, might have gone on and referred to the fact that it was the Australian cruiser Sydney which finally accounted for the *Emden*. The Australian cruiser was in her home waters, and it was because she was an Australian ship in home waters that she located and destroyed the *Emden*—another strong proof of the unquestionable value of local navies.

Britain's Lack of Cruisers

Mr. H. F. Wyatt, another authority on naval matters, writing in the same magazine, *United Empire*, March number, on "The War Work of the Navy," read a similar lesson but in another way when he pointed out that the loss of the *Monmouth* and *Good Hope* with Admiral Cradock and between 1500 and 1600 British sailors must be charged squarely to the lack of a proper proportion of cruisers in the British Navy.

Recalling that some 60 cruisers struck off the Navy list and "Scrapped" in 1905-6, were not replaced and that the building of cruisers, properly so called, practically ceased for years and was not renewed until after the naval scare in Great Britain in 1909, Mr. Wyatt said, "But the ground which had been lost was too great to be regained speedily, and when last year—the year of fate—brought the moment of trial, our strength in cruisers, relatively to Germany, was far less not only than it had been in 1904, but even in 1906. . . . In 1906 we possessed 114 cruisers against 32 possessed by Germany. In February last, six months before the War, the respective figures were 106 British and 52 German. (Battle cruisers are not included in this comparison.) In other words, we had exchanged a ratio of more than 3½ to 1 for a ratio of just over 2 to 1."

Thus Mr. Wyatt proves that the one great need of the British Navy in this Great War has been and is more cruisers—and that its one lack and its one weakness has been the shortage of cruisers. The people of Canada need hardly be reminded that it was cruisers which the Laurier Naval policy would have supplied—fast modern cruisers which would have been ample to patrol Atlantic and Pacific waters—Canadian cruisers which would have been instantly placed at the disposal of the Imperial Government when war broke out.

MANITOBA SCANDAL

DISCLOSURES before the Royal Commission which is still probing all the circumstances surrounding the contracts between the late Roblin Conservative government and Thos. Kelly & Sons, contractors for the new parliament buildings in Winnipeg have revealed what is now generally accepted to be the most amazing case of deliberate robbery and conspiracy that has ever disgraced the good name of Canada. As this is written the commission is proceeding with its sittings at Winnipeg, after having held sessions at Minneapolis, in the State of Minnesota, where it heard the evidence of V. W. Horwood, provincial architect under the Roblin government and the man most closely in touch at all times with the Government and the contractors. Horwood left Winnipeg the same day that the Royal Commission was named, and went to a hospital at Rochester, Minnesota, where he was operated on for a long standing trouble. Being unable to return to Winnipeg, the commission met him at Minneapolis, where he voluntarily gave evidence. Horwood's evidence directly implicates several members of the cabinet of Sir Rodmond Roblin as well as the late premier himself.

Briefly, Horwood swore, at different times while he was on the stand, that there was a deliberate conspiracy, known to several members of the Roblin cabinet, to allow the contractors, Thos. Kelly & Sons, undue profits on the foundation caissons, out of which they were to give \$100,000 to the Conservative campaign fund for the general elections last July.

That this was carried out; that Sir Rodmond Roblin instructed him (Horwood) to recommend the letting of a further contract for \$802,000 before plans had been prepared; that Roblin warned him to do it carefully so that no commission or investigation later could find the facts.

That Hon. G. R. Coldwell told him Kelly had to be allowed to make enough out of the caissons to provide the Government with a campaign fund of \$50,000, and that later this was raised to \$100,000.

That Hon. Dr. Montague, when the investigation before the Public Accounts Committee began to threaten, instructed Horwood to destroy all letters and documents on all files;

That Hon. G. R. Coldwell advised the "fixing" and altering of the books of William Salt, government inspector on the work, so as to make these records agree with the money paid out;

That Hon. Mr. Coldwell advised that Salt be got out of the country before he could be got before the Public Accounts Committee;

That it was Dr. R. M. Simpson, President of the Conservative Association of Winnipeg for years, who supplied money to be given to Salt to keep him in the United States;

That it was Dr. R. M. Simpson who first suggested that \$50,000 campaign fund from

Kelly was not enough and that it would have to be \$100,000.

That when he wanted \$10,000 to send to Salt to keep him away, Hon. Mr. Coldwell undertook to raise it between himself and Hon. James H. Howden, attorney general.

William Salt, who also appeared at Minneapolis, swore that Kelly had been overpaid \$250,000 on the caisson work.

In view of the amazing nature of this evidence, a brief resume of the events leading up to it should be of interest to readers of the Liberal Monthly. The history really dates back to the special War Session of the Manitoba legislature last September, when Hon. Dr. Montague, Minister of Public Works, intimated for the first time that original estimates of the cost of the new parliament buildings would be greatly exceeded, in fact practically doubled. It was this that started the Liberal Opposition on a quiet investigation which brought ripe fruit before the Public Accounts Committee of the legislature during March.

The Liberal members of the committee, naturally in a minority, were fought at every step in their attempts to bring out the truth. The Roblin majority on the committee "steam rolled" motion after motion stopping investigation, even after it had been proved that important and necessary witnesses had been sent out of the province. Finally, just before the legislature adjourned, the committee presented a whitewashing report which was adopted by the Government majority in the house. From that point, events may be set out briefly in chronological order:

The Formal Charge Made.

March 30.—In the Legislature, in moving an amendment to the majority report of the Public Accounts Committee, Mr. A. B. Hudson, Liberal member for Winnipeg South, Seat "A," made the formal charge that the contractors for the new Parliament buildings had been allowed to make undue profits amounting to \$857,200, and at the same time demanded, on behalf of the Liberal Opposition, the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the whole matter.

March 31.—Members of the Liberal Opposition presented a joint formal memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor, setting out the known facts and asking for the appointment of a Royal Commission.

April 1.—Just prior to prorogation of the Legislature, Sir Rodmond Roblin announced that after consultation with the Lieutenant-Governor, his Government had decided to appoint a Royal Commission.

April 20.—Sir Rodmond, after delay of 19 days, announces the appointment of the Royal Commission, consisting of Chief Justice Mathers of the Court of King's Bench (Chairman), Mr. Justice MacDonald of the Court of King's Bench and Sir Hugh John MacDonald, police court magistrate of Winnipeg.

On the same day, April 20, it was announced in Winnipeg newspapers that V. W. Horwood, Provincial Architect, had left Winnipeg for the United States to undergo medical treatment in a Minnesota hospital.

Royal Commission Commences.

April 23.—Royal Commission holds preliminary session, makes orders for production of documents re Government contracts, and adjourns to April 27.

April 27.—Counsel for the contractors, Thos. Kelly & Sons, ask for adjournment, pleading lack of time to prepare, and having failed to produce documents ordered.

April 28.—Chairman of Commission orders production of evidence by Government, showing what efforts had been made to secure presence of William Salt to give evidence before the Public Accounts Committee. Salt was government inspector of work on foundation caissons and worked for the department of the Provincial Architect.

April 29.—P. G. McTavish, accountant in the department of the Provincial Architect testified that certain documents pertaining to the contracts had been removed from the Architect's office to the office of A. J. Andrews, counsel for the Roblin government. The Commission ruled that all these documents must be produced.

April 30.—Edwin Salt, brother of William Salt, testified that William Salt had been sent away before the meetings of the Public Accounts Committee and that his brother had told of being instructed to alter records. Also testified that he had conferred with Hon. G. R. Coldwell, acting Minister of Public Works who had informed him that if called before the Public Accounts Committee, he need not tell his brother's address.

May 1.—After legal debate on rules of evidence, etc., Commission adjourned to May 7.

Admit Department Records False.

May 7.—Counsel for Kelly contends for first time that contract for caissons was for lump sum of \$844,037, and not on basis of yardage of concrete, as reported by Government. A. J. Andrews, counsel for Roblin Government, produces letter from Kelly to Horwood, bearing out this contention. Counsel admit that yardage of concrete shown in departmental vouchers is incorrect and that the amount of concrete shown was never put into the job.

Roblin Resigns.

May 12.—Roblin Government resigns and Lieutenant-Governor calls on Mr. T. C. Norris, the Liberal Leader, to form new Government.

May 17.—Announced before Royal Commission that new Government has stopped all work on Parliament buildings, pending full investigation.

May 20.—Formal announcement before Royal Commission that new Government will institute civil suit to recover from contractors all overpayments. Counsel for contractors, T. Kelly &

Sons, announce that they withdraw from proceedings of the Royal Commission.

May 25.—W. A. Elliott, chief government inspector on Parliament buildings, testified to having been sent by Horwood to the United States to confer with William Salt and have him come back to give evidence, but Salt next day said he had received instructions to remain in United States. Elliott returned to Winnipeg without Salt.

May 26.—Further evidence by Elliott shows elaborate system of false names used by himself, Horwood, Salt, and others in telegrams and in registering at hotels in United States.

May 27.—Telegrams produced indicate that Salt was given large sums of money to stay away from Winnipeg while Public Accounts Committee was sitting.

May 31.—Hon. Dr. Montague, Minister of Public Works in Roblin government, admitted he certified payments to Kelly as matter of form and claimed he had no personal knowledge as to their being correct.

June 1.—W. A. Elliott, in written statement, admitted that Hon. G. R. Coldwell had taken part in negotiations regarding Salt.

Another Contract, later Cancelled.

June 4.—Evidence of Acting Provincial Auditor, Deputy Minister of Public Works, Clerk of Executive Council and other clerks showed that just prior to provincial general election in July, 1914, Kelly was given a new additional contract for \$802,650, order-in-council being passed and recorded in the usual way. Later all records of this contract were destroyed in files and books, copies of order-in-council were destroyed and even one copy on the file of the Lieutenant-Governor was "borrowed" and destroyed.

June 7.—Sir Rodmond Roblin, before the Royal Commission, denied personal knowledge of anything wrong in relations between his Government and the contractors, but admitted that he believed Hon. G. R. Coldwell had allowed Kelly to put in his original tender one day late. Hon. Hugh Armstrong also denied personal knowledge but admitted that during the sittings of the Public Accounts Committee he began to think things were wrong and thought of resigning, but decided that he should stick with his colleagues.

June 8.—Sir Rodmond Roblin admitted before Royal Commission that he had personally ordered the destruction of all evidence of the later contract with Kelly for \$802,650, his reason being that he had decided that the contract should be called off and treated as if it had never been made.

After the Commission had resumed its sittings at Winnipeg, the name of Hon. Robert Rogers came into the evidence as having been in frequent conference with Dr. R. M. Simpson and also through cipher telegrams which passed between Hon. Mr. Rogers and Premier Roblin, Hon. Dr. Montague and Dr. Simpson about the time the Roblin government resigned. Further startling developments are expected.

MR. N. W. ROWELL, K.C., M.P.P., AT TORONTO.

Excerpts from Speech of Leader of Liberal Opposition in Ontario, at Toronto, May 21, 1915.

"THERE is one thought uppermost in all our minds to-day, in the minds of all the people of Canada, of all the citizens of our Empire, and that is the great conflict in which we are engaged. It is not simply a conflict of so many thousands or hundreds of thousands of men ranged on either side, but it is also a conflict of ideals, of policies touching the welfare not only of the nations immediately involved but the welfare of our common humanity, and in the time which is allotted to me I shall endeavor to touch upon what appear to me to be two of the ideals back of this War, so far as these ideals are expressed and exemplified by the German Empire on the one side and the British Empire on the other.

Militarism in Germany

"The ideals of militarism are domination and conquest by the power of the sword, and its watchword is "Might is the supreme right." The ideals of democracy are just the reverse; they are human liberty, free government, and equal justice to all. Its watchword is "Right is greater than might." Those two forces, democracy and militarism, have been contending for the mastery in Germany during the past one hundred years and more. Until 1840 the policy of the Government of Prussia was one of repression, and many leaders of the democratic movement in the early part of the last century were banished and outlawed because they proclaimed the doctrines of human liberty, which are commonplaces to us to-day. From 1840 to 1862 the cause of democracy in Germany made very marked progress and it did look as if free, representative, and responsible government would be established. You all recall the great wave of democracy that swept over Europe in 1848, and which shook all the thrones of Europe to their foundations. At that time the revolution in Prussia and the other German states brought promises of reform, promises of constitutional government, promises of larger liberty to the masses of the people. From that time until 1862 the people did exercise some control over their governments in the different states of Germany. In Prussia in the election of 1862 the Liberal or Progressive forces won an overwhelming electoral victory. They were in the majority in the Prussian parliament by two to one as a result of that electoral struggle. That was the critical hour in the history of Prussia; as a great historian of Prussia has said, she faced at that time the same issue that Great Britain did in the days of Oliver Cromwell—the issue of whether the parliament or the king should rule. When the then king of Prussia, King William, who afterwards became Emperor of United Germany, thought of conceding to Parliament the demands it was making, he called Bismarck to be his Chancellor, Bismarck who had been a leader of the minority combatting the democratic movement, and Bismarck as his chancellor undertook to govern the country on the basis of the absolutism of the monarchy supported by Prussian militarism. He defied the

power of Parliament and carried on the government of the country, raised and expended public moneys and increased and strengthened the army, without the sanction of the people. Bismarck, by the policy he then adopted struck the greatest blow which free and democratic government received in Europe during the past century. The effect was manifest in all the other countries of Europe, and we have not recovered from those effects to this day. If democracy had triumphed in 1862 I believe we would have been saved this world war. From 1862 down to the present date, absolutism, based on Prussian militarism, has been steadily increasing its power and influence, not only in Prussia but throughout the other states that now make up united Germany. To-day Prussian militarism is dominant and irresistible within the whole German Empire and is seeking to make itself dominant and irresistible throughout the world.

Democracy in Great Britain

"By way of contrast, what has been the history of the struggle between Democracy and military Autocracy in Great Britain? From the earliest times our fathers have resisted the right of the Crown to dominate and control the Government of the country; they have resisted the right of the military to control the civil power. In the days of Oliver Cromwell our fathers settled once and for all, for the Anglo-Saxon people, the question of the divine right of kings, and of the supremacy of the civil power.

"The whole history of the development of the British constitution is a history of the ever enlarging power and control of the people over the management of their own affairs. To-day Great Britain stands as the great representative Democracy of the World. Now what has been the result upon the two nations themselves? In Germany, Prince Von Buelow again being the witness, the people do not possess the faculty of government; he says, "Of the many great talents possessed by the German people, the talent of government has been denied them,"—naturally and inevitably denied them. If you deny to men the right to share in the management of their own affairs and to develop the faculty of government, you will find the men without that faculty. In that one sentence, Prince Von Buelow passes one of the most severe judgments which can be passed on the autocratic and militarist form of government in Germany. What has been the result in Great Britain? The people, by the practice of self government, have learned how to govern not only themselves, but a world-wide empire. Throughout the Empire we enjoy free government and representative institutions, and the Imperial Parliament is recognized by all nations as the mother of free Parliaments the world over, and the greatest bulwark of democracy and free government in the world to-day. Democracy fought and won its battle in Great Britain. It fought and lost in Germany. Militarism and absolutism won the victory in Germany

over their own people. They are now seeking to preserve their position in their own country and carry out the ideals for which they stand by endeavoring to impose their will and their ideals upon others by the might of the sword. Back of this world conflict lies the issue for which our fathers fought and for the triumph of which they gave their lives. Our fathers would not accept the tyranny of their own Kings. Shall we, their sons, submit to the greater tyranny of alien kings?

The Imperial Conference

"The very life and future of our empire is now at stake, and all its resources in men and means must be mobilized to achieve victory. The Governments of Russia, France and Great Britain have held united conferences to discuss how the allies can best mobilize both their finances and military resources, the parliaments of Great Britain and all the self-governing dominions have held their war sessions; but so far, the supreme Council of the Empire—the Imperial Conference, representing all the free nations of the empire—has not been called together in a war session to consider how we can most effectively mobilize the resources of the whole empire for this life and death struggle in which we are engaged.

The Imperial Conference was called into being for the express purpose of discussing and considering questions of common interest between "His Majesty's Government and his governments of the self-governing dominions beyond the seas." When in the history of our empire has a question arisen of such common and vital interest and of such commanding importance as the one we are now facing? If there ever was a time in our history when such consideration appears both desirable and necessary, it is now. Australia has asked for it. It is said the Imperial Government and Canada do not desire a session of the conference this year. If the Imperial Government thought there was any danger of there being thrust into the discussion at such a conference the question of the reorganization of the empire, one need not wonder that they would hesitate about summoning such a conference. We must save the empire before we reorganize it. One cannot think that the Imperial Government would not welcome a war session of this conference at which the sole topic for consideration would be how the resources of the empire can be most effectively utilized to achieve victory in this struggle. Speaking only for myself, I venture to hope that one of the early acts of the new National Administration will be to invite the Premiers or other representatives of the Governments of all the Dominions to meet in London for a conference on this vital issue. I am sure every portion of the empire would cheerfully and gladly respond to the united appeal of the free nations of the empire. And what a splendid illustration and demonstration it would be at this hour of the solidarity as well as of the flexibility of our free institutions, and the loyalty which springs from liberty. What a demonstration it would be of the determination of the free democracies of the empire to combine in the performance of the Empire's task and to maintain for democracy and free government their right to a place in the earth!"

A Suggestion for Ontario.

Mr. Rowell referred to the Ontario Provincial War Tax. He was sure the people of the Province would like the Government to ascertain through the proper channels how they could most effectively and advantageously spend this money and then to spend it. He repeated, for the consideration of the Government, one of the suggestions he had already made in the House that Ontario might raise and equip a Brigade of 5000 men to be offered to the Imperial Government in addition to the forces the Canadian Government was now raising. "Ontario," he said, "would thus, in a striking and effective manner, show her appreciation of the sacrifice Ontario's sons have already made and Ontario's determination to make her contribution in the fulfillment of the task for which they have laid down their lives."

In conclusion, Mr. Rowell declared "Just as our brave men have mingled their blood on the soil of Belgium that we may maintain our freedom, so men of all classes and races and creeds in this country will unite in one holy and common resolve and say 'To the last man and to the last dollar Canada is in this fight to see it through.' We must prove ourselves worthy of the men who have died for us in this the supreme hour in our national history."

SALISBURY PLAIN CANTEENS.

IN view of repeated statements that the Canadian authorities were not consulted and had nothing to do with the institution of the "wet" canteen for the Canadian Expeditionary Forces at Salisbury Plain last winter, the official statement on this point in the British House of Commons should be of special interest to Canadians who wish to know the exact truth. The following is an exact copy from the Hansard of the British House of Commons, February 8th, 1915, page 250:

Canadian Contingent (Salisbury Plain)

Mr. DUNCAN MILLAR asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he had received any representations on the subject of the abolition of the wet canteen at Salisbury Plain, where the Canadian contingent has been training, on the ground that it is not in the interests of the men to afford them such facilities for drinking while training in camp in the United Kingdom; whether any wet canteens are permitted in Canada; and whether he proposes to take any steps in the matter?

Mr. BAKER: The answer to the first part of the hon. Member's question is in the affirmative. I am informed that wet canteens are permitted in Canada. The sale of beer in the canteens of the contingent on Salisbury Plains was sanctioned at the urgent request of the responsible military authorities, who considered it necessary for disciplinary reasons. **It was concurred in by the Canadian military authorities,** and in the circumstances it is not proposed to take any further steps in the matter.

DIARY OF THE MONTH.

1915.
May.
- 1 **VICTORIA, (Alta.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Vegreville, nominate **T. R. LAYTON** of Camrose.
- 1 **DOMINION GOVERNMENT** takes over and assumes management and operation of **LAKE SUPERIOR** branch of **NATIONAL TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAY**.
- 1 **MARQUETTE, (Man.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Shoal Lake, nominate **ANDREW CHISHOLM** of Bield, Man.
- 1 **PORT ARTHUR and KENORA, (Ont.), (New Constituency) CONSERVATIVES**, nominate **J. J. CARRICK**, sitting member for old riding of **THUNDER BAY and RAINY RIVER**.
- 3 **MacDONALD, (Man.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Carman, nominate **ANDREW GRAHAM** of Pomeroy.
- 3 **SOURIS, (Man.)** Independent electors in convention at Deloraine, nominate **REV. THOS. BEVERIDGE** as **OPPOSITION CANDIDATE**
- 4 **NEEPAWA, (Man.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Neepawa, nominate **R. A. DAVIDSON** of Neepawa. Meeting addressed by **HON. ARTHUR MEIGHEN**, Solicitor General, who declined proffered nomination.
- 4 **RICHMOND, (Que.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Richmond, nominate the sitting member, **E. W. TOBIN, M.P.** Convention addressed by **HON. SIDNEY FISHER, HON. W. G. MITCHELL, M.P.** and others.
- 4 **SOUTH BRUCE, (Ont.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Formosa, nominate the sitting member, **R. E. TRUAX, M.P.** of Walkerton, Meeting addressed by the candidate, **A. B. McCOIG, M.P.**, (West Kent) and others.
- 4 **TORONTO WEST, (Ont.) LIBERAL** organization meeting addressed by **HON. G. P. GRAHAM** and others.
- 4 **TORONTO SOUTH, (Ont.) LIBERALS**, preliminary organization meeting, appointment of committee, etc.
- 4 **NEW BRUNSWICK LEGISLATURE PROROGUES.**
- 5 **CUMBERLAND, (N.S.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Amherst, nominate the sitting member, **E. N. RHODES, M.P.**
- 6 **ST. JOHN, (N.B.) CONSERVATIVES**, annual ward meetings, appointment of delegates to nominating conventions, etc.
- 6 **SELKIRK, (Man.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Stonewall, nominate the sitting member, **G. H. BRADBURY, M.P.**
- 6 **COLCHESTER, (N.S.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Truro, unanimously nominate **GEO. E. MacDONALD** of Vancouver, B.C., formerly of Truro.
- 7 **VANCOUVER, (B.C.) LIBERALS** meet in preliminary convention to organize for new Federal constituency of **VANCOUVER CENTRE.**
- 7 **LISGAR, (Man.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Morden, nominate the sitting member, **W. H. SHARPE, M.P.**
- 8 **SOUTH ONTARIO, (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Whitby, nominate the sitting member, **WILLIAM SMITH.**
- 8 **NORTH ESSEX, (Ont.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Windsor, nominate **WILLIAM C. KENNEDY** of Windsor.
- 8 **NORTH OXFORD, (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Woodstock, nominate **MAJOR DON. M. SUTHERLAND** of Princeton. Convention addressed by **HON. T. W. CROTHERS**, Minister of Labor and others.
- 10 **SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATURE OPENS**, (fourth session of third legislature).
- 10 **PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTION** in **SHELLBROOK, (Sask.)** formerly represented in Legislature by **S. J. Donaldson, (Cons.)**, now **M.P.** for Prince Albert, results in election of **E. S. CLINCH, LIBERAL, (1483)** over **S. Agnew, (Cons.) (534)** and **T. A. Borthwick, (Ind. Lib.) (67).**
- 10 **WELLAND, (Ont.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Welland, nominate the sitting member, **W. M. GERMAN, M.P.**
- 11 **COMOX-ALBERNI, (B.C.) (new constituency) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Courtenay, nominate **H. S. CLEMENTS, M.P.**, sitting member for Comox-Atlin.
- 11 **EAST KOOTENAY, (B.C.) (new constituency) LIBERALS**, meet at Cranbrook for preliminary organization, election of officers, etc.

1915.
May.
- 11 **TORONTO CENTRE, (Ont.) LIBERALS**, preliminary organization meeting, appointment of committees, etc.
- 12 **ROBLIN GOVERNMENT, MANITOBA, RESIGNS.** Lieutenant Governor calls on **T. C. NORRIS, LIBERAL LEADER**, to form new Government.
- 12 **NORTH BRANT, (Ont.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Paris, nominate **JOHN HAROLD** of Paris. Meeting addressed by **HON. G. P. GRAHAM.**
- 12 **VICTORIA, (Alta.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Vegreville, nominate **GEORGE P. SMITH, M.P.P.** of Camrose.
- 12 **EAST LAMBTON, (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Alvinston, nominate the sitting member, **J. E. ARMSTRONG, M.P.** of Petrolia.
- 13 **BROCKVILLE and LEEDS, (Ont.) (new constituency) LIBERALS** in convention at Brockville, nominate **ARTHUR C. HARDY** of Brockville. Convention addressed by **HON. G. P. GRAHAM** and others.
- 13 **SHERBROOKE, (Que.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Sherbrooke, nominate **F. N. McCREA, M.P.**, the sitting member. Convention addressed by **HON. SIDNEY FISHER, HON. W. G. MITCHELL** and others.
- 13 **KINGSTON, (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Kingston, nominate the sitting member, **Dr. J. W. EDWARDS, M.P.**
- 13 **NORFOLK, (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Simcoe, nominate **HUGH P. McINNES** of Simcoe.
- 14 **EAST ALGOMA, (Ont.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Little Current, nominate **W. H. HURST** of Gore Bay.
- 14 **HALDIMAND, (Ont.) LIBERALS**, annual meeting at Cayuga, nominate **J. J. PARSONS** of Jarvis.
- 15 **KENT, (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Chatham, nominate **HUGH STONEHOUSE** of Wallaceburg. Convention addressed by **HON. T. W. CROTHERS.**
- 15 **NORTH RENFREW, (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Pembroke, nominate the sitting member, **GERALD V. WHITE, M.P.**
- 19 **NORTH BRUCE, (Ont.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Tara nominate **JOHN TOLMIE, Ex-M.P.**
- 19 **GUYSBOROUGH and ANTIGONISH, (N.S.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Guysboro, unanimously nominate **J. H. SINCLAIR, M.P.** present member for Guysborough, to contest new constituency.
- 25 **BURRARD, (B.C.) (new constituency) LIBERALS**, organization convention, election of officers, etc.
- 25 **PONTIAC (Que.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Campbell's Bay, nominate **FRANK S. CAHILL.** Convention addressed by **HON. SYDNEY FISHER, E. P. DEVLIN, M.P.**, and others.
- 26 **NORTH HURON, (Ont.) LIBERAL ASSOCIATION**, first annual meeting at Wingham.
- 27 **MACKENZIE, (Sask.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Canora, nominate **GEORGE W. McPHEE** of Yorkton.
- 27 **PRINCE RUPERT, (B.C.) CONSERVATIVES**, in convention at Prince Rupert, nominate **J. E. MERRYFIELD.**
- 28 **HAMILTON, (Ont.) LIBERALS**, in joint convention, nominate **LIEUT.-COL. JOHN I. McLAREN** for **WEST HAMILTON**, and **MAJOR JAMES CHISHOLM** for **EAST HAMILTON.**
- 29 **SASKATOON, (Sask.) LIBERALS**, in convention at Saskatoon, nominate **J. F. CAIRNS.**

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