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TREASON WITHOUT REASON



GERMANY—Who Goes There? BORDEN—A Friend.

“Assistance rendered to the Enemy in any way whatever is Treason.”—THE LAW.

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A BAD YEAR FOR TORIES.

THE Roblin Conservative Government in Manitoba has resigned in disgrace. It quits office leaving behind a record of fifteen years of maladministration culminating in an inglorious rush for cover under a cloud of proof of criminal extravagance, if not worse. The whole Conservative party of Canada must share the odium. It is but a few months since the Premier and Leader of the Conservative Government of New Brunswick was compelled to resign his office following the finding of a Royal Commission that he had been guilty of grave irregularities in office. In British Columbia the Government of Sir Richard McBride stands convicted in the public mind of an utter and callous indifference to the rights of the people and every sign points to an early day of reckoning. The year 1915 has been anything but auspicious for Conservative governments in Canada.

AS TO PATRONAGE.

IT may be recalled that just before the close of the recent session both Premier Borden and Major General Sam Hughes declared that there had been no "patronage" in the awarding of contracts for war supplies for the Militia Department. But there is proof.

It was on April 9th, before the Public Accounts Committee that the proof came from the one man best able to tell the truth. Mr. H. W. Brown, Director of Government Contracts testified, in answer to direct questions:

"From 1906 to 1911 there was not very much in the way of a patronage list; I was given a pretty free hand and I bought without much reference to any patronage list.—There is now a patronage list; we buy from that list; it is a very large list now—it has been entirely renewed since 1911—I suppose we have 8,000 names on that list."

The people of Canada will be disposed to accept this sworn statement in spite of anything to the contrary that members of the Borden Government may choose to airily assert.

A STRONG GOVERNMENT.

THE result of the provincial by-election in Shellbrook, Sask., is striking testimony to the great popularity of the government of Hon. Walter Scott. In a three-cornered contest the straight Liberal candidate E. S. Clinch, was elected with a majority of nearly 1000 over a straight Conservative candidate and an Independent-Liberal put in the field chiefly by the liquor interests to test the feelings of the people on the new liquor legislation in Saskatchewan. The result is all the more remarkable when it is remembered that Shellbrook has been consistently a Conservative seat, the by-election having been rendered necessary by the resignation of S. J. Donaldson who took the Prince Albert seat in the Federal house.

IF CANADA HAD CRUISERS.

THE sinking* of the Lusitania with the loss of hundreds of lives of noncombatants, an act of piracy and dreadfulness without example in the history of the world, lends further point to the recent observation of a Canadian newspaper which said:

"What Canadian would not feel an inch or so taller to-day if we had a half dozen smart cruisers helping those of the Old Land to make scrap iron of the submarines which have been sinking merchant ships and drowning passengers and crews in the Irish Sea and the English Channel?"

SINS OF COMMISSION.

REFERRING to the boasting comment of Major General Sam Hughes that the Militia Department had paid a commission of 10 per cent to the P. W. Ellis Co. of Toronto for the purchase of binocular glasses for Canadian officers, and the characteristic exclamation "I wish it had been twenty per cent," the Toronto Telegram said on March 29th:

"An individual or a firm is said to be underpaid with a commission of ten per cent in return for the services of a principal or an employe who assists the Militia Department, and gives up his time and talent for a few days in order to help save the country's money.

Wives and fathers and mothers do not claim a commission in return for the services of husbands and sons who assist the Militia Department, and give up their lives in order to save the country's life."

AGAIN DEFERRED.

THE question as to whether Canada is to be embroiled in a general election in the near future is still unsettled, although recent signs indicate that the forces within the Government ranks which have been agitating for an election have once more been stopped by the weight of public opinion. In the latter part of April an election seemed a certainty and Conservative papers close to the Government went so far as to even name the probable date.

THE SOLDIERS' BOOTS.

HISTORY tells us that Nero fiddled while Rome was burning. The historian of the present war will tell future generations that when Canada and the Empire were in danger General Sam Hughes outdid Nero's indifference to the national peril by giving a score or more of the 8,000 "good boys" whom he had placed on the Patronage List huge orders for inferior boots, and that these inferior boots were supplied to the men who went out to face death in order that Canada and the Empire might live.

First Blunder Was Fatal.

When war came there was in the Militia Department an ankle boot made by the Slater Shoe Company which had been sealed in 1905 by the officials of the Department as the Pattern Boot according to which all boots afterwards required for the Permanent Force were to be made. This Sealed Pattern was not an Active Service Boot. In make and shape it was similar to the ordinary walking boot used by civilians in Canada, and was suitable for soldiers only in times of peace and to wear on parade or about the barracks. Neither was it the boot used by the soldiers in South Africa. That fact was proved beyond any doubt before the Special Committee of the House of Commons where the evidence of Assistant Director of Stores McCann established that the boots used in South Africa were supplied by A. W. Reddin and the Vankleek Hill Shoe Company and not by the Slater Shoe Company.

When War was announced in August last and it became necessary to purchase large quantities of boots for active service, several boots made for the Borden Government in 1913 by Gauthier of Quebec, and accepted without proper inspection, were selected from the Ordnance Stores at Ottawa as being in every respect similar to the Slater Sealed Pattern of 1905, and these Gauthier samples were handed around to various manufacturers as models for the Active Service Boots that they were to make under their Contracts with the Militia Department. In no case were specifications furnished the Contractors. It was proved before the Special Committee of the House of Commons that these Gauthier samples were inferior to the Slater Sealed Pattern Boot of 1905, and, as has been pointed out, the latter was never intended for an active service boot. Hence at the very outset a fatal blunder was made by the Government in ordering boots that were not fit for active service, and that blunder has been repeated over and over again.

Number of Inferior Boots Ordered.

In the month of August, 1914, orders were given for 65,000 pairs of these inferior boots. In September a second order for 32,867 pairs were given. The boots of this second order were to be made from the inferior Gauthier samples and from some samples furnished by the Contractors themselves. On October 8th, 9th and 10th, further orders were given for 30,000 pairs. All the boots were ordered up to this time were to cost \$3.85 per pair. On October 24th the Department of Militia made a change in the sample boot by providing a double sole and between

October 29th and November 4th, orders were placed for 40,532 pairs of these double-soled boots at \$4.00 per pair.

Boots Bought From Middlemen.

Later on in the month of November under instructions from the Acting Minister of Militia to purchase boots locally in Winnipeg, the Senior Ordnance Officer in that City, bought 3,798 pairs of boots from middlemen. These middlemen had the boots manufactured in different factories in Ontario and Quebec at prices ranging from \$3.40 to \$3.60 per pair, while they charged the Government an average price of \$4.00 per pair. Afterwards several other orders were placed in Vancouver and in other parts of Canada, and in all, the Department purchased 180,664 pairs of boots.

No Proper Inspection.

Up to the end of the year 1911 the Inspector of boots in the Department of Militia and Defence was a practical boot and shoe maker. He was dismissed without cause in December 1911 and in his place another gentleman was appointed, who had had no experience as a boot maker or as a tanner, and whose business immediately prior to his entering the Department had been that of a broker. It was because of this dismissal that the boots supplied by the Gauthier Company in 1913 were not properly inspected. Then in August last when the first War Contracts under the inferior Gauthier samples were awarded, five other boot Inspectors were employed, all of whom owed their appointment to political pull, and the majority of them had had no experience as boot and shoe makers. All practical men admit that the only way in which boots can be properly inspected is to follow them through the various processes of manufacture in the factory. In the case of the Government orders, inspection in the factories took place only in a limited number of cases. The general inspection was done by making a superficial examination of a finished boot. Thus it was impossible to tell what material or workmanship was contained in the interior of the boot, and obviously inspection of this kind was absolutely worthless.

Another thing that made the inspection a farce was the fact that all the Inspectors used the same stamp so that it was impossible to identify the man who had passed defective boots. The Inspector who was dismissed in 1911 had a special stamp bearing the initial letter of his name, and thus his work could be traced in every case. Under the Borden Government no such useful record was desired and the incompetent Inspector could stamp bad boots without any fear of being detected.

In the case of the first order given in August last, 13,962 pairs of boots were delivered at Valcartier without any inspection whatever. This was the case also with the boots purchased months afterwards at Winnipeg and Vancouver. Under all the circumstances, therefore, it is not surprising that so many bad boots were accepted and paid for by the Government.

UNEARTHING THE WAR CONTRACT SCANDALS.

STRIVING to make the best of a bad business, a business so bad in fact that it has gravely injured the standing of the whole Nationalist-Conservative party in Canada, the Borden Government and its obedient Tory newspapers have attempted to minimize the importance of the revelations before the Public Accounts Committee. They have not only deliberately falsified the sworn evidence in order to make it appear that the middleman graft was small and unimportant—they have gone so far as to take credit to themselves for the uncovering of the putrid proof of deliberate robbery of the money of the people of Canada. And it is worthy of remark here that it was sacred money—money voted gladly and without question as to amount—money offered freely by the people of Canada of every station and of every shade of political belief and adherence—because it was money for the equipping of Canadian soldiers to take their rightful part in a war of Empire which is as much the war of Canada as it is the war of Great Britain or any other part of the British Empire.

This was the money that grafting Tory middlemen got away with, aided and protected by the Tory patronage system as amply proved in the sworn evidence.

In view of the attempts to make it appear that the Government was imposed upon; that it knew nothing of these abuses until they were revealed in committee, and that the members of the Government themselves were the most anxious to uncover the real truth, a review of the steps that led up to the investigations is of interest. The facts are taken from the official documents.

Liberal Demands were Blocked.

Repeated and insistent demands by Liberals in Parliament were met by subterfuge and delay. The results of the investigations fully justified the Liberal demands. But for the insistence of the Liberals, the facts as to middleman graft, Government incompetence, lack of proper inspection, etc., all resulting in enormous waste of public money, might never have become known.

Prior to the meeting of Parliament, which was formally opened on February 4th, rumors of irregularities in the purchase of war supplies in Canada were rife throughout the Dominion, from Atlantic to Pacific. There were hints in the newspapers, street gossip everywhere indicated something wrong, but there was no proof and there could be no proof because all the official information was locked up in the various Government departments—and the Government was not giving any information.

Manufacturers Complained of Middlemen.

Early in the autumn, not very long after the War broke out, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association found there was something wrong and they wrote letters to Sir Robert Borden himself. They complained of the manner in which they were being treated by the Government; that they could

not get orders while politicians acting as middlemen could get all the orders that were going. The manufacturers complained that they could sell their goods only through these political middlemen.

Borden's Duty was to Investigate.

Premier Borden answered, asking for specific instances. Very rightly the Manufacturers' Association replied "**You are the Government, it is your duty to investigate.**" The Premier asked again for specific cases which were supplied and referred to the Militia Department. Of course the Department said they were not true.

Half a dozen times in Parliament, Premier Borden was asked to produce this correspondence. He admitted it was in existence and he finally promised to produce it—but Parliament prorogued and the letters were never brought down.

And yet on the day Parliament prorogued Sir Robert Borden, with a great show, **declared that he had been absolutely unaware of the middlemen.**

Red Tape Delays.

This was the situation when Parliament assembled.

February 8th, was the first business day of the session. On February 8th, Mr. A. K. MacLean, Liberal member for Halifax took the first step toward an investigation when he gave formal motion:

"For a copy of all correspondence which has passed between the Auditor General and the Militia Department of the Government service, in regard to the expenditure under the War Appropriation Act."

On February 11th, three days later, the House passed the order, and the proper officials were notified to produce copies of the correspondence.

The correspondence was not voluminous. It was afterward printed in 44 pages. But the Government, with its horde of 12,000 new appointees in addition to the regular staff did not produce these papers until February 25th, just 14 days later. **And then there was only one copy of each paper.**

On February 26, the next day, Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked if it was the intention of the Government to have the papers printed so that they might be available to all the members. The Minister of Finance promised "to consider the matter."

Four days went by in "consideration." On March 2, Sir Wilfrid asked the same question, this time of Sir Robert Borden, who responded that he saw no objection.

On March 3, the next day, the order for printing was given.

Formal Demand for Investigation

On March 5, Mr. A. K. MacLean, Liberal member for Halifax, moved that the correspondence be referred to the Public Accounts Committee. The Government took no action.

On March 8, Mr. MacLean renewed his motion. On this occasion the Premier himself, Sir Robert Borden, asked that the matter be delayed for one day.

On March 9, the next day as suggested by the Premier, Mr. MacLean returned to the question for the third time and Sir Robert Borden again asked that the matter be delayed.

On March 12, Mr. MacLean renewed the question for the fourth time. It was not till then that Sir Robert Borden gave his consent and the formal action was taken to refer the matter to the Public Accounts Committee.

But there had to be more delay before the Committee could get to work, and it was not until March 17, that the first sitting was held, the House on the same day ordering that the proceedings of the Committee should be printed from day to day.

Investigation had to be Curtailed.

From the foregoing it will be seen that Parliament was in actual working session five weeks before the Public Accounts Committee got to work. The length of the session was uncertain—in fact on March 17, there was already talk of early prorogation.

This being the case, members of the Committee realized that the investigation must necessarily be short. Knowing the large number of matters that should be investigated, they decided to confine themselves only to those cases in which evidence was easily and readily obtainable. They therefore investigated only the following:—**drugs, bicycles, binoculars, field dressings, motor trucks and automobiles, horses, "shield" shovels, housewives, jams, submarines, Valcartier lands and the burning of clothing.**

Tory Committeemen Worked Hard to Shield Middlemen and Government.

Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Customs, officially represented the Government on the Committee. Plainly this unusual custom in Committee was followed because of the fear of the Government as to what damaging facts might be brought out. That was why Hon. Mr. Reid was always in attendance at the meetings of the Committee. In spite of his reiterated statement that the Government wanted the fullest investigation possible, it is only fair and absolutely within the facts to state that every question asked by Conservative members of the Committee was asked for the express purpose and with the plain intention of covering up evidence that was damaging to their Tory middlemen. Particularly was this the case when A. L. Davidson, Tory M.P. for Annapolis undertook to extract from one witness a statement that the same condition of affairs proved in connection with the purchase of horses also existed in 1899 at the time of the South African War. This attempt proved a veritable boomerang. The witness declared that nothing of the kind occurred in 1899—that in his opinion the only thing to connect the two cases was the fact that **horses rejected for war service in 1899 were actually accepted and paid for this time.**

CIVIL SERVANTS SHOULD KNOW.

OFFICIAL returns brought down at the recent session of Parliament in response to a demand from a member of the Liberal Opposition showed that since the Borden Nationalist-Conservative Government took office in 1911, the number of employees in the Civil Service has been increased by no less than 12,147. This increase was made and sanctioned by Sir Robert Borden and his cabinet ministers in face of the fact that they had brought upon Canada an era of depression which meant that revenues were falling, business was stagnating and immigration was dropping off almost to the point of ceasing altogether. Naturally this meant that the business and work of the Government departments was made just that much less.

Government departments are like stores, warehouses or any other business institutions. The amount of work to be done is dictated and governed by the business to be handled and necessity for the work. To the average man it must be apparent that if departmental business was light, as it has been proved to have been, there was no possible excuse for the appointment of civil servants whose services were not needed. But the Borden Government added just 12,147 names to the payroll which the taxpayer of Canada has to foot every month.

Under these circumstances it is interesting to know what the Civil Servants themselves think about it. This is told in the official paper of the Civil Servants, published weekly at Ottawa. The issue of March 5th last, while Parliament was in session, asserted that owing to this over-manning, lack of organization, duplication of work and workers, etc., **there was an annual loss to the people of Canada of over \$5,000,000 a year.** The article from *The Civilian* is reproduced herewith:

"We have nothing to do with placing the blame or glory of Civil Service administration as between the two parties in Parliament. But we have a responsibility as to the members of the organized and indeed of the unorganized service as well. This responsibility prompts us, as a positive duty, to point out that the public service is over-manned to a remarkable degree, and on account of this over-manning, of inefficient organization, or duplications and other kinds of waste, there is a loss, conservatively estimated, of over \$5,000,000 a year. A Minister of the present administration once asked a delegation of civil servants what necessity existed for any communication between a committee of Council and the Civil Service Commissioners. Herein is the answer. The Commissioners could have informed the Ministry of this over-manning and of a number of other weaknesses in the system of government as such come under their observation."

CANADA'S MOTTO.

(From the *Toronto Telegram*, Conservative.)

Is Canada to come through the experiences of this war with no nobler motto than:

"Millions for middlemen and commission hunters, and a steerage passage for wounded soldiers?"



Intercepting the Procession.

THE NEW TAXES.

CANADA'S new so-called "War" taxes do not seem to be justifying all that Finance Minister White promised. Rather they seem to be proving the absolute wisdom of the prophecy of Liberal members of the House that the new taxes would not only prove burdensome to the people while benefitting only the manufacturers, but that they would fail altogether to produce the revenue that Mr. White so grandly declared they would produce.

Hon. Mr. White, in introducing the taxes, said the chief source and mainstay of our revenue is the tariff, and to this we must look primarily for relief from our present financial condition. Figures show that in March, the last month before war taxes took effect, customs revenue totalled \$7,066,497. The war taxes began April 1st, and during the month of April customs collections totalled only \$6,276,377, or \$790,119 less than the month before customs rates were increased under the war taxes. Compared with April, 1914, the customs collections last month showed a decline of \$181,894.

Excise collections show a similar decline since the war rates went on. In March they totalled \$1,508,651 and in April under war charges only \$1,299,829, a decrease of \$208,821.

Stamp taxes took effect April 15th. During the

whole of April the post office revenue was a million dollars, which is an increase of seven thousand dollars. This increase is not large enough to compensate for decline in customs and excise.

The Liberal resolution on the war taxes declared that under it there were "duties imposed which must be oppressive upon the people while yielding little or no revenue."

"LIKE A DRUNKEN SAILOR."

CANADA has a Militia Department that throws the country's money around in gratuities of ten per cent commissions, plus expenses.

Canada has a Minister of Militia who publicly and loudly regrets that he did not give twenty instead of ten per cent to the firm that only received \$9,111 in addition to expenses for directing the purchase of slightly over \$90,000 worth of supplies.

The proverbial drunken sailor is a model of wisdom and economy in the outlay of money compared to Canada's Militia Department in many phases of its expenditures. A country that can throw money away as Canada's Militia Department is throwing money away should be able to buy travelling kitchens and other items of regimental equipment without having the hat passed round in various communities.—Toronto Telegram.

HOW MANY MIDDLEMEN?

IT was in the purchase of binoculars for the officers of the Canadian expeditionary forces that the full effect of the Tory patronage system, with its inevitable middleman, was proved most plainly. When it came to binoculars there was no question of just one middleman—the sworn evidence proves that there had to be two, or three, or even four—and of course every one of them had to have his “bit.”

And it was no small “bit” either, as witness the evidence that one particular pair of glasses was purchased at wholesale by the first man for \$9, and finally reached the Government at a net cost of \$58. Some profit!

The investigations of the Public Accounts Committee concerned only one particular lot of 166 glasses. Here is a list of the people concerned in their purchase:

Excess Price Split Seven Ways.

First, the Canadian Government, which might just as well have dealt direct with the makers, eliminating all profits and saving the people's money.

Second, Col. Hurdman, the Government inspector.

Third, the P. W. Ellis Co. of Toronto, appointed by the Government on the recommendation of Major General Sam Hughes to “supervise” the purchase of binoculars at a fee of 10% of their whole cost.

Fourth, T. M. Birkett of Ottawa, son of a former Conservative member of Parliament, and sole director of the Keystone Supply Co. of Ottawa. This company was organized immediately after the Borden Government came into power in 1911 and all it does is to supply goods of all kinds to the Government, which the Government might as well buy direct.

Fifth, Sam Bilsky, a well known and reputable Ottawa jeweller, who offered to supply the Government with all the binoculars it wanted, of standard make, at \$45 each, but who had no chance to do business with the Government **because he was a Liberal.**

Sixth, Milton Harris, a New York broker who found the glasses for Bilsky to turn over to Birkett.

Seventh, the original makers or importers of the glasses, Bausch & Lomb and other wholesale and retail New York firms, who would have been glad at any stage to sell direct to the Government, at regular wholesale trade prices.

And for good measure, it might as well be remembered that Mr. Birkett had a partner, Alex. Taylor, who was supposed to get his share.

So, to trace the history of one pair of binoculars; Bausch & Lomb sold to Harris who sold to Bilsky who sold to Birkett who sold to P. W. Ellis & Co. who got the glasses passed by Col. Hurdman who then turned them over to the Government.

Cost \$30, Government Paid \$58.

The sworn evidence showed that the binoculars cost Birkett and his partners an average of \$30. He turned them over to the P. W. Ellis Co. at an average of \$52, and the Government paid \$58. Bilsky, with whom the Government refused to do business direct, because he was a Liberal, got \$5 a glass from Birkett, because Bilsky knew where the glasses could be got and Birkett did not.

And the worst feature of all was that the binoculars were not of the stipulated quality. Think of that for a moment. They were for the use of officers and on the accuracy and power of the glasses might easily depend the lives of whole companies of Canadian soldiers. Officers use binoculars to keep track of the enemy and to see what is coming. But the safety of Canadian soldiers was secondary to the necessity of giving fat profits to political middlemen.

The P. W. Ellis Co. got their job as “supervisors” through Major General Sam Hughes, who boldly defended the whole affair, gloried in the fact that he had given them 10% on all binoculars purchased and even lamented on the witness stand that he was “sorry it was not 20%.” There could be nothing wrong he declared because he “liked the Ellis boys—nice boys—I went to school with them.”

And P. W. Ellis boldly testified that he had saved the Government \$10,000 by buying the binoculars. But he omitted to add that for this ostensible saving of \$10,000, he got \$9,000 for doing practically nothing and all his expenses besides!

The evidence showed that Ellis never saw most of the glasses—that he knew nothing about them until they had been passed by Col. Hurdman for Birkett. And one witness swore that he was told that Col. Hurdman was “figured in” at \$2 per glass.

The Public Accounts Committee, in reporting to Parliament on this particular deal, said:

“From the evidence it appears 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 Committee recommended that the matter be turned over to the Department of Justice.

WAR CONTRACT SCANDALS.

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

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THE BOOT INVESTIGATION.

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EQUIPPING THE CANADIAN CONTINGENTS.

UNDER the heading "Troops Being Sent From Canada Without the Proper Equipment Owing to Slowness of Ministers," the Ottawa Free Press on May 11th, published a news item which is reproduced herewith. The gravity of the statements made must be apparent to every reader. They call for explanation from the Government, and not only explanation but a definite assurance to the people of Canada that such a state of affairs is being cleared up. The *Free Press* article is reproduced in full:

The Second Canadian Overseas Division is being sent to Europe without proper equipment. Since the Prime Minister's office announced that an election is not being considered attention can be called to a flood of complaints from all parts of the country without partizan motives being alleged. For the last six months there have been protests by commanders of corps training in every province of Canada that they were without sufficient equipment to enable their men to be properly developed. In Ottawa the engineering corps has voiced this complaint from day to day until it has become a matter of public notoriety. Requisitions for supplies, demands, pleas and complaints brought no result and finally this force was sent from the country without the tools which they require in order to do the work expected of them in Europe.

Hospital corps have had the same experience. They were mobilized and ordered to drill without essential articles and they were sent across the ocean without the drugs, instruments and essentials they require in order to establish hospitals and care for Canadian sick and wounded.

Second division artillery have had the same troubles and have voiced similar complaints.

Won't Deny Conditions.

The militia headquarters is silent in regard to this condition of affairs, but it has existed so long and complaints have been so generally made that neither the Minister of Militia nor anyone else in authority will deny that this condition exists.

It is understood that as soon as the Prime Minister returns from his fishing trip that pressure will be brought to bear to have the deadlock broken and the force speedily furnished with the essentials which they require.

The first overseas division was completely equipped. This was done from stores which the department had on hand, and through rush orders given in most cases to experienced army contractors. Even with the first division there were troubles which have become public property, but they were minor matters compared with what has been happening in the case of the second division.

Cabinet Responsible.

The business of purchasing supplies for the troops has been taken largely from the hands of the militia authorities. The bill voting the first fifty millions for defence forbade the department to spend more than five thousand dollars without first obtaining the approval of the whole cabinet. This was enacted in the early days of Valcartier. The whole govern-

ment was responsible for all the supplies purchased for that camp and the force despatched from there.

Soon after this restrictions were strengthened. A sub-committee of the government was appointed to purchase war supplies. Sir George E. Foster, Hon. Thomas White, Hon. Robert Rogers, Hon. J. D. Reid, Hon. Frank Cochrane, Hon. A. E. Kemp and Hon. Judge Doherty were the most conspicuous members of that committee. Patronage lists were drawn, party friends were favored and the system of open competition by tender was abandoned. Experienced contractors for war supplies were cut off and orders were placed with men and firms who had never made a uniform.

In Corset Factories.

Orders for uniforms were placed with firms whose business was the manufacture of corsets, of ladies' blouses, of women's underwear. The results were not satisfactory to the military authorities who were offered inferior articles and had to put up with delays, nor, in many cases, to the contractors, who made garments which the inspectors would not pass. Many of them suffered severe losses.

At the close of the last session Sir Robert Borden promised that the hundred million dollars voted for this year's war work would be spent by an independent commission of business men whose prominence would place them above suspicion.

The commission named some weeks ago consisted of Hon. A. E. Kemp, a member of the sub-committee of the cabinet; of Mr. Lapointe, a prominent wholesale grocery and liquor dealer of Montreal and of Mr. Galt, a prominent wholesale grocery and liquor dealer of Winnipeg.

They were very deliberate about meeting and when they met found themselves confronted with a mass of requisitions for articles for the troops. The requisitions, in many cases, had been before the government for months without action having been taken owing to differences over details and over the politics of the persons who were to get the orders.

Meet Twice a Week.

For some time the new commission has been holding brief meetings twice a week. It is learned that they have done little. One of the requisitions is for sixty thousand pairs of army boots on the new design, for which a maximum price of four dollars a pair was fixed. The commission did not advertise for open competition, but placed themselves in communication with certain dealers. They have been held up and have exceeded the price fixed. They have placed some orders for boots at \$4.10 and others at \$4.25 a pair, but none at \$4, and some of the leading boot makers of Canada have been left out altogether in the distribution of orders.

It is declared that for some weeks the commission should be sitting almost night and day every day of the week to deal with the situation which is confronting the force which Canada is despatching to the front. Two meetings a week are said to be entirely inadequate.

Trucks Not Ready.

A hundred and fifty motor trucks for the transport corps of the division were wanted last November. Owing to differences in the government over accepting the lowest approved tender the trucks were not ordered until January and are not yet ready to go forward owing to an order for a two-ton body being placed in Canada when the trucks were three-ton vehicles.

Construction Corps not Equipped.

At the suggestion and under the direction of the Canadian Pacific a railway construction corps under Colonel Ramsay, five hundred strong, has been enlisted. It is said to be one of the finest bodies of men ever gathered in the world. It is a force which could undertake the construction of a railway bridge at the front or speedily repair a railway line or a bridge damaged in the operations of war.

This force for months and weeks has been vainly looking for axes, picks, crowbars, canthooks, mason's and bricklayers' tools as well as surveying and measuring instruments. All have been needed for training work and will be essential at the front. Requisitions for these supplies have been held up.

The engineers and the artillery have not been supplied with the binoculars, the range finders, mekomeres and other articles in the quantities which they need. They are to be had but there has been no authority given to get them.

Fail to Spend Promptly.

The government has the money. It was provided by the British government to the amount of a hundred million dollars. The trouble has been that those in authority have failed to spend promptly and properly the money which has been in their hands for the articles which the forces must have if the second Canadian overseas division is to make the showing which the first division has made.

There is a shortage of harness and of countless other things easily procurable.

A considerable portion of the second overseas division is now in Europe.

It is agreed here that at once there must be steps taken by those in authority to have the equipment of the force speedily completed. More divisions are being organized.

The return of Sir Robert Borden is being anxiously awaited.

WAR NOT SOURCE OF HARD TIMES.

(Toronto *Telegram*, Conservative, March 30, 1915.)

"War has brought and will bring more broken hearts than broken fortunes to Canada. Hard times were not brought to Canada by the arrival of war on the invitation of Emperor William. Hard times would have come upon Canada if the War had remained in the future. War has helped rather than hurt, has contributed more profit than loss to the commercial, industrial and agricultural experiences of Canada."

EXIT ROBLIN.

THE Conservative Government of Manitoba, headed by Sir Rodmond Roblin, resigned on Wednesday, May 12th. The Lieutenant Governor immediately called upon T. C. Norris, leader of the Liberal Party, who has formed a strong cabinet.

The resignation of Sir Rodmond Roblin's government came apparently as the direct result of proof substantiating charges made by the Liberals at the recent session of the Legislature that some \$800,000 had gone "astray" in connection with the contract for the new Parliament buildings at Winnipeg. A Royal Commission, reluctantly consented to by Sir Rodmond Roblin on the last day of the session, had held several sittings and was apparently on the verge of getting at the facts of the case when the sudden resignation of the Government was announced.

"Caught with the goods" is the epitaph which the average citizen of Canada will be disposed to write on the tombstone of the late Conservative Government of Manitoba. Such an epitaph seems fitting if it is to be believed that Sir Rodmond Roblin and his discredited followers gave up office solely because of impending proof of their participation in, or guilty knowledge of the apparent wholesale grafting in connection with the erection of the new Parliament buildings in Winnipeg.

As a matter of fact the Roblin Government goes out of office in disgrace, not because it has been "caught with the goods" in one transaction, but rather because it had long since outlived its usefulness to the people of Manitoba. It seeks the waters of oblivion a true example of the unfaithful servant. It disappears leaving behind a record unexampled in Canada of the reactionary and undemocratic methods of Tory politicians. For years it has managed to hang on to power through the workings of an unusually effective election "machine." For years Sir Rodmond Roblin has flouted and scorned the demands of the people. At the general elections last July he failed to get a popular majority although he retained office by virtue of his hand-made pocket boroughs. The vote of the people of Manitoba then was nothing more or less than positive notice to quit.

Hon. T. C. Norris, Manitoba's new Liberal Premier, takes up the reins of Government with a clear road before him. His first action as Premier was an unequivocal announcement that the general policy of the Liberal party, as laid down during the general elections a year ago, will be strictly adhered to and carried out as rapidly as possible. He has also given unmistakable assurance that the enquiry into the Parliament buildings scandal will be prosecuted rigorously and promptly and that action will be commenced forthwith to recover from the contractor all moneys improperly paid. More than that, he has undertaken that if there is proof of actual criminality, the guilty parties will be prosecuted. He has also made it plain that the action of members of the late Government in deciding to resign in sufficient numbers to assure the new Premier a working majority in the Legislature until such time as an election may be held, was purely voluntary on the part of the Conservatives.

HON. RUDOLPHE LEMEIX AT MONTREAL

Excerpts from Speech before Montreal Reform Club, May 1, 1915

"The Old Chief."

"LET me say at once that proud as I was in June, 1896, to serve under Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, prouder am I in this year, 1915, to serve under Laurier, His Majesty's opposition's revered leader.

"In that long interval of nearly twenty years, many of Canada's gifted sons have passed away, some of them claimed by death, some others rejected by popular suffrage. Still stands erect in his seat with his genial face, his sunny smile, his streaming white locks, the Old Chief whose eloquence remains unsurpassed, whose statesmanship has earned him the envied title of 'Nestor of the Empire'.

"May I preface my remarks by congratulating you, gentlemen of the Reform Club, not only because of your unswerving fidelity to our great leader, but above all to the cause, the principles, the ideals, which he so fully personifies.

Liberalism is Power.

"After the defeat of 1911, many there were who despaired of the future of the Liberal party. Office is not the goal of Liberalism. By divine right Toryism lays claim—and a perpetual one at that—to office. Reform is of the essence of Liberalism. The history of Great Britain, the history of Canada, will teach you that all great reforms have been carried out by the unceasing toil and labor of a Liberal opposition against autocratic Tory rule. The extension of electoral franchise to the masses in England, the granting of responsible government in Canada—to point to only two great landmarks in the history of the Liberal party—were the result of many long years of agitation against well entrenched interests.

"With such victories to its credit, may one not say that Liberalism, even though in opposition, is power?

Why an Election?

"Sir, if it is true that coming events cast their shadows before them, a dissolution of Parliament is near at hand. I refuse to believe it; I scorn the very suggestion of it. Why an election? The British Empire is actually engaged in the most momentous conflict the history of the world has ever recorded. The very existence of that Empire is at stake. Canada is part of the Empire and she is pouring men and money, thus sharing in the prosecution of the titanic struggle. The minds of the people are concentrated on the battlefields of Europe, on the movements of the Allied armies. The all absorbing question is whether British ideals of liberty and justice shall maintain their sway or be replaced by Prussian militarism. Why an election?

Liberals Do Their Duty Only.

"Whilst the Liberal party were ready—and cheerfully so—to grant the 100 millions required for war purposes, and to provide for ways and means towards carrying on the ordinary business of the country, the Government have found it expedient to raise the Tariff, to reduce the British Preference, and to abnormally increase the expenditure in spite of a huge deficit. These were controversial questions and we did not break the truce by criticizing them. We did our duty purely and simply.

Bullets, Not Ballots.

"And now, when this Parliament does not legally expire before October, 1916, when both parties in Great Britain have agreed that there would be no election until the War is over, when from all the overseas dominions came the same announcement, we in Canada are invited to forget the huge struggle raging on the Continent—in such a noble part—to plunge into an acrimonious party conflict! I refuse to believe it.

"Speaking not as a Liberal, but as a Canadian, I say that an election to-day is no more necessary than it was in November last.

"This is a time for recruiting so as to fill the awful gaps made by the enemy in the ranks of our regiments.

"Think of the irony of things—to issue writs for an election, when all our energies should be bent towards organizing the assistance of Canada to the Mother Country.

"We need bullets not ballots, officers at the front not returning officers!

"I cannot speak for the Conservatives, but as a Liberal, I say that the prosecution of this War and our participation in it is of too supreme importance to be used in any degrading argument against a large, respectable and loyal section of the body politic.

Sir Wilfrid's Imperialism.

"Again we will be told—indeed it is already printed—that 'Laurier now as ever never cared a whit for the Empire.' The imperialism of Laurier, which is that of Asquith, Grey, Haldane, Harcourt and Lloyd George, has been aptly defined by himself at a memorable Imperial Conference: 'Imperial unity based upon local autonomy.'

"That conception of Imperialism is far more practical than that of the formalists and the doctrinaires who dream of centralization, forgetting that in the words of Burke the hold of Britain on the Dominions 'is the close affection which grows from 'common names, from kindred blood, from similar 'privileges and equal protection. These are the ties 'which, although light as air, are strong as links of 'iron'."

A POOR EXCUSE FOR AN ELECTION.

SPEAKING at Montreal on May 3rd, Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works in the Borden Cabinet, but rather better known to the average Canadian as Premier Borden's "Minister of Elections," labored hard to show that there was excuse if not need for a general election in the immediate future. Mr. Roger's chief argument was with regard to the Senate and his chief grievance against the Senate had of course to do with its action in rejecting the Borden Naval Aid Bill. Under the circumstances The Liberal Monthly may be pardoned for once more quoting from the *Ottawa Citizen* the reply of that newspaper. Coming as it does from a paper which in 1911 strongly supported the Conservative party and which has been generally recognized as a Conservative organ although it announces itself as now Independent, the following clear review of the Navy question, and of the Senate's action is of particular interest and value:

The Senate and Elections.

(*Ottawa Citizen*, May 4th.)

The debate in the party press regarding the probability of a general election this year has resolved itself into the statement by the one side that the other is taking advantage of the War situation to secure a snap verdict, and on the other a reiterated argument that the opposition is afraid to face the electors because of its alleged lack of enthusiasm for the conflict. Obviously neither of these reasons can hold the whole truth. There must, for example, be an explanation for the appeal of the Government to the electors, should such be contemplated. It might be interesting to learn in specific terms just what this reason is. One minister, referred to by the press of his own party as the minister of elections, has made the only attempt to date to justify an election in his declaration that the Senate stands in the way of constructive government measures and that the voters should be given an opportunity to decide the fate of the upper chamber. Yet, on analysis, the minister seems to be taking a very radical step if we consider the offences charged against the Senate in the past. The great argument against the red chamber from the administration viewpoint is its rejection of the naval policy of the Government, but if it is to be accepted that this is the cause or explanation or reason of the probable election it would appear that the administration has brooded almost too long over its wrongs. The proper time for an appeal to the country over this issue would seem to have been immediately after the Senate's rejection of the naval measure.

Still, was not the Senate in its action but exercising its legitimate functions? And can a legislative body be reasonably accused of ulterior motives or of disloyalty, or any of the other heinous offences against the political commandments in performing its duty, as it sees it, within its proper sphere?

Surely not. That the Senate's action was perhaps partisan is not really the point. And the history of Canada's naval measures might profitably be recalled at this time, if a clear idea of what most likely led to the Senate's rejection is to be formed. It should not be forgotten that originally the Conservatives and the Liberals were of one mind on Canada's naval policy—that is, both were of opinion that the Dominion should do something to assume her share of empire defence and responsibility. Sir Wilfrid Laurier agreed to the suggestions of Sir George Foster and Sir Robert Borden in the early days of our naval plan and in 1909 the measure, a government bill, was supported by the Conservative opposition. At this time there arose the Nationalist movement in Quebec, which opposed the Laurier measure and numbered among its leaders the late Hon. Mr. Monk, a former cabinet minister; Hon. Mr. Blondin, a present cabinet minister; Mr. Sevigny, now speaker of the House of Commons, and Mr. Bourassa. The Nationalist opposition developed rapidly and in 1910 Sir Robert Borden, although not allied with the Nationalists, changed his attitude and opposed the measure. The Drummond-Arthabaska election sounded the death knell of the Liberals in Quebec, an event brought about by the strength of the Nationalist party, and in 1911 the Government was defeated.

On assuming power in 1911 Sir Robert Borden undertook a new policy in regard to the naval situation. The Liberal plan of constructing Canadian warships was thrown over, the cadet ships were dismantled and the whole plan of participating in empire defence was abandoned for nearly a year. When, finally, the Government measure—a contribution of funds to the Imperial Navy—reached the upper House it was rejected. This perhaps was a partisan action but obviously the Senate was within its rights. The measure was not a unanimous one. It was therefore not as satisfactory, apparently, as the Laurier measure. On the whole, the Senate was justified in regarding it as a measure which did not fully represent public opinion. But no matter what the causes of its action the upper chamber was merely exercising its constitutional right to either accept or reject certain bills.

To come forward now and base a plea for a general election on the action of the Senate in casting out certain measures is not calculated to inspire the voters with belief in a regard for constitutional procedure on the part of the administration. A proposal to reform the Senate in any event is not so urgent that an election must be called at this stage of our national existence. The Senate has been in operation, displeasing both sides of the Commons impartially, since Confederation. If it is to be reformed or abolished let the reasons therefore be made clear and let the advocates of abolition or reformation go to the country, if they must, on constitutional grounds and not on the plea that the Senate must be punished because it did not obey the particular party in power in the Commons for the time being.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

1915.
April.
- 1 **MANITOBA LEGISLATURE PROROGUES.** Premier Roblin announced **ROYAL COMMISSION** to investigate Opposition charges of graft in construction of new Parliament buildings.
- 3 **WEST HASTINGS, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Belleville, nominate **ALD. PLATT** of Belleville.
- 3 **WEST YORK, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** organize **WEST YORK REFORM ASSOCIATION,** elect officers, etc.
- 5 **CARLETON and VICTORIA, (N.B.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Andover, unanimously nominate **FRANK B. CARVELL, M.P.,** sitting member for Carleton, to contest new riding.
- 5 **LENNOX and ADDINGTON, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Napanee, nominate **E. W. GRANGE** of Ottawa.
- 7 **RUSSELL, (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES,** in convention at Vars, nominate **DUNCAN CASSELMAN** of Merkleby.
- 7 **WRIGHT, (Que.) LIBERALS,** mass meeting at Hull, preliminary to organization for election campaign.
- 7 **MAPLE CREEK, (Sask.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Shaunavon, nominate **W. J. GREENE** of Gull Lake.
- 8 **ONTARIO LEGISLATURE PROROGUES.**
- 8 **CENTRE TORONTO and SOUTH TORONTO CONSERVATIVES,** annual meeting, election of officers, etc.
- 8 **RED DEER, (Alta.) CONSERVATIVES,** in convention at Red Deer, nominate **JOHN DAY** of Willowdale.
- 8 **GASPE, (Que.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Percé, nominate **HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX.**
- 9 **SOUTH PERTH, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Mitchell, nominate **WILLIAM FORRESTER** of Mitchell.
- 10 **EAST MIDDLESEX, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** in convention at London, nominate **JAMES MURPHY** of Westminister Township.
- 10 **EAST ELGIN, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Aylmer, Ont., nominate **REV. W. G. CHARLTON** of Aylmer. Election of officers, etc. Convention addressed by **Duncan Ross, M.P.,** for West Middlesex and **A. B. McCoig, M.P.,** for West Kent.
- 14 **NEEPAWA, (Man.) (new riding) LIBERALS,** in convention at Gladstone, nominate **PETER BROADFOOT** of Gladstone.
- 14 **NIPISSING, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Sturgeon Falls, nominate **A. J. YOUNG** of North Bay.
- 16 **NORTH PERTH, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Milverton, nominate **DR. J. P. RANKIN,** ex-M.P. of Stratford. Convention addressed by **Hon. G. P. Graham** and **Mr. F. F. Pardee, M.P.**
- 16 **PRINCE EDWARD, (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES,** in convention at Picton, nominate **B. R. HEPBURN, M.P.** of Picton.
- 16 **CALGARY, (Alta.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Calgary, nominate **J. A. IRVINE** for **WEST CALGARY** and **CLIFFORD B. REILLY** for **EAST CALGARY.**
- 17 **ALBERTA LEGISLATURE PROROGUES.**
- 17 **INDEPENDENT JEWISH ELECTORS OF CARTIER, (Que.)** nominate **H. A. WOLFE** as Independent Federal candidate for Cartier.
- 18 **WILFRID PAQUETTE,** Montreal, announces his candidature on **LABOR** ticket for new county of **MAISONNEUVE, Que.**
- 20 **GUYSBOROUGH and ANTIGONISH, (united) CONSERVATIVES,** in convention at Guysborough, nominate **G. A. ROWLINGS** of Sydney, N.S.
- 21 **TORONTO REFORM ASSOCIATION,** general meeting for reorganization, election of officers, etc.
- 22 **FORT WILLIAM and RAINY RIVER, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Fort Frances, nominate **DR. J. MANION** of Fort William, at present on active service in France.
- 22 **LIBERAL RALLY** at Charlottetown, P.E.I., addressed by the candidates for Queens County, **A. B. WARBURTON, K.C.** and **J. E. SINCLAIR** and others.
- 23 **SELKIRK, (Man.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Stonewall, nominate **JOHN E. ADAMSON** of Winnipeg.
- 23 **NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATURE PROROGUES.**
- 24 **PEEL, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Bampton, nominate **BEN PETCH,** replacing **William Lowe,** retired on account of ill health. Convention addressed by **HON. G. P. GRAHAM.**

1915.
April.
- 24 **LINCOLN, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** in convention at St. Catharines, nominate **CAPT. E. J. LOVELACE.** Election of officers, etc.
- 24 **PRINCE COUNTY, (P.E.I.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Summerside, nominate **HON. JOHN RICHARDS, M.L.A.**
- 25 **RICHELIEU, (Que.) CONSERVATIVES,** in convention at St. Victoire, nominate **E. A. D. MORGAN.**
- 26 **GOVERNMENT** announces appointment of **COMMISSION FOR WAR PURCHASES,** **Hon. A. E. Kemp,** Conservative member for Toronto East, **H. Laporte** of Montreal and **Geo. F. Galt** of Winnipeg.
- 26 **SOUTH OXFORD, (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES,** in convention at Mount Elgin, nominate **DONALD SUTHERLAND, M.P.,** of Ingersoll.
- 27 **KINGSTON, (Ont.) LIBERALS, (Kingston Reform Association),** annual meeting, election of officers, etc.
- 27 **CARLETON, (Ont.) CONSERVATIVE EXECUTIVE** considering nomination and announced refusal of **W. F. GARLAND, M.P.** to resign his seat, decides to ask **Sir Robert Borden** as to **Mr. Garland's** standing.
- 27 **RESIGNATION OF A. DeWITT FOSTER, M.P.** for **KINGS, N.S.,** involved in horse buying scandals in Nova Scotia, is announced at Ottawa.
- 28 **MOOSE JAW, (Sask.) LIBERALS,** public meeting addressed by **W. E. KNOWLES, M.P. (Moose Jaw), W. M. MARTIN, M.P. (Regina),** and others, passed resolution endorsing **W. E. Knowles, M.P.**
- 29 **NORTH RENFREW, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Pembroke, nominate **JAMES F. MUNRO** of Pembroke.
- 29 **SOUTH BRUCE, (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES,** in convention at Formosa, nominate **JOHN PURVIS** of Holyrood.
- 30 **EAST LAMBTON, (Ont.) LIBERALS,** in convention at Alvinston, nominate **J. H. PICKERING** of Forest.
- 30 **DAUPHIN, (Man.) CONSERVATIVES** in convention at Dauphin, nominate **J. L. BOWMAN.**

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

1915.
April.
- 1 **VOTES FOR SOLDIERS BILL,** first reading—**SUPPLY**—Dept. of Interior. Debate on **St. Peter's Indian Reserve.** **ELECTIONS ACT AMENDMENTS** in Committee.
- 2 Good Friday.
- 3 **COMMONS REPRESENTATION ACT,** amendments—**SUPPLY,** Department of Trade and Commerce. Debate on **Storage and Shipment of grain;** Department of Public Works.
- 5 **SUPREME COURT ACT.** Amendment providing for hearing of election appeals from provinces introduced—**ADULTERATION ACT** amendment passed—**COMMONS REPRESENTATION** amendment bill passed—**CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS ACT** amendment in Committee—**SUPPLY,** Department of Public Works.
- 6 **SUPREME COURT ACT** amendment bill passed—**SUPPLY,** Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works.
- 7 **NATIONAL TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAY,** amendment bill in Committee providing for Government operating **Lake Superior Section**—**ELECTIONS ACT** amendment passed—**SUPPLY,** Department of Public Works.
- 8 **Sir Wilfrid Laurier, (privilege),** denounces Conservative pamphlet containing personal attack—**ROYAL ASSENT** to Bills passed—Debate on **VOTES FOR SOLDIERS BILL**—third reading of **National Transcontinental Railway Act** amendment.
- 9 **VOTES FOR SOLDIERS,** debate on Bill in Committee—**SUPPLY**—Post Office Department, Department of Naval Service, Fisheries, Printing, Department of Mines.
- 10 Joint address to Imperial Parliament for **AMENDMENT OF B.N.A. ACT** re **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND** representation and **SENATE REPRESENTATION**—**VOTES FOR SOLDIERS**—debate continued. Premier **Borden's** Statement re **MILITARY PREPARATIONS.**
- 12 **SUPPLY BILL** passed—report of **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BOOTS** received—discussion.
- 13 **VOTES FOR SOLDIERS,** debate continued—**KINGSTON PENITENTIARY**—discussion.
- 14 **VOTES FOR SOLDIERS** bill passed—**T. R. FERGUSON** REPORT on Investigation of Department of Interior.
- 15 **PREMIER BORDEN**—special speech on report of **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS** Committee on **WAR CONTRACTS**—reply by **SIR WILFRID LAURIER**—Senate amendment to **VOTES FOR SOLDIERS BILL** accepted. **PROROGATION.**

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