

THE CANADIAN LIBERAL MONTHLY

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OTTAWA, JUNE 1917.

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THE CANADIAN LIBERAL MONTHLY
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COALITION AND CONSCRIPTION.

THE negotiations in respect to the formation of a coalition cabinet which originated in the proposition of the prime minister to the leader of the opposition to take part in the formation of a cabinet to be composed of an equal representation of members from the respective parties (outside of course, the prime minister) were definitely disposed of in the letter addressed to Sir Robert Borden by Sir Wilfrid Laurier under date of June 6th. This communication so comprehensively epitomizes the whole of the negotiations that it is of instructive value and, in view of what has preceded it and may follow it, worthy of reproduction:

Ottawa, June 6, 1917.

Dear Sir Robert:

On the 12th of May you asked me to meet you on the following day, which I did. After explaining fully the conditions of the war in the light of knowledge acquired during your recent visit to Great Britain you stated the reasons which had led you to the conclusion that compulsory service was necessary, and you explained to me the provisions of the military service bill.

You then proposed the formation of a coalition Government upon the basis that, outside of the Prime Minister, each of the two political parties should have an equal representation in the Cabinet, and you emphasized the importance of avoiding, if possible, an election during the war.

I told you at once that if my co-operation was desired, I regretted that I had not been invited before you had announced a policy of compulsory service, as I dreaded very serious difficulties if a conscription law was passed by the present Parliament. You rejoined that you had thought it preferable to invite me after the policy had been enunciated rather than before.

At an interview which took place on Tuesday, the 29th of May, you suggested to me that you thought it necessary to hold a caucus of your supporters, but desired to consult me before doing so. I suggested to you that to hold a caucus pending negotiations would not likely tend towards the objects to be attained. At the same time I suggested that as I wanted to consult particularly Sir Lomer Gouin and some other friends I would like to have a clear statement in writing of your proposal, which you formulated as follows:

That a coalition Government should be formed:

That the military service bill should be passed:

That a pledge should be given not to enforce it until after a general election;

That Parliament should be dissolved and the coalition Government should seek a mandate from the people.

At the conference on Friday, the 1st of June, and again on Monday, the 4th, the possible personnel of a coalition Government was considered. Some not insuperable difficulties in that personnel were anticipated, and the subject was not concluded. On Wednesday, the 6th of June, the final conference took place, at which I announced that I had not seen my way clear to join the Government on the terms proposed. I asked you at the same time if conscription was the only basis to which you replied in the affirmative.

At this and previous interviews, I always stated to you that whenever conscription was adopted, after a consultation of the people, I would certainly urge in every possible way obedience to the law.

Believe me, yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

The reply of the prime minister in fairness to all sides, should also be reproduced. Sir Robert Borden's letter reads as follows:

Dear Sir Wilfrid Laurier:—

I beg to acknowledge your letter of yesterday in which you set forth the substance of recent negotiations respecting the formation of a coalition Government. At our first interview you had expressed the opinion that compulsory service should not be enforced until it had been approved by a referendum or at a general election. It was for this reason that I submitted the further proposal on the 29th of May, which is described in the fourth paragraph of your letter.

I agree that it was the policy of compulsory service which, in your judgment, made it impossible for you to join a coalition Government. I was convinced that compulsory service was necessary, and must be included in the policy of the proposed coalition. You, on the other hand, decided that you could not accept such a policy, and that you could not join a Government which adopted it.

Yours faithfully,

R. L. Borden.

While the letter of Sir Wilfrid gives a general idea of the course of the negotiations, it is significant that it does not deal with details, which is to be expected, considering the confidential nature of the conferences between the two leaders. Yet Sir Wilfrid's letter hints at terms other than those dealing with the subject matter of the communications.

Hon. Robert Rogers.

The reference to the uncompleted proposals concerning the suggested personnel of the new administration is interesting in view of the well known friendship between the prime minister and the discredited minister of public works, who has since temporarily relinquished his portfolio but who continues to use his office in the Department and also draws his salary.

Is it not a reasonable conjecture that the honored leader of the opposition could not see his way clear to becoming associated with or even sanctioning with his approval, an administration which contemplated retaining the services of Hon. Robert Rogers? And is it not at least open to conjecture that the prime minister was unable to eliminate the minister of public works even at the risk of wrecking the proposed coalition? Subsequent events have lent color to these possibilities. The minister of public works, feeling himself slipping, in view of the disclosures of Mr. Justice Galt, now constituting a most formidable indictment against him, has demanded a royal commission to clear himself of these serious accusations—a request which was complied with by the prime minister, as was to be expected, and the personnel of the tribunal decided upon after due deliberation (by the premier and his cabinet). Is it not obvious that it would scarcely have been possible for the premier to have so easily disposed of the presence of the minister of public works in the way which Sir Wilfrid, in all likelihood, suggested—viz., by informing him that his services were not required in a coalition cabinet needing the confidence and respect of the people of Canada in general?

The Nationalists.

As regards the presence of the three Nationalist

members of the cabinet—the tangible evidences of the “**Unholy Alliance**” of 1911—it is clear that a coalition government could not hope to retain these opponents of Empire connection and Empire aid. Yet Sir Robert could not safely have given these gentlemen their conge. To them and their supporters in Quebec, the present administration owes its existence and its safety as a government. Sir Wilfrid, however, must have been reminded of the possible consequences of the political action of Quebec in the event of the Nationalists being retained in the new government. Such a step would have meant throwing Quebec into the arms of Bourassa and his disciples, the former and present friends of the more fortunate, or better rewarded, representatives of the Nationalist party now sitting about the council table with Sir Robert Borden discussing problems of Empire aid and defence. Here, then was another potent and potential cause of disagreement. Sir Robert must have stood by his Nationalist allies; Sir Wilfrid must have demanded their dismissal as consistent with the object of the coalition.

The Railway Situation.

Finally, there are unpleasant rumors of the interference of certain interests in the suggestion of a coalition cabinet. It is said that conscription was neither the sole nor even the main object of a blending

of the two parties at this time. Be that as it may, and there is much being said both for and against the authenticity of such a rumor, the fact remains that Sir Wilfrid would have been justified in demanding some definite announcement of policy on the present railway situation in the Dominion before agreeing to endorse a coalition administration.

The undoubted strong and growing opposition to conscription without a reference to the people, has already had its effect on the action of the premier. But Sir Robert is in a quandary. He realizes that he must put through his measure to save his face, but enforcing it is an altogether different proposition. The probable course of the premier will be the introduction and passing of the conscription measure, and its prompt shelving until a more propitious time for its utilization for party purposes. Just what will happen nobody knows. Sir Robert has suggested a general election as a means of settling the whole question. His evident desire to “wave the flag” would almost lead us to believe that an election is pending.

The bill extending the life of the present parliament may also be pressed and passed by the government. It then might be endorsed by the British parliament over the heads of the people of this country and the Borden administration continued in office. At best, is the prospect pleasing to the people of the Dominion?

QUEBEC AND RECRUITING.

We reproduce herewith an extract from a memorandum which has been received from a gentleman who recently visited England, but who is at present in Canada. This memorandum contains some most startling facts in regard to the British born and, incidentally, recruiting in Quebec.

We have taken the trouble to verify these figures and can state without fear of contradiction that they are correct in every particular and can be so proven by referring to the Census Volumes of 1911. The extract from the memorandum is as follows:

“I was given in London, by a General, high in position in the British forces, filling an important post in the War Office, a bit of information that caused me furiously to think. He said that the enlistment of British born in the Canadian Forces amounted to 252%. That sounds like a ridiculous anomaly, or an almost incredible exaggeration. The way he explained it was that the total number of British born in the ranks of our Army, is two and one half times the number of British born recruits who were before enlistment resident in Canada, the surprising surplus being made up of thousands of Britons who flocked into this country from the U. S., and many more, who, attracted by a higher rate of pay hurried back here from England to enlist in the Colonial force.”

“It appears to be contrary to the policy of the Government to give out any definite figures, and that policy may be wise; but for

my part I am strongly of the opinion that a definite statement of the actual number of British born in our forces would firmly establish the fact that the Province of Quebec has in the matter of enlistment, done her duty as fully, as eagerly and as loyally as any Province in the Dominion.”

“Every man of Canadian birth must admit that the British-born have rallied to the colours in astonishing numbers, and the only reason—I must emphasize this—absolutely the only reason the other Provinces have out-distanced us in recruiting is because they have an enormously greater proportion of British-born citizens. Consider for a moment these figures:”

	British Born (born in British Islands.	Percentage to Native Born.
Quebec.....	68,000	3.7
Ontario.....	349,000	17.
Manitoba.....	91,000	34.
Saskatchewan.....	77,000	30.
Alberta.....	66,000	40.
British Columbia.....	107,000	63.

“As every one knows the North-West is a country of young men—an even greater proportion of the British-born belong to that class—and I may add, what may perhaps be news to many, that Ontario is much better off in

young men than is Quebec."

"Proportion of males between the ages of 20 and 40, to the total male population:"

Quebec.....	29.%
Ontario.....	36.
Manitoba.....	36.
Saskatchewan.....	44.
Alberta.....	44.
British Columbia.....	50.

"There is still a third set of figures that must also be taken into consideration, that is, the excess of males over females."

Quebec.....	20,000
Ontario.....	75,000
Manitoba.....	45,000
Saskatchewan.....	91,000
Alberta.....	73,000
British Columbia.....	110,000

"We have there three direct, and to my mind, illuminating explanations of the greater success that has met the efforts of the Recruiting Sergeant in the Western Provinces. It must not be thought, however, that I am making a defense of Native Canadian enlist-

THE VISIT TO OTTAWA OF THE RT. HON. A. J. BALFOUR AND THE HON. R. VIVIANI.

TWO notable events have occurred during the last month, namely, the visit to Ottawa of the Right Hon. Mr. Balfour, Foreign Secretary in the Second Coalition Government of Great Britain, and the Hon. R. Viviani, Minister of Justice in the French Cabinet, each of whom addressed a joint Session of the House of Commons and Senate on May 28th, and on May 12th, 1917, respectively.

The Hon. R. Viviani who heads the French War Council which has recently met in Washington, is Minister of Justice in the French Cabinet. He is a former Premier of France and held that office when war broke out in 1914. He wields a big influence in his native country through his connection with the Socialist party through which he first attained office. He was born in Algeria in 1862, took office in 1906 and held his Portfolio for four first years. His wonderful eloquence following the outbreak of hostilities in 1914 did much to arouse France to superhuman efforts in repelling the invader. Viviani has frequently been spoken of as the greatest living orator.

The Right Hon. Arthur James Balfour is Foreign Secretary in the Second Coalition Government of which Mr. Lloyd George is Premier. In the First Coalition Government, under Mr. Asquith, Mr. Balfour was First Lord of the Admiralty. He is a strong free trader, and has been for years a prominent figure in the political life of Great Britain. In 1891 and 1892 he was the Unionist Leader in the House of Commons, England, and First Lord of the Treasury. On the defeat of the Government, in 1892, he became Leader of the Opposition. He was Prime Minister of England from 1902 to 1905 and First Lord of the Treasury and Leader of the

ment as a whole. It is true that the Canadian born throughout the whole Dominion have fallen far short of the standard met by the British born. The reasons are of course plain, but they do not concern me at this juncture. My point is that no Canadian born citizen of any Province whatever, of any rank however high, of any importance however great, has the least right to criticize the Province of Quebec, as to pretend that we have not enlisted a quota as great—or even greater—than any other group of native Canadians."

From the Canada Year Book, 1915, p. 86, we find that according to the census of 1911, the male population of Canada 18 to 45 years of age is as follows:

Canada	Canadian Born	British Born	Foreign Born
1,720,070			
Prince Edward Island.....	1,109,383	306,377	304,310
Nova Scotia.....	16,592	157	119
New Brunswick.....	85,909	8,437	4,147
Quebec.....	64,188	2,317	2,541
Ontario.....	341,783	23,066	26,048
Manitoba.....	410,896	106,997	64,353
Saskatchewan.....	49,868	39,806	33,088
Alberta.....	61,193	38,871	58,843
British Columbia.....	37,446	31,954	53,515
	41,508	54,718	62,046

House of Commons from 1895 to 1906.

Any person desiring a copy of Hansard containing the speeches of either or both of these Honourable gentlemen can secure the same by applying to the office of the Canadian Liberal Monthly.

NORTH BAY—LIBERAL CONFERENCE.

THE Liberals in the Federal and Provincial Ridings in the great area comprised in the Districts of Algoma, Sudbury, Nipissing and Temiscaming, assembled in a largely attended Conference at North Bay on May 16th.

Before the meeting convened the local Women's Liberal Association was addressed by N. W. Rowell, K.C., M.P.P., and Mr. Rowell also addressed a large audience on a non-political subject under the auspices of the North Bay Canadian Club at a luncheon attended by visitors and citizens generally.

The Conference proceedings opened at 10.30 a.m. Hon. Geo. P. Graham, M.P., was elected chairman and Z. Mageau, M.P.P., vice-chairman. A. J. Young, Liberal Candidate for the House of Commons delivered an address on general political topics. A committee was appointed, composed of two men from each provincial riding to draft resolutions and after some general discussion the Conference adjourned to meet at 2 p.m. There was not an idle second from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. and of the twelve resolutions adopted, nine of them dealt solely with matters pertaining to the condition of affairs in the districts represented. There were many speakers, but it was noted that no one trespassed upon time. The delegates knew what they wanted to say and they said it. From the viewpoint of discussion it was the best of the conferences to date.

In the evening, a successful banquet was held, the chief speakers from a distance being Hon. R. Lemieux, K.C., M.P., Hon. Geo. P. Graham, M.P., and N. W. Rowell, K.C., M.P.P.

TARIFF REDUCTION

ONCE again the Liberal Party in the House of Commons have placed themselves on record as favouring a reduction of the Tariff by moving the following resolution:

"In the opinion of this House it would be in the public interest if the Customs Tariff Act were so amended as to provide:

1. That wheat, wheat flour, and all other products of wheat be placed upon the free list.

2. That farm implements and machinery, farm tractors, mining, flour and saw-mill machinery and repairs for same, rough and partly dressed lumber, illuminating, lubricating and fuel oils, cement and fertilizers be added to the free list.

3. That staple foods and food products (other than wheat flour), domestic animals and foods therefor, be admitted into Canada free of duty when coming from and being the product of any country admitting like Canadian articles into such country free of duty.

4. That substantial reductions be made in the general tariff on all articles imported into Canada, excepting luxuries.

5. That the British Preference be increased to fifty per cent of the general tariff."

This resolution was moved on May 23rd, 1917, by the Hon. Frank Oliver, Ex-minister of the Interior in the Liberal Government, and seconded by Mr. F. B. Carvell, M.P. for Carleton, N.B.

The Members of the Conservative Party to a man registered their vote against the resolution and in order that our readers may fully appreciate and understand just who voted for and who voted against the resolution we quote herewith the division as recorded in the House of Commons on May 29th, 1917, and which will be found on pages 1871 and 1872 of the Unrevised Hansard:

Those voting in favour of Mr. Oliver's Motion to place the above mentioned articles on the Free List were:

Messrs.	
Bourassa,	McCraney,
(M.P. for Levis, Que.)	McKenzie,
Buchanan,	Marcil (Bonaventure),
Clark (Red Deer),	Marcile (Bagot),
Copp,	Michaud,
Demers,	Molloy,
Devlin,	Murphy,
Ethier,	Oliver,
Fortier,	Pacaud,
Gauthier,	Papineau
(St. Hyacinthe).	Power,
German,	Proulx,
Graham,	Ross,
Kay,	Sinclair,
Knowles,	Tobin,
Lafortune,	Truax,
Lapointe,	Turgeon,
(Kamouraska),	Turriff,
Lemieux,	Verville,
MacNutt,	Wilson (Laval).
McCoig,	Total 38

The following opposed Mr. Oliver's Motion and consequently registered their vote against a Reduc-

tion of the Tariff:

Messrs.	
Ames (Sir Herbert),	Marshall,
Armstrong (Lambton),	Meighen,
Armstrong (York O.)	Merner,
Arthurs,	Morphy,
Ball,	Morris,
Barnard,	Morrison,
Bennett (Calgary)	Nickel,
Bennett (Simcoe),	Northrup,
Best,	Paquet,
Blain,	Patenaude,
Borden (Sir Robert),	Paul,
Bowman,	Rainville,
Boyce,	Reid,
Brabazon,	Robidoux,
Burnham,	Roche,
Clark (Bruce).	Rogers,
Clarke (Wellington).	Schaffner,
Clements,	Scott,
Cochrane,	Sevigny,
Crothers,	Shepherd,
Doherty,	Smith,
Donaldson,	Steele,
Edwards,	Stevens.
Elliott,	Stewart (Hamilton),
Fisher,	Stewart (Lunenburg),
Foster (Sir George),	Sutherland,
Fripp,	Thornton,
Girard,	Webster,
Green,	Weichel,
Henderson,	White (Sir Thomas),
Lalor,	Wilson (Wentworth),
Macdonnell,	Wright.
Maclean (York O.)	Total 65

The following members were paired and consequently could not vote but it is certain that the Liberals would all have voted for the resolution and the Conservatives against it, had they not been paired. In fact the following Liberal Members, by reason of being paired, could not vote but arose in their seats in the House of Commons and declared themselves in favour of Mr. Oliver's Motion: Dr. Pugsley, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Carvell, Mr. Sequin and Mr. MacMillan.

Pairs

Conservatives:	Liberals:
Achim,	Brouillard,
Barette,	Seguin,
Burrell,	Douglas,
Bradbury,	Cruise,
Blondin,	Bickerdike,
Chabot,	Beland,
Davidson,	Carroll,
Descarries,	Lanctot,
Forget (Sir Rodolphe)	Martin (Montreal),
Glass,	Nesbitt,
Hartt,	Thomson (Qu'Appelle)
Hepburn,	Guthrie,
Kemp,	Robb,
Lewis,	Clarke (Essex),
Middlebro,	Kyte,
Munson,	Boyer,
Mondou,	Gauvreau,
McLeod,	Carvell,
Stanfield,	Macdonald,
Tremain,	Chisholm.

We quote herewith some extracts from speeches delivered in the House at the time the above resolution was being discussed:

Hon. Frank Oliver stated:

Customs Revenues Increasing.

"In presuming to discuss the Budget proposals laid before the House by the Minister of Finance, I feel that the outstanding fact is that the revenues during the past

year are so very much greater than our revenues have been at any other period in the history of the country. The revenue raised during the year ended March 31, 1917, was \$232,000,000, an increase of \$60,000,000 over the revenue of the previous year and of \$100,000,000 over the revenue of the year preceding last year; that is \$100,000,000 more than was ever before collected from the people of Canada at any time in our history excepting last year, and it was \$60,000,000 more. This is a sufficiently startling fact to warrant very close and careful consideration. If this enormous increase in the national revenue came in the ordinary way as the result of improved trade and increased development, then it would certainly be a matter for very great congratulation. If we had doubled our development as we have doubled our taxation, then as a country we certainly should be congratulated; we should certainly congratulate ourselves; but if we have doubled our taxation without increasing our development, then I am of the opinion that the circumstances call for very serious consideration and for anything but congratulation. As a matter of fact, at the present time, if we look through our cities, either in the East or in the West, there is no evidence of develop-

ment; the situation is entirely the contrary. If we ask our working people—and it is the condition of the workingmen that is the real index of the prosperity of the country—we find from end to end of the Dominion no complaint as to the conditions prevailing at the present time. If we look at our basic industries of fishing, lumbering, mining, agriculture, I have not seen in the returns the evidence of that increased development that, if it formed the basis of increased revenue, would be a matter for congratulation. If the conditions which I have set before the House are facts, it is desirable that we should enquire how it is that we have taken from the people such an enormous amount of taxation when there has not been amongst those people any corresponding development of the basic industries of the country.

“The answer is that this enormous revenue has been possible because of the absolutely abnormal conditions, conditions brought about by the war, and which must cease with the ending of the war, and the hope of every one is that those conditions will cease at the earliest possible moment. If we have not increased our taxing power as the result of that development and the expansion of enterprise, when the happy day of peace comes

The reward for accumulating FOOD, is



A Knighthood for the Food King, Sir Joseph Flavelle?

we shall necessarily find ourselves with a burden of taxation which we shall have no adequate means of bearing.

Can the People carry the Burden?

"But the important thing is the financial condition of the country at large, whether the people of this country are in a position to carry the burdens that are now being imposed on them. Even more important is the question whether they will be able to carry the burdens that we know beyond question must be imposed upon them in the future.

Basic Industries Not Expanding.

"The war has enhanced the price of our products, and has caused the establishment within our borders of tremendous industries engaged in the manufacture of munitions. These industries have given high wages to a number of our people, and have made possible the raising of this large amount of revenue. But if our basic industries of agriculture, mining, lumbering and fishing are not expanding, or if, as a matter of fact, their expansion is being restricted and they are being dwarfed by reason of the method of financing our country, then it is our business to draw attention to that fact and to attempt to secure as far, as possible a change that will tend to permit, if not to encourage, the development of those basic industries upon which we must depend for our national revenues and for our standing as a state when the war is over, and it is to that point I desire to direct the attention of the House and of the Minister of Finance.

Comparing Systems of Taxation.

"In comparing the system of taxation in Canada with the system in Great Britain, I find that in Great Britain, which shows an equally enormous increase in national revenue during the past year, 60 per cent of the total revenue of the United Kingdom was derived from the taxation of excess profits and the taxation of income and property, and only 22 per cent of the total was derived from customs and excise. In Canada we have raised 6½ per cent of our total revenue from the taxation of excess profits. We have taken not a cent from income or property, and we have taken 69 per cent from customs and excise. I therefore arrive at this conclusion. If we are to judge by the experience of Great Britain we are not levying our taxation to the best advantage. We are taking too much of our taxation from customs and not enough from excess profits. I conclude that Great Britain is able to do as she is doing, as she has done and as she will do in the future, very largely because of her system of getting the bulk of her taxation from wealth and profits incidental to the war, and not going to the poorer people until afterwards, whereas in Canada, 69 per cent of our \$232,000,000 comes from customs and excise, and 6½ per cent from excess profits.

Only 6½ per cent of revenue from War Profits.

"I am told that we have had \$1,500,000,000 worth of war orders in Canada since the war began. We must allow also for the enhancement of the value of our products. If out of this enormous increase in the possibilities of wealth-production in our country we are able to derive only 6½ per cent of our total burden of taxation, I am compelled to say that the burden of taxation in Canada is absolutely inequitably distributed, and that it is in large measure because of that inequitable distribution of the burden of taxation that we find that lack of development of our basic industries of which so much has been said. If we do not develop these basic industries during the war, I tremble to think what the financial condition of Canada will be when the enormous war contracts are cut off and we are compelled to depend upon our ordinary trade, not only for our ordinary revenue, but for revenues to enable us to bear the enormous burdens that necessarily will rest upon our shoulders by

reason of the war.

Food Taxed.

"In 1914, the year when the war began, we added to our previous burden of taxation special taxes amounting, as estimated by the Finance Minister, to \$14,000,000. These taxes were levied in large measure upon the most intimate necessities of life, sugar and coffee, so that the burden of that taxation rested, in much the largest proportion, upon the shoulders of the poor people. In 1915, the Finance Minister estimated that the increased taxation imposed by him in that year would yield \$35,000,000. Part of it was in the form of direct taxes, and part in the form of a level increase of seven and one-half per cent in customs duties.

"On the whole, we find that in the three years the Finance Minister has increased the tax burden upon the people of Canada, according to his own estimate, to the amount of about \$60,000,000. Strange to say, that is almost the exact amount which he estimates he will be able to pay for war expenditures out of the revenues of this year."

Cost of Living Increases.

"In looking over the Labour Gazette, published by the Department of Labour, I find estimates of the cost of the weekly food supply for a family of five at different times. The estimate has increased from \$6.95 in 1910, to \$10.45 in 1917—in round numbers an increase from \$7 to \$10.50, that is \$3.50, or fifty per cent. If there are a million and a half of families in the Dominion of Canada, this increase would mean that besides the \$60,000,000 of additional taxation that the Government is levying upon the Dominion of Canada, the people are bearing an additional burden of \$275,000,000 in the increased cost of living as compared with 1910.

Poor People Complaining.

"They have to pay the money. The people who are getting the money are not complaining, but the people who are paying it, and there are more people paying it than getting it. For instance, the Davies Packing Company have \$2,800,000 worth of food products in their storage, and the people who buy it have to pay for it. But the Davies people are not complaining.

"I am speaking of the people in the large majority. The statement of the Minister of Finance on increased taxation, and the statement of the Department of Labour on the high cost of living, indicate that the people of Canada are paying approximately \$330,000,000 a year more than they were paying in 1910.

Condition in Western Canada.

"Naturally, Mr. Speaker, being from Western Canada, the conditions as applied to that part of the country appeal more directly than the conditions in other parts. May I be pardoned if I occupy a few minutes of the time of the House in dealing with the conditions there particularly? Whatever may be said of the great natural resources of Canada, its mines, its timber, its fisheries, or whatever else may be counted, it is admitted now that the great resource of Canada upon which the development and the greatness of Canada as it is to be must necessary be, is to be found in the Prairie West. In the thousand miles of fertility lying between the Red River and the Rocky Mountains, and in the development of that fertility and bringing it into a state of productiveness, will Canada find her greatness. So, it is a matter of deep interest to every citizen of Canada, wherever he may live, to know whether development is progressing in that part of the country or not and if it is not, why, and what can or may be done to improve or increase that development.

Land Under Cultivation.

The facts, shortly, are that in the Prairie West, in 1910, according to the Census and Statistics Monthly, there were practically 13,000,000 acres of land

under cultivation. In 1911 there were 16,500,000 acres of land under cultivation, an increase of 3,500,000 acres as compared with 1910. In the year 1912 there were 18,318,000 acres under cultivation, an increase of 1,750,000 acres over 1911, and in 1913 the area under cultivation was 18,398,000 acres, an increase of less than 100,000 acres over the previous year. In 1916 the area under cultivation was 19,910,000 or an increase of 1,500,000 acres over 1912, a period of four years. We have an increase of 3,500,000 from 1910 to 1911, an increase of 1,750,000 acres from 1911 to 1912, and an increase of 1,500,000 from 1912 to 1916. To use a favourite expression of the Minister of Finance, the slackened development in the Northwest synchronizes with the application of his financial policy to the affairs of this country. I am bound to conclude that there is a most intimate connection between the two circumstances.

Farmer not receiving Increased Price of Wheat.

"We have heard a great deal about the price of wheat that prevails at the present time and it is largely understood that the farmers of the Prairie West are practically holding up the rest of the Dominion and the British Empire in the matter of foodstuffs, particularly wheat. The Prairie farmer is supposed to receive \$3 a bushel and the price of flour in the Maritime provinces is, I think, \$15 a barrel as a result. The suggestion is that the Maritime province man is paying \$3 a bushel to the Prairie farmers. As a matter of fact, the wheat crop of last year, except a few million bushels, left the farmers' hands at a maximum price, so I am credibly informed, of about \$1.75 per bushel. That was the utmost he got and it ran from that to possibly \$1.30 or \$1.20—a good price, a price that was satisfactory to the farmer at the time, and he is certainly not complaining about it. Because of that price he is doing everything he can to extend his farming operations. The price of \$3 a bushel for wheat is the price that fixes the cost of a barrel of flour in the Maritime Provinces and the farmers did not get the difference between the \$1.75 and the \$3. That was the result of market manipulation. As a result of market manipulation on the officially estimated amount of 70,000,000 bushels of wheat of last year's crop in dealers hands, not in farmers' hands, and acquired by the dealers at a maximum of \$1.75 a bushel, somebody pays a bonus to somebody of \$70,000,000 and over. Somebody pays a bonus of \$70,000,000 to somebody and the Maritime Province man who has to pay \$15 a barrel for his flour is helping to pay that \$70,000,000.

"Nobody can tell how much grain there was in the farmers' hands at that time. There may have been much or little, but we know what was in the dealers' hands and we know how much the grain appreciated in value. And we know that that appreciation is what fixes the price of flour, and that the farmer does not get it.

Transportation.

"I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Railways, and the Government of this country to the fact that, so far as I know, last season was the first season in the Dominion of Canada, or in the British Empire, when railways simply set the common carriers law of Britain at defiance, to the detriment of the farmers of the West in the price that they received for their produce. In the season of 1915 there was a very large production, and it was not possible for the railroad companies to carry that grain forward as it would be desired. They therefore placed embargoes, so-called, upon the carriage of grain. But these embargoes were of necessity. The embargo of last year, on the other hand, was not an embargo of necessity; it was an embargo of defiance of the rights of the people of Canada, a defiance with the authorization, I believe the active authorization and knowledge of this Government. By no other means could it have been affected. We have in Canada three transcontinental railroads—that is, if the Government has not already torn up the rails of one or two of them. The Transcontinental Railway was built for the sole purpose of providing an all-year-round market for the grain of the western farmer by

giving him an all-rail haul to an open ocean port all the year round. The grain, therefore, should not be held back in interior elevators under the control of professional manipulators, thus depressing the price to the farmer and making possible an increase of the price to the consumer. The interior storage elevators at Moosejaw, Calgary and Saskatoon were used last winter for the express and sole purpose of enabling the manipulation of grain prices. Those who manipulated the grain prices were able to hold quantities of grain in the interior elevators, thus keeping down the price to the farmer while holding the grain against the eastern buyers. I repeat that that was the only purpose that these elevators were used for last winter. There was no shortage of rolling stock for the carrying forward of that grain as it should have been carried forward. No condition warranted the refusal of the railroad companies to carry the farmer's grain to any point that he wanted it carried to. It is the first time in Canada's history that a railroad company has dared to take that position. Certainly no railroad company ever dared to do it under the administration of the preceding government.

Economy Ignored.

"Is it not a time to enter upon a policy of economy in regard to ordinary expenditures such as was never thought of in time of peace? This Government do not seem to know that a war is on or that war conditions have to be met. So long as they can borrow money they are satisfied to spend in any way that is convenient to them. The expenditure of Canada was about \$120,000,000 in 1911, when there was no war, and when the country was enjoying a very high measure of prosperity. In this past year we have spent, if I understood the minister correctly, in the neighbourhood of \$150,000,000 on current and capital expenditure, exclusive of pensions interest on war debt, and war expenditures, that is we have spent nearly \$30,000,000 more on ordinary accounts than we spent in the year 1911. When we spend more in a year when we are facing a war expenditure of nearly \$1,000,000,000 than we spent in a year when we were enjoying the highest prosperity and when a war was absolutely unthought of, I submit that under those circumstances the Government are chargeable with absolute neglect of duty and of recognition of the terrible circumstances in which the country finds itself. And while I urge upon them a policy of economy in the matter of expenditure, I desire to place before the House certain suggestions in regard to a change of tariff policy that, may I hope, will meet the support of our friends on the other side."

Taxation, Immigration and Production.

Mr. Buchanan stated:

"In the West, from which I come, there is a continued demand for relief from some of the burdens of taxation that now exist, and that demand is inspired by a desire to improve the conditions of the farmer of the West and of the western people as a whole. We want to increase production in that country. We want immigration into Western Canada to be increased; we want contentment to exist among the farmers of the western prairies. And we believe that the best way to increase immigration, to develop our resources, and to bring about contentment is to relieve the farmers from some of the burdens of taxation that now exist and to adopt other means of raising our revenue. Efforts have been made by the Government to increase production by taxing the implements of the farmer. Let me quote an instance from the city of Lethbridge. During the present year about 200 tractors were purchased by farmers in that district, usually through agents in Lethbridge. These machines are to be used for the purpose of increasing production at the call of this Government. In their efforts to increase production the farmers had to pay \$60,000 in duties on these two hundred tractors. I say that is unfair to the farmers of Western Canada.

Income Tax.

"I am in favour of an income tax because I believe

that is the fairest method of raising the revenue. Under the present system very many men escape taxation who should not be permitted to do so. During the war we are endeavouring to pay higher taxation but we are not getting at people we should get at and those are the wealthy individuals of this country.

Land Tax.

"I am in agreement also with the agitation in favour of a land tax. We want the lands that are to-day undeveloped in Western Canada developed and we can only have them developed by making the speculators who own them release them at a fair price and not hold them for a large advance. We can force them to release that land by imposing a tax on all undeveloped land.

Fair Taxation.

"We, from the West, come before this House frequently and advocate certain changes in the form of taxation. As a western representative I want to say that I do not want any taxation to be adopted by this country which is unfair to any other part of the country. In the minds of eastern men, on account of their association day in and day out with the industrial life of the East, there is the idea that the East would suffer if in any way industries were affected by a different form of taxation, or if there were greater freedom of trade, or a reduction in the tariff.

Increased Tariff means favours for few, burdens for many.

"Let us abandon the policy of increasing the tariff because it is unfair. It is favouritism for the few, and it is a burden for the many. Let us adopt a tax that will compel the people of this country of moderate and large means to contribute their share to the cost of maintaining the Government of the country. It is my view and I believe it will be the view of this Parliament in a very short time, that we must come to direct taxation in order to meet our obligations. Those of us who have had experience of larger markets in Western Canada know that they have been to our advantage. One thing I would like to see provided for by the Finance Minister is greater accessibility to the markets lying alongside of us. The Government has gone as far as to provide an entry for free wheat into that country, but we want that enlarged because we have found that when we have had an opportunity to enter that market in other cases it has been to the advantage of the western farmers.

No time now for tariff revision downward.

Sir Thomas White stated:

"Now, I come to this amendment. The amendment suggests a revision of the Customs tariff. My hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) acquiesces in that and he says: 'I want a revision now and I want a revision downward.' If there ever was a time in the history of Canada when it was unwise to revise the tariff, it is this present moment. What is the condition? The condition, Mr. Speaker, is that owing to the unsettled values of goods in all foreign countries, it would be absolutely impossible to prepare a customs tariff that would meet the situation at the present time and for a period after the war. A proper revision of the tariff to-day would be an impossible performance, and would lead to the most profound dislocation of business in this country at a time when the first thing we want to see is the dislocation of business. Let, my hon. friend from Edmonton seriously suggests that this Government, in the midst of this war, should revise the tariff.

"If it is unwise to revise the tariff, we need not seriously consider the question of revising the tariff downwards. The tariff was increased in 1915 by 7½ per cent and 5 per cent. In the course of time, I should imagine when the war is over, it will be necessary to revise the tariff. I do not say it should be revised upwards, I do not say it should be revised downwards, but I say it should be revised having regard to the conditions that exist at the time of its revision."

The People Supplied the Money.

Mr Carvell stated:

"The minister says that the Government have placed the finances of Canada in a better position than those of any other country in the world except the United States. He glories in the assertion, which he has made a great many times during the last three weeks, that when the Government wanted money from the Canadian people they were able to get it. When they wanted \$50,000,000 they were offered \$100,000,000; when they wanted \$100,000,000 they were offered \$200,000,000; when they wanted \$150,000,000 they were offered \$60,000,000. He said that he did not believe \$5,000,000 could have been raised by loan in Canada before the war. But he did not tell us that no other Canadian Government had ever tried to raise an internal loan. He did not tell us that during the years from 1867 to 1915 the successive Governments of Canada deliberately and persistently went outside of our country in order to raise money. This matter, was discussed when my hon. friend's predecessor held office, as well as since the present Government came into power.

Interest Rate Increased from Three to Five per cent.

"And how was this wonderful feat accomplished? By raising the interest rate from three per cent to five per cent and then selling bonds cheap enough to give the broker a small commission on the sale of bonds.

"Does he realize that nearly \$100,000,000 were deposited in the Dominion Savings Bank, and much more than \$200,000,000 or \$300,000,000 in the chartered banks at three per cent interest? Does he realize that hundreds of millions of dollars, earning no interest at all, were in the chartered banks, and that there were in Canada securities to the value of hundreds of millions of dollars bearing only 3, 3¼ or 4 per cent interest? Does he realize that the moment he raised the rate of interest to 5 per cent every woman who had money in a savings bank, every investor who had money lying round for which he was not receiving 5 per cent interest, came to the conclusion that by placing their money with the Government at 5 per cent, backed by the security of the Government, they would be making a pretty good trade?"

Tariff has been Revised during War, but upwards.

"My hon. friend says, further, that the tariff should not be revised during a period of war. But it did not bother my hon. friend to revise the tariff in 1914, when he added a few million dollars to the taxes. It did not bother him in 1915, when he raised the tariff 7½ per cent and 5 per cent. It did not bother him a year ago, when his colleague the Minister of Agriculture, wanting a better price for his apples, put 75 cents duty on each barrel of apples coming into Canada, making the farmer of the West pay that much more for his apples than he had ever paid before. It is a simple matter for my hon. friend to revise the tariff upwards, but when he is asked to revise the tariff downwards and relieve the almost impossible burden upon the poor man who is trying to make a living he says that it is impossible to do it until the war is over.

"The minister says that we have raised \$60,000,000 or thereabouts by way of special taxes. It is a very simple matter to raise \$60,000,000 in special taxes when you add 7½ and 5 per cent duty to the price of everything that the people bring into the country.

Little Done to Stimulate Production.

"The Minister of Finance told the House the wonderful things the Government had done in stimulating production, but he failed to tell us the manner in which they had endeavoured to stimulate production. He said they were constantly preaching production and more production. What have they done? Have they done anything towards producing more grain, more food, more cattle? The only thing I know which they have

ever done was done within the last two months, when they put wheat on the free list, but up to the present time there has not been very much result so far as increased production is concerned.

Cement.

"I do not know how many million dollars worth of cement is produced in Canada annually, but I do know that it would be a very great amount. I am very much of the opinion that it must be \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000 worth; that is only an estimate, but the figure must be very, very large. But no matter whether it is \$10, 00,000 or \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000 we are paying the manufacturers of cement in Canada practically 60 cents a barrel more than we should have to pay if we could import cement duty free. If the duty were taken off, the country would lose practically no revenue, but the consumer would be able to buy cement for 60 cents a barrel less.

Canned Vegetables.

"There is another case nearly as bad. It is an article which every man and every woman in this country consumes, and the poorer the man the more he consumes of it. I refer to canned vegetables. Perhaps there is no item of food in the Dominion to-day that plays a bigger

part in the homes of the poor people than the two canned vegetables which are bracketed together in the trade returns, tomatoes and cooked corn. You would hardly believe it, Sir, but last year we received in duty on these two great articles in the diet of the common people the sum of \$6,454 only; in addition to that straight duty, there would be the war tax of 7½ per cent, provided the goods came from any country outside the British Empire, which I presume they did. In this case again, the tariff is so high that we cannot import canned goods into this country. We simply have to pay the canners' combine the price which they ask, and that price is just a fraction of a cent below what the goods cost in any other country plus the duty. The poor man is accordingly compelled to pay to these people, I do not know how many hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars more than he would have to pay if these goods were on the free list, and if they were on the free list the revenue of Canada would only suffer to the extent of \$6,454.

Boots and Shoes.

"I come next to boots and shoes. Why, Sir, you cannot buy a pair of shoes in Canada to-day for your baby at less than \$2 or \$3 a pair, or for your child at less than \$5 or \$6, and you cannot buy a pair for yourself at less than \$8 or \$10. I realize that this is due in some measure to the increased cost of labour and production and to

THE SLEEPING BEAUTIES.



From the Toronto Saturday Night, May 19th, 1917.

war prices; I want to be fair in arguing this question, for if a man is not fair in logic his argument amounts to nothing. We pay 37½ per cent protection on the boots and shoes we buy in Canada. The duty is so great that only a mere bagatelle of the boots and shoes we use in Canada are purchased from outside. I do not know exactly what the consumption would be, but there are about 7,500,000 people in this country, and I think about \$5 a head is a very low estimate for boots and shoes; in fact, I think that is away below the actual figure. But at \$5 a head, we are paying \$240,000,000 a year for boots and shoes, and yet, according to the trade returns, we imported only \$2,120,000 worth, and these would all be shoes of the higher grade, slippers and things of that kind from England, although a large quantity come from the United States. But 90 per cent of the boots and shoes used in Canada are made at home. Under our tariff we are compelled to pay 37½ per cent to the manufacturer of these boots and shoes, and last year we only received in revenue \$775,000, including the 7½ per cent. Just think of it! Only three-quarters of a million dollars of revenue on a consumption of \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 worth of boots and shoes! Yet hon. gentlemen opposite tell us that we have to have this tariff to raise money to carry on the war."

Agricultural Implements.

"Last year we imported altogether, of agricultural implements and parts thereof, everything which you can possibly imagine, including scythes and hand rakes and all the little things used on the farm, only \$1,673,000 worth. I have again no idea how many million dollars worth are consumed in Canada, but there must be a great many millions, tens of millions of dollars worth of farm machinery consumed and yet we imported only \$1,673,000 worth in Canada on which the Government received only \$309,000 in duty, a mere bagatelle. And yet, Sir, we paid from 12 per cent to 17½ per cent and 25 per cent on all these millions and tens of millions of dollars worth of machinery used in Canada.

"Does any man tell me that you must have protection on farm implements in Canada when we are able to sell to the rest of the world from two to three times as much as we import, in addition to manufacturing for our people at home? We sold these goods all over the civilized world except in the United States where the sales were practically nothing we sold them in the Argentine Republic, in Australia, in New Zealand, in Britain and in France, and before the war we sold them in Germany, Austria and Russia. I myself saw Massey-Harris machinery in Germany and in France, and at a fair in Ipswich, in England, I saw their machinery for sale cheaper than you could buy it in Canada. I went there and purposely priced the machines to see. They are selling these goods all over the civilized world in competition with the rest of the world, and they can manufacture for home consumption and compete with and under-sell the rest of the world in the foreign markets, and then they will tell you: We must have protection on these goods; otherwise we will have to close down our factory.

"What is true of farm implements is true of the rest of the items enumerated in the proposed free list contained in this amendment.

Fertilizer.

"Before the war broke out we were buying the best grades of fertilizer—what we call 4, 8 and 10; that means 10 per cent potash—at about \$40 a ton. On account of the duty the price has gone up. To the credit of my hon. friend, I may say that he did not apply the 7½ per cent duty to fertilizers, but a duty of 10 per cent still applies. We cannot successfully grow potatoes without fertilizers. While a few years ago the potato industry was carried on more largely in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, to-day the greatest producers of potatoes in Canada are the people on the St. Lawrence river, in the counties of Rimouski, Gaspé, Temiscouata, Kamouraska, Bonaventure. My hon. friend who sits opposite Mr. Boulay will bear out what I say in this respect. Hundreds of thousands of bushels of the finest potatoes in the world are grown in these districts. But to-day we cannot get fertilizer, containing potash; we are com-

pelled to pay \$55 a ton for fertilizer without potash. In view of the small revenue the minister gets from this source, he is not justified in compelling the producers of potatoes to pay the present duty upon fertilizers.

Automobile.

"The fourth paragraph of the amendment provides for a general reduction of tariff on all articles imported into Canada except luxuries. With that principle I heartily agree. But one article which, in my judgment, has ceased to be a luxury—which, as a matter of fact, has become a real necessity to the farming community—is the automobile.

"I realize that down to a very recent date automobiles were a luxury; and while I think a duty of 42½ per cent is outrageous, still there is no doubt there was a time when that duty was justifiable. The time, however, has now come when in the West and in the East and in all the farming communities of Canada, the people not only want the automobile for the pleasure of the thing, but really demand it and regard it as a necessity on the farms. Probably nothing has made farm life in Canada as pleasant and attractive as has the automobile and also the rural telephone, and I know of no greater pleasure than to see a farmer, after he has done his day's work, take his wife to town in his car and perhaps go to a picture show or a theatre and return home by ten o'clock.

British Preference.

"The last item of this amendment refers to the British preference, and I know that there is nothing in the whole list which is so distasteful to the Minister of Finance as is the proposal to increase the British preference. I do not think my hon. friend feels that way towards it because he has any real objection to trading with Great Britain. I am not charging him with anything like that; I never charge any one with disloyalty, because I think the meanest thing on earth is for one Canadian to say to another: You are disloyal. I am not intimating that for one moment. The minister knows that there is no greater blow to great industries in Canada than the British preference. He knows that the British preference works out, not in one way, but in three ways. He knows that if you increase the British preference to 50 per cent, then any article which can be brought into Canada from Great Britain or any of the Dominions that have the same arrangement, will come in by paying half the duty which the same article will pay if imported from a foreign country, and if the matter would stop there, the minister would not feel so badly about it; but he knows there are two other phases to this question. He knows that if the foreigner wants to bring that same article into Canada he must sell it at a price which, with the duty added, will not make the cost to the consumer any more than the British article will cost with one-half the duty added, and he knows that he will probably derive less revenue unless he has a bigger importation. There is, however, a third phase of the question which is still more important to my hon. friend and to Canada, and that is that the home manufacturer must sell his goods at a price low enough to compete with the article which comes from Great Britain, with one-half of the duty chargeable against it, or with the foreign article cut down in price so as to meet the British preference. Therefore, every time you increase the British preference on an article you make that article cheaper, whether it comes from Great Britain or from a foreign country or if it is manufactured in Canada."

Income Tax.

"I will not go over the question of an income tax, as we have discussed that time and again in this House. I will not discuss the land tax, though personally I believe there is no tax in the world that is so equitable and just. They tried the experiment in the province of Ontario last year, imposing a small tax, about 2 mills only I think—it was a nominal sum any way—and they got more money than they knew what to do with. I am sure that the Minister of Finance by imposing a moderate

land tax could raise half the revenue he now raises from the whole Dominion.

No Thanks to Government for Recruiting.

J. M. Douglas (Strathcona) stated:

"The reduction of the tariff is an idea very dear to the hearts of the people of that part of the country which I represent, and for that reason as well as because it commends itself to my own judgment, I strongly support this amendment. The Minister of Finance this afternoon took great credit to the Government for the raising of 400,000 men and sending them overseas to take part in the war. From my knowledge of the methods of recruiting and equipping the Canadian army, I take exception to the hon. minister's statement. I come from a city, which, I believe, has done more for recruiting according to its population, than any other in the Dominion, and I think the same applies to the province of Alberta as a whole.

Canadian War Loans.

"The Minister of Finance also took a great deal of credit to the Government for the way in which the Canadian war loans have been subscribed. I admit that these domestic loans were a new departure in finance, and the minister is entitled to credit for his acumen in resorting to them. But he must not overlook the fact that there is no investment in Canada which offers equal security and equal return on investment with exemption from war taxation. It would be poor business on the part of any man or woman in Canada who has money to invest not to buy a bond or more as their circumstances permit.

Sugar.

"One particular combine which I have seen in my province is the sugar combine. The sugar refining industry is in the hands practically of three or four firms in Canada. The British Columbia Refining Company operate from Vancouver east as far as Brandon. From there the eastern manufacturers control the price and it is a straight combine price in every city and town between Vancouver and Montreal. The question of value apparently does not enter into the computation at all. Sugar is sold cheaper in Brandon than in Regina and yet it may be supplied from Vancouver. Sugar is sold cheaper in Yorkton than in Edmonton and yet the distance from the shipping point is from 300 to 500 miles greater in the former case than in the latter. The same thing applies with respect to a great many other lines of staple goods which are absolutely required by the people of this country. Yet, the commission which was supposed to deal with questions of this kind and to find a solution, if possible, has done nothing to alleviate conditions and to-day we are confronted with a terrible rise in prices of all food commodities. Prices have gone on increasing until we have reached a stage where it is practically impossible for people to live with any degree of comfort.

Seed to Farmers.

"Another question with regard to which the Government has been derelict in its duty is that of supplying seed to the farmers for the increased production which hon. gentlemen opposite have been advocating. The cultivation of potatoes is a matter of very great importance to the country at the present time. I suppose there is no food product which is in more common use and which is of greater importance to the people of any country than the potato and the importance of a plentiful supply of this commodity is obvious to every one. The Government, through their Minister of Agriculture, or through the commission appointed to investigate the high cost of living, must have known that the supply of seed potatoes was very scarce and that the price was skyrocketing. Yet the Minister of Agriculture did nothing outside of making a few inquiries in the different provinces as to the number of bushels of potatoes which were available.

Additional Duty on Apples.

"Last year a duty was added to a food necessity of the western provinces particularly which is obtained from British Columbia and the western states. I refer to apples. Apples have become a necessity of the prairie provinces. We are not able to grow them ourselves and it is absolutely essential that we should import them. This Government in its wisdom, last year, raised the duty on apples until to-day the duty is 90 cents a barrel. This was done at the request of the growers in British Columbia. I think that is a fair statement.

"What has been the result? I have lived in Western Canada for twenty-two years and I have never yet seen as poor a quality of apples put on the market in Alberta as we had this year and we have never paid as high a price. The argument may be put forth that the apple crop was a failure in Ontario last year and that that was the reason why our apples were higher in the West. As a matter of fact, we do not bring apples from Eastern Canada farther west than Regina or Moosejaw. The apples consumed in Alberta come from British Columbia or from Oregon. In spite of the fact that a duty of 90 cents per barrel was put on apples, importers were compelled to buy from Oregon and Washington quite a large quantity on which a considerable duty was paid.

Duty Collected on Apples.

"In answer to a question I put on the Order Paper I was informed that the total amount of duty collected from the importation of green apples imported into Canada from the United States during the fiscal year ended March, 1917, was \$250,155.90. That was the import duty on apples coming in from the United States. I also asked what was the total amount of duty collected on green apples imported into Canada from the United States at the ports of Calgary and Edmonton respectively during the year ending March, 1917, and I find that in Calgary we paid duty to the amount of \$17,373.60 and in Edmonton to the amount of \$20,038.90. When this duty of 90 cents a barrel was put on it was generally stated, by gentlemen representing British Columbia constituencies, that it was not a duty for revenue.

Agrees with Amendment.

"Upon the amendment introduced by the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver), I want to make a few remarks, even at the risk of repeating many of the arguments that have been so ably advanced by the hon. member for Edmonton and the hon. member for Carleton, N.B. (Mr. Carvell). The subject is so dear to my heart, that I feel it my duty to discuss this question, even at the risk of such repetition. The first clause is placed upon the free list. This policy has been adopted by the present government to a large extent, with the exception of bran, shorts, middlings and other products of wheat.

Farm Implements and Machinery.

"The second clause relates to farm implements and machinery and farm tractors. I have gone into the amount of duty which we have collected on the different lines of farm machinery during the year 1915-16, the last period for which returns are available, and I find that on nearly all the lines of farm implements that might be used on a western farm, including binders, cultivators, drills, rollers, harrows, hay loaders, hay tedders, horse rakes, manure spreaders, threshing machines, ploughs, reapers, mowing machines and parts thereof, other agricultural implements and parts thereof, the total amount of duty collected was \$446,111.49—less than half a million dollars collected on all those different items of farm machinery, articles which have got to be used by every farmer, not only in Western Canada, on which he is mulcted to the amount of that duty, no matter whether it is 12½ per cent or 25 per cent, although we are being urged, not only by the Canadian Government but by the Imperial Government as well, to conduct a policy of reduction, and yet more production, nothing is done

on the part of the Government to assist the farmer in any way or to induce him to cultivate more land.

Farm Tractors.

"In relation to farm tractors, it is difficult to ascertain the exact amount of duty paid. These tractors are included in the customs returns with large and heavy tractors and it is almost impossible to find out the duty collected on these particular items which would be affected by this resolution.

"As for flour and saw-milling machinery, the amount of duty collected on these items is not very great, and if we place lumber and flour on the free list, it is only fair that the machinery which is used in the producing of these articles should also be placed on the free list. The amount of duty collected on saw-milling machinery for 1915-16 was only \$36,825.27. The amount of duty on mining machinery, much of which is already free, including ore crushers, with which are included rock crushers (which are not properly mining machinery) was \$90,587.

Oil and Fertilizers.

"In going over the entire list, I find that on coal oil, kerosene oil, the amount of duty collected in 1915-16 was \$160,534.41; and on the products of petroleum, which would include lubricating and fuel oil, another \$155,993.63, which makes a total duty collected of \$316,528.04.

"From the duty on fertilizers we received \$59,986.25. I have given the amounts received during the year 1915-16 by way of duty upon the items included in the second section of the amendment submitted by the hon. member for Edmonton, the total of which amounted to \$959,418.74. It would not unduly press upon the revenue of Canada to give relief to a large number of people and to aid production by the removal of these duties, because the revenue would be affected only to the extent of less than a million dollars.

"That substantial reduction be made in the general tariff on all articles imported into Canada except luxuries is another principle which we, as Liberals, stand for.

I hope that the Government will, by adopting the amendment, carry that principle into effect.

Raw Material should be Free.

Mr. MacNutt stated:

"I have already said that there is one feature of this resolution that I should like to have altered, and no doubt if it were adopted it would be altered; that is that there should be a provision that the manufacturers should get their raw material free if they were required to lose their protection on the finished articles. The best alternative would be direct taxation in some form or other. Under the customs system, the duty is paid by the consumer. If the importer, in the first place, pays the duty on a foreign-made article, he passes that charge on to the wholesaler and he to the retailer; the retailer passes it on to his customer, and it is ultimately paid across the counter. Many of the people hardly know that they are being taxed. At the same time they are taxed very heavily. If the goods are not made across the line or in some other foreign country, the wholesaler pays the tri-

bute to the manufacturer and it is eventually passed on, in the same way, to the consumer. Therefore, the consumer is paying not only the taxes to keep up the Government institutions and bear the burdens that we all expect to bear but also immense sums in tribute to the local manufacturers."

Others who spoke in favour of Mr. Oliver's resolution were Dr. D. B. Neely, M.P. for Humboldt, Sask., Dr. J. P. Molloy, M.P. for Provencher, Mr. W. E. Knowles, M.P. for Moose Jaw, Sask., and Mr. Verville, M.P. for Maisonneuve.

What the Liberals advocate in the way of Reduction of the Tariff.

In order that the readers of the *Liberal Monthly* may fully appreciate what the Liberal Party have accomplished since 1911 in the way of advocating a reduction of the tariff we quote herewith summary of the resolutions which have been moved in the House of Commons:

On March 16th, 1915, The Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier moved in the House a Resolution protesting against the imposition of additional taxes, particularly by placing extra barriers against Great Britain's trade with Canada.

On November 16th, 1913, The Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, speaking at Hamilton, advocated a policy of Free Food, free from Customs duties.

On January 28th, 1914, Dr. D. B. Neely, Liberal Member for Humboldt, moved a resolution in the House of Commons praying that wheat and wheat products be placed upon the Free List.

On March 11th, 1914, Mr. W. E. Knowles, M.P. for Moose Jaw, Sask., moved in the House of Commons a resolution asking that Agricultural Implements be placed upon the free list.

On April 23rd, 1914, The Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier moved a resolution in the House of Commons praying that wheat, wheat products and agricultural implements be placed upon the free list and that the High Cost of living should be alienated by a considerate removal of taxation.

On April 28th, 1914, Mr. W. S. Loggie, Liberal M.P. for Northumberland, N.B., moved that potatoes be placed on the free list.

On February 23rd, 1916, Mr. J. G. Turriff, Liberal M.P. for Assiniboia, moved a resolution in the House of Commons asking that wheat, wheat products and potatoes be placed on the Free List.

All of these resolutions and amendments were vigorously opposed by the Borden Government and its supporters, and in consequence of their majority in the House were defeated.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FURNITURE, ART AND MUSIC FROM THE SPEAKER'S APARTMENTS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA.

THE most startling and unprecedented action on the part of the Speaker of the House of Commons has been brought to light in the last few days by the correspondence which has been placed upon the Table of the House of Commons in connection with the disappearance of some furniture, pictures, a victrola and musical records from the Apartment of the Speaker, the Hon. Mr. Sevigny, House of Commons.

It is true that recently Mr. Sevigny has been taken into the Cabinet and appointed Minister of Inland Revenue but the correspondence which was laid on the Table of the House and some of which we quote herewith, has reference to Mr. Sevigny when Speaker of the House of Commons.

Everyone remembers the disastrous fire on February 3rd, 1916, which resulted in the destruction of the Parliament Buildings at a loss to Canada of several million dollars, but worse still, resulted in the loss of lives of several people. In some sections of the House of Commons the fire did not destroy everything, and from the correspondence which is reproduced herewith, it is quite evident that in the Speaker's Chambers everything was not completely burned.

Why the Hon. Mr. Sevigny should undertake to salvage these articles and have them shipped to his home in Quebec is beyond all possible comprehension.

The correspondence opened with a letter on February 1st, addressed by the Deputy Official Head of the House of Commons, namely Sergeant-at-Arms, Col. H. R. Smith, who wrote the following letter:

House of Commons.

Ottawa, 1st February, 1917.

Dear Mr. Sevigny:—

I am enclosing you a list of furniture and articles sent by your orders to Quebec. In addition there was similarly sent the following:—

- 1 Filing Cabinet,
- 1 Typewriter, and
- 1 Typewriter Desk.

Will you be so kind, at your early convenience, as to forward same to my address here?

Yours faithfully,

H. R. Smith,

Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Honourable Albert Sevigny,
Minister of Inland Revenue,
Ottawa,

With this letter Col. Smith enclosed the two following lists:

Sent 3 Months after the Fire.

The first list from Orme's Limited, 175 Sparks St., Ottawa, and it will be noted that these were sent on May 6th, 1916.

May 6th 1916.

Col. Henry Smith,
Sergt.-at-Arms,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:—

The following is a list of goods sent to Mr. Speaker to Quebec:—

Victrola, Style XVI No. 12057,	
Two Record Carrying Cases,	
Nine Albums,	
21 Records at	75 cents.
9 " "	90
35 " "	1.25
7 " "	1.50
11 " "	2.00
1 " "	2.50
11 " "	3.50
1 " "	5.00
1 " "	6.00

Total number of records—Ninety-seven.

Yours truly,

Orme Limited,

(Sgd.) Martin-Orme,
Manager.

Sent 8 months after the Fire.

The second list which Col. Smith enclosed was from James Wilson & Company, Ottawa, and was as follows:

Pictures sent to Quebec.

Ottawa, Nov. 2, 1916.

- 1 Framed French Subject,
- 1 " Oval Gravure "Delia"
- 1 " Oval "Toast of Bride"
- 1 " Oval Gravure Gainsborough,
- 1 " Col. Platinum Blossoms,
- 1 " Col. "Blind Man's Buff",
- 1 " Col. Head,
- 1 1 Oval Col. Gainsborough,
- 1 " Col. "Sweet Cords of Love",

(Sgd.) J. W. & Co.

It will be noted that these pictures were sent on November 2nd, 1916, several months after the fire.

Mr. Sevigny acknowledged Mr. Smith's letter in the following terms:

Ottawa, February 12th, 1917.

Lt.-Colonel H. R. Smith,
Sergeant-at-Arms,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:—

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 1st instant re certain articles sent to Quebec when I was Speaker of the House of Commons.

I expect to return to Quebec in a few days and I will give orders to send back the articles mentioned in your letter.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) Albert Sevigny.

Articles Returned Slowly.

The articles not having been returned to Ottawa,

on February 24th, Col. Smith wrote the following letter:

Ottawa, February 24th, 1917.

Dear Mr. Sevigny:—

In reference to your letter of the 12th instant, regarding the above named articles nothing has reached me from Quebec; and I would be much obliged if you would give this matter your immediate attention.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) Henry R. Smith,
Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Hon. A. Sevigny, B.A., L.L.D., M.P.,
Minister of Inland Revenue,
Ottawa.

More Delay.

Again on March 12th, Col. Smith wrote Mr. Sevigny as follows:

House of Commons,
Ottawa, March 12th, 1917.

Dear Sir:—

Referring to my letters of February 1st and February 24th, in which I ask you to return to me certain goods sent by you from Ottawa to Quebec, during the past year, which are the property of the House of Commons.

You are probably aware that these articles should be in my custody, and that I am responsible for their use and safe keeping, and yet you persist in retaining them in your own possession. I am thus reluctantly obliged to take action to recover the said goods (an unwelcome position into which you have forced me) by reporting the matter to the Auditor-General, and placing the claim in the hands of the Department of Justice.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) Henry R. Smith,
Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Hon. A. Sevigny,
B.A., L.L.D., M.P.,
Minister of Inland Revenue,
Ottawa.

To which Mr. Sevigny replied:

Mr. Sevigny's Feelings Hurt.

Minister of Inland Revenue, Canada,
Ottawa, March 15th, 1917.

My Dear Colonel:—

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th which surprised me very much. You need have no anxiety over the articles in question. It is not my intention to keep them, and if I have not returned them before now it is because my time has been all taken up with my official duties.

I prefer making no comment whatever on your conduct in the matter.

Yours very truly,
(Sgd.) Albert Sevigny.

Lt.-Col. Henry R. Smith,
Sergeant-at-Arms,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

In Col. Smith's letter of March 12th, an intimation was made that unless these articles were returned the matter would be referred to the Justice Department, and on April 2nd, Col. Smith wrote the following letter:

Referred to Justice Department.

House of Commons,
Ottawa, 2nd April, 1917.

Dear Mr. Newcombe,—

I enclose herewith a claim for certain property of the

House of Commons removed by Mr. Sevigny from Ottawa to Quebec City during the past year.

The correspondence explains itself, and I beg to request that immediate steps be taken to recover the articles named as I am unable to induce Mr. Sevigny to accede to my request in this regard.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) Henry R. Smith,
Sergeant-at-Arms.

E. L. Newcombe, Esq.,
C.M.G., K.C., etc.,
Deputy Minister of Justice,
Ottawa.

To which the Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr. Newcombe, replied as follows:

The Goods Come Back.

Ottawa, April 3rd, 1917.

Dear Colonel Smith,—

I have received your letter of the 2nd instant enclosing some statements of articles claimed from Mr. Sevigny, the former Speaker, and requesting that immediate steps be taken for their recovery.

Yours very truly,
(Sgd.) E. L. Newcombe.

Colonel Henry R. Smith,
Sergeant-at-Arms,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Mr. Newcombe further replied to Col. Smith's letter on May 1st, as follows:

May 1st, 1917.

Dear Colonel Smith,—

Referring to the claim which you sent me recently for return of some articles by the Honourable Mr. Sevigny, the Minister of Justice informs me that he, Mr. Sevigny, told him recently that he had returned these articles, and if this be so, I shall be glad to have your confirmation of the fact.

Yours very truly,
(Sgd.) E. L. Newcombe,
Deputy Minister of Justice.

Colonel Henry Smith,
Sergeant-at-Arms,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

On May 2nd, Col. Smith replied to the Deputy Minister of Justice stating that certain of the articles had been returned and again on June 2nd, he wrote stating that the rest of the articles had been received.

Mr. Sevigny Explains.

Rising to a question of privilege in the House of Commons on Wednesday, June 6th, Hon. Mr. Sevigny stated as follows:

"As everybody knows, the Speaker's chambers were destroyed by fire last year, when I was Speaker of the House of Commons—and, by the way, I may be permitted to say that my monetary losses as a result of the fire amounted to about \$1,200. Last year, when the House prorogued, I asked the officers of the House if there would be any objection to sending to Quebec certain effects which were in Ottawa at the disposal of the Speaker of the House of Commons during the recess. No objection was raised at the time, by any of the officers of the House, and accordingly, instructions were given

that certain effects be sent to Quebec. A list of these effects was made by the sergeant-at-arms.

"On January 8 of this year, I was invited to join the Cabinet, and the next day I had to go to Dorchester for my re-election. I was there until the end of January. When I came back I was sick for several days, and when I came to my office in Ottawa, I was very busy with my departmental business. When I was asked for the first time by the sergeant-at-arms to send back those effects, I told him, in a letter of which a copy was submitted to the House yesterday, that I would send them as soon as I should be back in Quebec. I wrote a second letter to the sergeant-at-arms, in which I repeated that. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that my intention never was to keep those effects, and that they were returned to the sergeant-at-arms in perfect order."

THE HONOURABLE ROBERT ROGERS.

On the 14th day of July, 1916, a Commission under the great seal of the Province of Manitoba was issued to the Honourable Alexander C. Galt, a Judge of the Court of King's Bench for that Province for the purpose of investigating into all matters pertaining to the purchase of land and the construction of the Manitoba Agricultural College.

On January 26th, 1917, the Hon. Mr. Galt submitted an interim report which to say the least was anything but complimentary to the Hon. Robert Rogers. In fact in five different places in this interim report the Hon. Justice Galt stated that he was unable to accept the statements which Mr. Rogers had made under oath. The details of this interim report have already appeared in the Liberal Monthly.

Second Interim Report.

On May 25th, 1917, Mr. Justice Galt rendered a second interim report which is a document of seventy-seven pages and deals principally with the contract of Thomas Kelly & Sons, and in his findings Commissioner Galt states:

"that the Crown has established fraudulent overcharges in respect of contracts with the government, made by Thos. Kelly and Sons, amounting in all to the sum of \$302,789.02, of which he states \$202,435 was in respect to the dormitory and auditorium building."

Dealing with the purchase of the site for the College, the Commissioner finds that 461 acres were acquired in September, 1910, at \$350 per acre, with an additional sum of \$31,066 for clearing it.

"Bob" Speculates in Land.

"At the same time," the report continues, "the Hon. Robert Rogers, the minister of public Works for the province selected a portion of

We apologise for taking up the pages of the *Canadian Liberal Monthly* in discussing a matter of this kind, and our only excuse in doing so, is to show in a slight degree the class of men Sir Robert Borden has surrounded himself with.

There are scores of places in Ottawa where pictures, victrolas, typewriters and typewriter desks could be stored and when Mr. Sevigny stated that he sent these articles for safe keeping to his home in Quebec, he makes a statement which it will be difficult for the public to credit.

land, about 43 acres, for himself, but instructed the conveyance of it to be taken in the name of Mr. R. A. C. Manning."

"Shortly afterwards, and before the site of the college was made known to the public, a large amount of other lands adjoining the college or in its immediate vicinity, were purchased and placed in the name of Mr. Manning, amounting in all to about 1,240 acres, but the average cost of these lands was only \$179 per acre.

"The Hon. J. H. Howden and the Hon. G. R. Coldwell, then ministers of the crown, took interests in these lands. Owing to the absence of Sir Rodmond Roblin from Winnipeg when this evidence was being taken he was not available as a witness."

Fraudulent Conspiracy.

Continuing the report of the commissioner says:

"I find that shortly after the site for the new agricultural college was acquired, a fraudulent conspiracy was entered into by the Hon. Robert Rogers and Thomas Kelly, senior member of the firm of Thomas Kelly and Sons, contractors".

The objects of this conspiracy were, among other things:

"(A) To provide monies for the Conservative fund, for use in both Dominion and Provincial elections, from Thomas Kelly and Sons, and others who should be contractors for the various buildings, comprising the new college."

Books Were Destroyed.

"(B) To provide Thomas Kelly with funds out of the Provincial treasury, over and above what he might legitimately earn. Fraudulent over-payments to the extent of \$302,789.28 were shown to have been made by the former provincial government to Thomas Kelly and Sons, but it appeared that on or about August, 1915, all the books and documents of the firm were destroyed by Maurice Kelly, son of Thomas Kelly, although not a member of the firm, and so no evidence was available to ascertain what disposition had been made by Thomas Kelly or the Kelly firm of the said over-payments."

Commissioner Galt reports that "means adopted

by messrs. Rogers and Kelly to carry out their said conspiracy" were:

Atmosphere of Laxity.

"Firstly, an atmosphere of laxity was to be created by the Hon. Robert Rogers in his department of public works, and such instructions were to be given to Victor W. Horwood, the acting provincial architect, as would insure acquiescence by him and by the various government inspectors, and the officials of the department, including the architect's office, in the estimates of the contractors without checking up or verifying the propriety of such estimates.

Lavish in Extras.

"Secondly, contracts for 'extras' were to be lavishly granted to main contractors, subject to no competition by others.
 "Thirdly, as soon as the various contractors realized the favourable treatment they were receiving emissaries from the Conservative committee or other organizations were to wait and collect corresponding favourable contributions to the Conservative campaign fund."

The Commissioner proceeds:

"I find that during the period in 1911 when the Hon. Robert Rogers was minister of public works, the following persons became principals in the conspiracy aforesaid:

Names Principals.

"The Hon. Robert Rogers, Thomas Kelly and his sons in the firm, Roy Worthington (estimator for Thomas Kelly and Sons) and Victor W. Horwood, and that the agents employed by them to assist in carrying out this conspiracy were the various government inspectors in charge of the works, the various deputies in the department of public works, including the architect's office and D. E. Sprague, collector for the campaign fund."

The Commission finds:

"That during the year 1911 the requisite atmosphere of laxity was created amongst the government inspectors and the officials of the department of public works, and amongst the various contractors."

Rogers Comes to Ottawa.

He finds that:

"After the Hon. Robert Rogers was transferred to Ottawa, in or about October, 1911, the objects of the conspiracy and the means for carrying them out were continued under the regime of his successors,"

and adds that,

"it is almost impossible to believe that they were not aware of the frauds which were being committed."

Collected Party Funds.

Commissioner Galt reports that more than half the cost of the building was paid after Mr. Rogers left the Manitoba Government and that,

"during this second period, Dr. R. M. Simpson was treasurer of the Conservative Association and he collected funds for the party."

The Commissioner says he is satisfied that Dr. Simpson,

From the glorious hill-top gardens of sunny Ceylon comes

'SALADA'

with all the fragrance and freshness of the Eastern breezes clearly apparent in every cup. Always the same — delicious.

"was well aware of the conspiracy in question and became a principal to it."

Charles Gorrie, he finds, also collected money, but his activities were,

"rather those of an agent than a principal."

"During this second period," continues the report, "the Hon. C. M. Campbell and the Hon. W. H. Montague, were ministers of public works. Both of them are now dead, and some of their colleagues are awaiting trial at the next assizes for charges arising out of the contracts for the new parliamentary buildings which were awarded in the year 1913, I therefore consider it inadvisable to make any direct findings as to the complicity of any of the ministers of the Province in the said conspiracy during this period."

The people and the press of the country have been shocked at these disclosures.

Conservative Press Demand Roger's Dismissal.

From one end of Canada to the other comes the cry that if there is one man in the Borden Government who should immediately be kicked out it is the Hon. Robt. Rogers. So strong is this feeling that the Hamilton Spectator, a strong Conservative paper has come out editorially as follows:

The Red Herring Commission.

"What we cannot comprehend is the reluctance of the premier to unburden himself of the Hon. Robert Rogers, minister of public works, who has been the chief source of weakness in his administration. Mr. Rogers is a thorough-paced politician, in the lower sense of the word. He is popularly regarded as representing those influences and practices which, while perhaps, pardonable a generation ago or two, the better elements of the two great parties are now trying to slough off and sur-

mount. We should think that in any cabinet reconstruction, he would be the first man to go. A past-master in the art of carrying elections by nefarious means, he is to-day an anachronism. Ever since he left Winnipeg for Ottawa, the Borden Government would have been stronger without him."

Smarting under the remarks of Commissioner Galt and we might add, the Press of Canada at large, Mr. Rogers has immediately resorted to ways and means to defend himself or at least draw a red herring across the trail.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, June 6th, the Premier rising on a question of privilege read the following letter which he had received from Mr. Rogers:

Office of the Minister of Public Works,
Ottawa, May 28, 1917.

My dear Sir Robert:—

Some time in the summer of nineteen sixteen, the present Government of Manitoba appointed a Commissioner, Mr. A. C. Galt, to make investigation and to report to them with regard to the construction of the Manitoba Agricultural College. This work was undertaken and a very small proportion done while I was Minister of Public Works for that province. Mr. Galt has made two reports one some time last January and the other two or three days ago. In these reports he has chosen to reflect on my conduct as such minister, and it is only as regards those portions of the reports in which he so reflects that I feel justified in drawing the matter to your attention.

While making his investigation on the subjects covered by his report first, Mr. Galt telegraphed me to Ottawa on September 12 last, informing me of certain evidence which he evidently regarded as requiring answer on my part. I at once went to Winnipeg and appeared before him and gave full explanation of the subject covered by his telegram and answered all questions put to me. It was manifest to me then from Mr. Galt's demeanour and remarks that he purposed sparing no effort and rejecting no means, however unfair, of doing me all the injury in his power. I therefore, from that point forward, took little or no interest in the proceedings of his Commission, being absolutely certain not only that my own conduct in the premises had been straightforward and in the public interest, but that, though it would be a waste of time to make any attempt to influence the purpose of Mr. Commissioner Galt, there would be no difficulty later in exposing and establishing before any fair and competent tribunal both the true facts of the case and the malice of this commissioner. I did, however, subsequently inform Mr. Galt that I was prepared, though in Ottawa, to answer any summons in the same way as if it were served on me in Manitoba.

As regards the proceedings subsequent to the first report, and as regards the subjects covered by the second report, in respect to which Mr. Galt is pleased to reflect on my public conduct, you will be surprised to learn—I say this knowing that you are not acquainted with Mr. Galt—that I was never informed by the Commissioner, directly or indirectly, of any statements in evidence affecting me in the slightest degree, nor was I offered any opportunity whatever of making explanation of defence. It is quite true that no explanation or defence, however complete or however substantiated, would have affected in the least Mr. Galt's determination, but this fact cannot be offered as an excuse on his part for abandoning and indeed prostituting the most elementary principle of British justice—that it is a fact however, does, I think, fully establish the predetermination and malice of the Commissioner.

As soon as I was informed of the contents of each report, I made full and public denial of every allegation contained in them, affecting myself. This denial I now reaffirm.

I believe I am entitled to a full and fair investigation by a tribunal of high standing of all matters contained in these reports, reflecting in any way on my public conduct. Though I have not yet been able to obtain a copy of the evidence, I cannot believe that any evidence could have been given substantiating the reports so far as they allege breach of duty on my part. I ask that such a tribunal be appointed in order that it may be known whether there was such evidence, and if so, to make full and complete inquiry and report as to whether, if any such evidence was given, the same was true.

Yours sincerely,

R. Rogers.

Following this the Premier, Sir Robert Borden, announced that a commission had been appointed and read the following Order-in-Council:

Certified copy of a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General on the 6th June, 1917.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a Report dated 4th June, 1917, from the Minister of Justice, stating that the Honourable Mr. Justice Galt of Manitoba, who was appointed a Commissioner by the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba on 15th July, 1916, to investigate and report upon certain matters of concern to the local Government, has, as the Minister of Justice is informed, in pursuance of his said Commission made two reports, the first dated 26th January last, and the second, dated 25th May, by which reports the Commissioner makes certain findings or observations reflecting upon the honour or integrity of the Honourable Robert Rogers, presently Minister of Public Works of Canada, in connection with the said matters above referred to and his actions in regard thereto, at a time when he was Minister of Public Works of the said Province of Manitoba, and that Mr. Rogers avers that all such findings and observations and the said reports in so far as they in any wise affect him prejudicially are unjustified in fact and not upheld or established by the evidence or facts in proof before the Commissioner.

Mr. Rogers also complains of lack of notice, and that as to some of the findings in question he was not afforded an opportunity to give or present evidence before the Commissioner, and moreover he challenges the impartiality and intent of the Commissioner upon the matters under consideration so far as they affect Mr. Rogers. In these circumstances Mr. Rogers asks for a full and fair

investigation by tribunal of high standing of all matters contained in the aforesaid reports reflecting in any way upon his public conduct.

The minister being of the opinion that the situation as thus presented invites further consideration recommends that the Honourable Sir Ezekiel McLeod, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, and the Honourable Louis Tellier, a retired Judge of the Superior Court of the Province of Quebec, be appointed Commissioners under Part I of the Inquiries Act, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1916, Chapter 104, for the purpose of reviewing and considering the evidence taken before the said Commissioner Galt in the execution of his commission aforesaid, and his said reports and findings thereon, and of reporting for the information of Your Excellency in Council whether, there was evidence before the said Commissioner Galt to sustain or support the findings of said Commissioner as set forth in his said reports in so far as they reflect upon or prejudicially affect the honour or integrity of Mr. Rogers or the honesty of his dealings or transactions, the said hereby appointed Commissioners to have power should they find that there is any such evidence, to make such further inquiry and take such further and additional evidence as may to them appear necessary for the purpose of enabling them to determine and report upon the truth or falsity of the evidence so by them found, any further evidence so taken and the determination of said hereby named Commissioners thereon to be also reported; and that the said Honourable Sir Ezekiel McLeod and Honourable Louis Tellier as such Commissioners shall moreover have all the powers in the execution of their said Commission which are mentioned, enumerated or provided for by the said Part I of the Inquiries Act and the Act amending the same of 2 George V. Chapter 28, intitled "An Act to amend the Inquiries Act."

The Committee concur in the foregoing and submit the same for approval.
Rodolphe Boudreau,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

The Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier followed and stated:

"By your leave, Mr. Speaker, I think the correspondence and the Order in Council which have just been submitted to the House require some comments on my part. I would say that the letter addressed by the hon. the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers) to the Prime Minister is absolutely derogatory to the honour of the bench of this country. The letter refers to Mr. Justice Galt, not as Mr. Justice Galt but as "Mr. Galt." Mr. Justice Galt acted, not in his capacity as a judge, but he was selected—as the hon. gentlemen who have just been named in the Order in Council, Sir Ezekiel McLeod and Hon. Louis Tellier, have been selected—on account of his judicial capacity. It is to be remembered, Sir, and it cannot be forgotten on this occasion, that the complaint of the Minister of Public Works of unfairness by Mr. Justice Galt to him arose largely, if not altogether, and I would say altogether, from the insult which was poured upon the head of Mr. Justice Galt by the Minister of Public Works. The Minister of Public Works was called upon to give evidence before the commissioner. He had the right to be summoned, and he appeared. And, Sir, in the public press and in his evidence to Mr. Justice Galt's face he called him a grafter. For what reason was he called a grafter? Because he accepted duties similar to those which have just been delegated to Sir Ezekiel McLeod and Hon. Louis Tellier, justices of the High Court. If Mr. Justice Galt was a grafter—which I resent, I do not know Mr. Justice Galt, I never met him in my life; he is a judge of the bench, that is all I know—but if he can be called a grafter for having accepted the duties which he discharged, Sir Ezekiel McLeod and Hon. Louis Tellier can also be called grafters equally; there is no difference. Now, Sir, the hon. Minister of Public Works asks that gentlemen of high standing shall be appointed to make a further inquiry. The tribunal which is being constituted by the Government to investigate this matter is of no higher or no lower standing than the commission which was presided over by Mr. Justice Galt; it is exactly the same. I do not know Mr. Justice Galt, but I understand that he is a judge of integrity, in good standing in his profession, and that his honour has never been impugned. Before he was appointed to the Bench he was not active in either political party. Under these circumstances, if any new tribunal is to try the Minister of Public Works, it should be a committee of this House. There are two methods of making public investigations, either by a committee of this House, the High Court of Parliament, or by members of the Bench, who are selected because of their legal standing and because they are supposed by the very character of their office, to be above reproach. If the report is to be condemned because the commission was presided over by a judge of the Supreme Court, the new

inquiry should not be carried out by a commission of the same kind."

Rogers Besmirched.

When one considers the evidence produced by the various Commissions which have been appointed in Manitoba in regard to the nefarious actions of the members of the late Conservative Manitoba Government and the Hon. Robert Rogers, one cannot but admire the position which Mr. Rogers takes at the present moment in undertaking to clear himself from the serious charges which have been proven against him.

To say that evidence has been brought out condemnatory to Mr. Rogers would be hardly fair without reproducing the evidence to prove our assertions. For this purpose we wish to draw to the attention of our readers the commission which was appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba on the 20th of April, 1915, composed of

Chief Justice T. G. Mathers,
Judge D. A. Macdonald,
Sir Hugh H. Macdonald.

Nobody can say that these were not three honourable gentlemen who would not do their duty fearlessly and who would not be influenced by any outside pressure.

Roblin and Rogers worked desperately to head off Commission.

Once it was ascertained that a commission was to be appointed to take the evidence, which, subsequently produced at this investigation, showed conclusively the pressure which was brought to bear by Conservative politicians in Manitoba and what was done by the Hon. Robert Rogers.

The following telegram was sent to Mr. Rogers on April 1st 1915, by Dr. R. M. Simpson:

April 1-15.

Hon. Robt. Rogers,
Ottawa, Ont.

Governor Cameron in collusion with Grits here. Has under his authority directed Government to appoint Royal Commission to enquire into Kelly contracts. Important that he should accept Government's nominee for the Commission. There is danger that he may refuse. If he should it will precipitate crisis. Your interests in Dominion Election at stake. Better protect your position and see that Cameron follows advice of Government. He is broke as you know. I think this is very important and should be attended to at once. No charge has been made against Minister personally. He could have ignored position if he wanted. His actions are very suspicious.

R. M. Simpson.

to which Mr. Rogers replied:

"Bob" was "acting strongly."

Ottawa, April 1, 1915.

Dr. R. M. Simpson,
Winnipeg.

Confidential.

Thanks for message. Am acting strongly in the mat-

ter. Governor has absolutely no right to take matter into his own hands. His plain duty is to follow the advice of his advisers.

Not being satisfied with casting a severe reflection on the Governor for the Province of Manitoba, we find Mr. Coldwell one of the Ministers in the Roblin Government suggested the removal of the Governor in the following terms:

Means much to "Bob."

Winnipeg, 1st April, 1915.

Hon. Robert Rogers,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ont.

The Governor is evidently moving under instructions from the grits. He is attempting to force our hand. You know his position. This thing means more to you than appears on the surface. Would advise you to take measures to protect. His removal promptly should be considered.

C. R. Coldwell.

and from the telegram above quoted from Mr. Rogers to Dr. Simpson, it will be noted that Mr. Rogers is

"acting strongly in the matter"

Another telegram produced at this investigation was as follows:

Winnipeg, Apr. 6th, 1915.

Hon. Robt. Rogers,
Ottawa, Ont.

Confidential. Message received. Have just had most satisfactory interview with Governor. Am leaving Wednesday night for East. See father. More favourable conditions developing. Will require most careful handling. Am sure you can help out when you have the time. Will keep you advised.

Roblin.

On the next day, April 7th, Mr. Roblin sent Mr. Rogers the following telegrams:

Winnipeg, Apr. 7, 1915.

Hon. Robt. Rogers,
Ottawa.

Confidential. Governor wrote me officially this morning saying after fuller consideration that work should be stopped. Commission should be appointed to-day before my leaving and that Mather, Galt and Macdonald be commission. Saw him immediately after long interview he has agreed that I could go East, but that must return and appoint Commission not later than Wednesday noon fourteenth. He strongly objects to Haggart. Leaving to-night for Toronto.

Roblin.

Bob's confidential real estate man "Manning" appears again.

It will be noted in the report of Mr. Justice Galt, above referred to, that the name of Mr. R. C. A. Manning appears. We find as far back as April 9th, 1915, that Mr. Manning and Mr. Rogers were very much concerned in this commission investigating the construction of the Parliament

Buildings when he sent on April 9th to Mr. Rogers the following telegram:

Hon. Robt. Rogers,
Ottawa, Ont.

April 9th, 1915.

Confidential. Ministers here inform me that Governor acting in unfair and partisan manner respecting nominees for commission and its appointment by next Wednesday. Coldwell believes that unless matters are arranged satisfactorily ultimate result will have far-reaching effects in Dominion election and thinks you should be here before Wednesday.

R. C. A. Manning.

From the above telegrams one would be led to believe that it was the Governor's intention to appoint this Commission not later than Wednesday, April 14th.

A "Rush" Call.

On Tuesday, April 13th, when things were getting really serious, the Hon. Mr. Roblin sent to Mr. Rogers the following telegram:

Winnipeg, Apr. 13, 1915
Hon. Robt. Rogers,
Ottawa, Ont.

Conditions here demand your immediate presence if you are to accomplish what is desired. Imperative you leave to-night. Answer.

Roblin.

to which Mr. Rogers replied:

Bob Responded.

Sir Rodmond Roblin,
Winnipeg.

Leaving to-night.

As stated above, the Commission was appointed on April 20th and on April 21st, Mr. Roblin sent to the Hon. Robert Rogers the following two telegrams:

Hon. Robt. Rogers,
Ottawa.

Winnipeg, April 21, 1915.

Confidential. Commission proposing beginning enquiring immediately. This makes necessary Judge be here at once. Have you arranged. Think this is the most important thing in whole matter.

Roblin.

Robt. Rogers,
Ottawa.

Winnipeg, April 21st, 1915.

Confidential. Telegram received. Commission meeting this afternoon. Say they are going to proceed to take evidence at once, therefore necessary have Judge leave to-night. Most important cannot tell the effect of a day's delay. Might be very serious.

Roblin.

Bob Secures Counsel.

to which Mr. Rogers replied:

Sir Rodmond Roblin,
Winnipeg.

Ottawa, April 22nd, 1915

Have arranged with Sir William that Phippen leaves to-night, taking with him a Mr. Tilley whom Meighen

and Lash and every person else claim to be the ablest lawyer in Ontario. Phippen's idea is to have Tilley take the case in the court and he will work from the outside. This, I presume, will be satisfactory. Tilley undoubtedly very able. No doubt if absolutely necessary Phippen would go in as well.

R. Rogers.

Commissioner to be Bribed.

The climax of this whole nefarious matter was reached

when we find on April 30th following the above quoted telegrams that Hon. Mr. Roblin wired the Hon. Robert Rogers the message which is quoted in the centre of this page practically demanding that steps be taken to appoint as an officer in the Militia a son of one of the commissioners in the hope that this appointment would influence this commissioner in his work in this investigation. This seems too horrible to believe but the telegram speaks for itself.

With these facts before the people of Canada we do not think it is necessary to make any comment on what the two Judges may be able to find either for or against the Honourable Robert Rogers.

COMMISSIONER TO BE BRIBED.

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS SENT BY MR. ROBLIN TO THE HON. ROBERT ROGERS AT OTTAWA, ON APRIL 30th.

Winnipeg, Apr. 30, 1915.

Hon. Robert Rogers,
Ottawa.

Confidential. Close friends say very desirable that Geoffrey E. McDonald, son of one of the commission now with Strathcona Horse, be given a commission, say lieutenant. See General, as have no cipher with him, and explain situation so he will understand and act promptly. Am sure he will do this for me. The proceedings here already dragging. Anderson says most important think now is to secure the promotion. Kelly's eldest son died yesterday at Atlantic City.

Roblin.

VACANCIES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

We give herewith a list of the vacancies in the House of Commons as of date June 8th, 1917.

Electoral District	Name of Member who represented	Date of Vacancy
Antigonish.....	William Chisholm.....	Resigned, 30th May, 1916
Bellechasse.....	Joseph Octave Lavallee.....	Resigned, 12th May, 1916.
Brandon.....	Sir J. A. M. Aikens.....	Resigned, 16th July, 1915.
Brome.....	Geo. H. Baker.....	Killed at Ypres, 3rd June, 1916.
Carleton.....	W. F. Garland.....	Resigned, 28th June, 1915.
Grey East.....	Hon. Dr. Sproule.....	Summoned to Senate, 3rd December, 1915.
Hamilton East.....	Hon. Sam Barker.....	Died, 20th June, 1915.
King's N.S.....	A. de W. Foster.....	Resigned, 24th April, 1915.
Lincoln.....	E. A. Lancaster.....	Died, 4th January, 1916.
Lisgar.....	W. H. Sharpe.....	Resigned, 16th July, 1915.
London.....	William Gray.....	Died, 12th Dec., 1916.
Montmagny.....	D. O. L'Esperance.....	Resigned, 6th June, 1916.
Nicolet.....	P. E. Lamarche.....	Resigned, 21st Sept., 1916.
Prince, P.E.I.....	J. W. Richards.....	Died, 9th March, 1915
Quebec County.....	Hon. T. C. Casgrain.....	Died, 29th Dec., 1916.
Regina.....	Wm. M. Martin.....	Resigned, 20th Oct., 1916.
Restigouche.....	James Reid.....	Died, 17th Nov., 1915.
Yarmouth.....	B. B. Law.....	Died 3rd Feb., 1916, (H. of C. fire).
Stanstead.....	C. H. Lovell.....	Died, 17th Oct., 1916.
Terrebonne.....	Gedeon Rochon.....	Died, 11th Feb., 1917.
Hochelega.....	Hon. E. L. Patenaude.....	Resigned, June 9th, 1917.

NUMBER OF RECRUITS ENLISTED IN CANADA.

FOR months the Government have given to the Public statements in various forms as to the number of recruits enlisted in Canada for the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. While in no way wishing to criticize the figures which have thus been given, one cannot overlook the fact that the statements which have been given to the public are apparently contradictory, although there may be some satisfactory explanation. Speaking in the House of Commons on January 22nd, the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden stated: "Enlistments in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces up to date, (January 22nd, 1917) number 392,647." Sir Robert Borden at that time gave figures

which may be interesting to our readers. They are as follows:

"Besides that, we have called out of the active militia 9,052 men who are now serving under arms, and we have a permanent force in Canada numbering 2,470 men, making a total of 404,169. In addition to that, we have enlisted from the citizens of Canada in the Canadian naval service 3,310 men, making a total of 407,479. We have done more than that; we have provided for the British Naval Service 1,600 men, we have provided for the Imperial Mechanical Transport 1,200 men and for munition works in Great Britain, at least 3,000 men. One thousand went over through the co-operation of the Department of Militia and Defence with Mr. Barnes, now a member of the British Government, and other gentlemen who visited Canada about eighteen months ago. If you add these three items together you have 5,800, which being added to the previous total, makes 413,279." (See Hansard January 22nd, 1917, page 33.)

Soldiers Enlisted in Canada, 411,723.

Speaking again in the House of Commons on May 18th, 1917, when Sir Robert Borden was giving to the House his report on the meeting of the Imperial War Conference, he stated:

"We have sent 326,000 men overseas in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Including reservists in British and Allied armies, and men enlisted for naval defence, 360,000 men at least have left the shores of Canada." (See Daily Unrevised Hansard, May 18th, 1917, page 1613.)

In the House of Commons on May 21st, 1917, another statement was made in answer to a question of Mr. P. A. Seguin, M.P., and the question asked by Mr. Seguin, and the answer given by Sir Edward Kemp, Minister of Militia, are as follows:

"Q. What has been the number of recruits enlisted in Canada since the beginning of the war up to the present date?

A. Up to April 30, 1917, 411,723."

This is the official answer from the Minister of Militia and can be found in the Daily Unrevised Hansard of May 21st, 1917, page 1645.

Nine days later Government say the total figures are 337,978.

On May 30th, the Hon. Frank Oliver, Ex-Minister of Militia and Defence, asked the following questions, and the answer herewith quoted was given by the Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Customs, acting on behalf of the Minister of Militia. The questions and answers are as follows:

Q. 1. What is the total number of officers and men of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces who had sailed for England up to May 1, 1917?

A. 1. 312,503 all ranks.

Q. 2. What is the total number of officers and men enlisted for overseas service who were on duty in Canada on May 1, 1917?

A. 2. 25,475."

From these questions and answers one can only conclude that the number of officers and men who have joined the Canadian Expeditionary Forces and sailed for England is 312,503 and the number of officers and men who have joined the Forces, but are still in Canada is 25,475 making a total of 337,978. Compare these figures with the ones above given and it shows a very great discrepancy.

The Country is entitled to know which statement is correct.

"SERVICE" WATCHWORD OF THE LIBERAL WOMEN.

SINCE the granting of the franchise in Ontario, the place of women in the political life of the Province has completely changed; and how best to deal with the changed conditions was the subject which chiefly engaged the attention of the Ontario Women's Liberal Association at their third Annual meeting in Forester's Hall, Toronto, on May the eleventh, 1917.

No less than twelve thriving associations were represented at this successful convention—delegates and out-of-town visitors to the number of 250 being in attendance. Interesting reports were read by delegates from Toronto, Hamilton, Collingwood, Owen Sound, Wiarton, Brampton, Dunnville, Caledonia and Drumbo, and all told of the splendid welfare work done by Liberal women throughout the Province and showed, moreover, a wonderful awakening to the necessity of spreading the principles of Liberalism as well as the earnest determination to use the vote with intelligence and courage.

Mrs. J. A. Macdonald, the efficient President of the Association in a most gracious manner welcomed the delegates. Mrs. Ross Stewart, in her Secretary's report said that never before had women taken so keen and active an interest in politics and that there had been a marked increase in the membership of the Association since women had been granted the vote.

Greetings were read from Vancouver and other cities and towns in the Dominion. A series of resolutions (pertaining to the constitution and policy of the Association) sent on by the Executive to be voted on by the general meeting, were then read by the Secretary and all were carried unanimously. Among these was a recommendation that *Mrs. Margaret Hyslop be appointed Field Secretary of the Association and given a stated salary. Later in the day Mrs. Hyslop justified her appointment by her extremely able talk on Organization. Mrs. Hyslop strongly urged the formation of Liberal Women's Clubs in every corner of Ontario.

Would space permit, the various reports from all over the Province should be quoted in full, suffice it to say that each and every report breathed a sentiment of deep and loyal patriotism, a growing consciousness of women's new responsibilities, and one and all showed a wonderful output of work done for our brave lads at the Front, and the eagerness evinced by women from all over Ontario to do their "bit" accounts for the motto "Service" adopted by the Association.

Other Addresses:

Others taking part in the discussions were: Mrs. Geo. S. Weeks, the newly elected President of the Toronto Women's Liberal Association who gave a brief resume of the wonderful welfare work achieved

*Mrs. Hyslop will be glad to hear from anyone in Canada desirous of forming a Women's Liberal Club. Her address is 302 Jarvis Street, Toronto.

by the local Association during the past year.

In a brief, but very fine address, Mrs. N. W. Rowell, the charming wife of our Ontario Liberal leader, expressed the hope that all women "should measure up to their new responsibilities, whether we be Liberals or Conservatives, we must all have a more serious purpose now than ever before. Those who try to do better things need a strong vote, and if the women stand behind the best things, the success of the best will be assured."

The State for the People.

Mrs. J. M. Godfrey, in an address on "The Yearly Program," outlined the subjects for study for the ensuing year. "True Liberalism means the liberation of spiritual energy" declared the speaker, "and surely we should strive to make the political arena as clean as our own homes." Mrs. Godfrey contended "the State for the people," to be a true Liberal doctrine and that "Liberalism so vivifies the social structure that from it grows national and personal freedom. These are the ideals for which we stand."

Mrs. Robert Glasgow, Toronto, Mrs. Dawson of Peel, Mrs. Margaret Gordon and Mrs. Brennan of Hamilton all took part in the animated discussion which followed.

Owing to illness, Mrs. Percy Foster's paper on "Why a Liberal," was read by her sister, Mrs. Adam Ballantyne. It was a stirring proclamation of a strong Liberal faith and the speaker declared that "no new party, no third party is needed in Canada so long as the Liberals of Canada see to it that the principles of Liberalism are maintained throughout the length and breadth of the land."

Production and Waste.

Mrs. Harry Carpenter gave a forceful talk on Production and its sister necessity, waste elimination, which wakened responses from all parts of the hall and her statement that the Government should appoint a food controller and a price controller met with warm applause.

"Let us stop using cake," was a concrete suggestion made by Mrs. David Williams of Collingwood and Mrs. Hartley Dewart of Toronto, followed with the suggestion "that all present give up potatoes for a week."

Women's Entry into Politics Providential.

The afternoon Session, which was very largely attended, was held in the Y.W.C.A. Hall, when the speakers were Dr. Michael Clarke, M.P., and Mrs. N. W. Rowell, K.C., M.P.P.

At the close of the afternoon Session, the delegates, out-of-town visitors and the full executives were entertained by Mrs. D. A. Dunlap at tea at her beautiful home on Highland Avenue.

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BRAN, SHORTS AND MIDLINGS ON THE FREE CUSTOMS LIST.

In the last issue of the Canadian Liberal Monthly, reference was made to an amendment which Mr. J. A. Robb, M.P. for Huntingdon, Que., moved to the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister, asking that the Minister of Finance place upon the Free Customs Tariff list, bran, shorts and midlings. As intimated in the May issue of the Liberal Monthly

the Speaker of the House ruled this amendment out of order.

On May 31st, 1917, on a motion of the House to go into Committee of Supplies, Mr. Robb again moved his amendment. The Speaker immediately ruled it out of order, and gave as his reason that the Amendment which Mr. Oliver had presented to the House, and which is quoted on another page of the Liberal Monthly, contains an item covering

bran, shorts and middlings, and as the House had already voted down this amendment it could not come up again for consideration. The clause in question is as follows:

3. "That staple foods and food products, (other than wheat flour) domestic animals and foods therefor, be admitted into Canada free of duty when coming from and being the product of any country admitting like Canadian articles into such country free of duty."

Mr. Robb, however, not to be defeated immediately moved the following amendment:

"That all the words after "that" in the main motion be struck out, and the following substituted therefor:

"Inasmuch as cotton jute, or paper sacks, when containing flour, now enter Canada from the United States free of duty, and inasmuch as Canadian millers employing Canadian labour are handicapped because they are compelled to pay on empty sacks and bags, a duty of 27½%, on cotton and jute bags and sacks, and a duty of 35% on paper sacks. This House is of the opinion that such unfair discrimination should be removed, therefore it is resolved that in the opinion of this House, cotton and jute bags and sacks and paper sacks, when imported by millers for use in their own mills should be free of duty."

This amendment was discussed at some length and was declared by the Speaker lost on Division.

We quote herewith extracts from Mr. Robb's speech:—

Production must not be impeded.

"Mr. Speaker, the amendment of mine which you ruled out of order was of greater importance to my constituents than that which I now move, and I would have much preferred had the House had an opportunity of discussing that amendment. Had I been considering my own business alone, perhaps I should not be so strongly in favour of free bran and shorts; but representing an agricultural constituency, as I do, where the supplies of bran and shorts are used for the production of milk, cream, butter and cheese, and having in view the interest of producers in these lines throughout the country, I submit the present resolution."

Reciprocity Agreement of 1911 Provided Protection.

Under the proposition of 1911 precaution was taken not to interfere in any way with manufacturing in Canada, and especially was this precaution taken with respect to our milling industry, for a duty of fifty cents a barrel on flour was provided, which enabled the Canadian millers, in a measure, to offset the increased cost of bags in Canada as compared with the United States. The Canadian miller had a protection of fifty cents a barrel in a market that was growing at the rate of one flour mill of a thousand barrels a day every year, and consequently there was a steadily increasing production of bran and shorts. It may be interesting for the House to know that while in 1895 Canada exported less than 250,000 barrels of flour, in 1910 our exports reached 3,000,000 barrels, and in 1915-16, 7,425,000 barrels.

"In taking the position that the recent Order in Council will be injurious to Canadian millers, and consequently will lessen the supply of bran and shorts for the stock feeders of Canada, I am in good company. On reference to Hansard of 1916, I find that in the debate on a resolution presented by my hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff), which was opposed by the Government, the Finance Minister (Sir Thomas White) expressed about the same views on this question as I do.

"I am in favour of free wheat and of free grain generally; I am in favour of the proposition as presented in

1911. If there was any classes of our community who were "in velvet" in that proposition, they were the Canadian farmers and the Canadian millers.

Bags must also be free.

"I may frankly say that the Canadian millers opposed the proposition of 1911. It was opposed by the Minister of Finance. We heard in this House arguments why if Canada wanted to negotiate with Washington, we should not have sent down two old men, but these two old men made a better bargain for Canada than that which is presented in the recently passed Order in Council that has at last been put through after six years of apprenticeship. Every carload of flour that comes into this country from the United States bagged in cotton sacks brings in free of duty 875 yards of cotton, and the Government, in admitting this cotton free into Canada, admits the products of United States cotton bag manufacturers. If the Canadian miller wishes to import these bags, he is met at the customs house with a tax of 27½ per cent.

Bags Cheaper in U.S.

"I have a quotation on bags from the Bemis Bag Company, manufacturing in St. Louis, Minneapolis, Kansas City and Winnipeg, and I find that the cost of bags is 8½ cents a barrel cheaper in the United States than in Canada. That means that on his flour bags the Canadian miller is discriminated against to the extent of \$19.04 per car, and notwithstanding what my hon. friends say about the monopolistic millers, I wish to say that there have been millions of bags of flour sold in this country to Britain and her Allies during the last two years upon which the millers got little more than \$20 a carload profit.

Farmer Handicapped.

"How can we expect the eastern farmer to increase the production of butter and cheese when he is met with such a tax upon the feed he requires for his animals? The Government recognize that bran and shorts are very important to the farming industry. I imagine that every hon. member in this House recently received from the Department of Agriculture special circulars Nos. 7 and 8 in which the department urged the farmers to feed more bran and shorts to their live stock. The Department of Agriculture is urging the farmers to feed bran and shorts and the Department of Finance is placing an additional tax on bran and shorts coming into Canada.

Miller Subsidized.

"Under the present tariff arrangements we are practically subsidizing the Canadian miller to export his product. He can buy bags cheaper in the United States, bring these bags into Canada, fill them with Canadian bran and shorts and export them and the Government gives him a rebate of 99 per cent of duty paid. I find here a quotation on bags for a carload of bran at \$49.60. The duty is \$13.40 and the refund, if the bran and shorts are shipped out of the country, is \$12.25; in other words we have now a policy in Canada whereby we are subsidizing the Canadian miller to the extent of 60 cents a ton to put his bran and shorts out of the country. That is not an unfair way of presenting it because that is exactly the way it works out. Bran costing \$30 a ton, when it is imported from the United States, pays a duty of \$7.50 a ton. The Canadian miller can get his bran into the United States free. There is nothing to hinder him from putting out bran enough to create a scarcity in this country and to hold up the price to the Canadian feeders to the extent of \$6 a ton over what it is in the United States. On this ground I would plead with the Minister of Finance to carefully reconsider the matter and put bran and shorts on the free list. If the Canadian miller is to maintain his output on the basis of last year, the minister must make some tariff changes. He must put cotton, jute and paper bags and flour milling machinery on the free list or what he predicted in 1916 will come true sooner than he thinks."

FOR ADDRESS SEE FRONT PAGE.



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