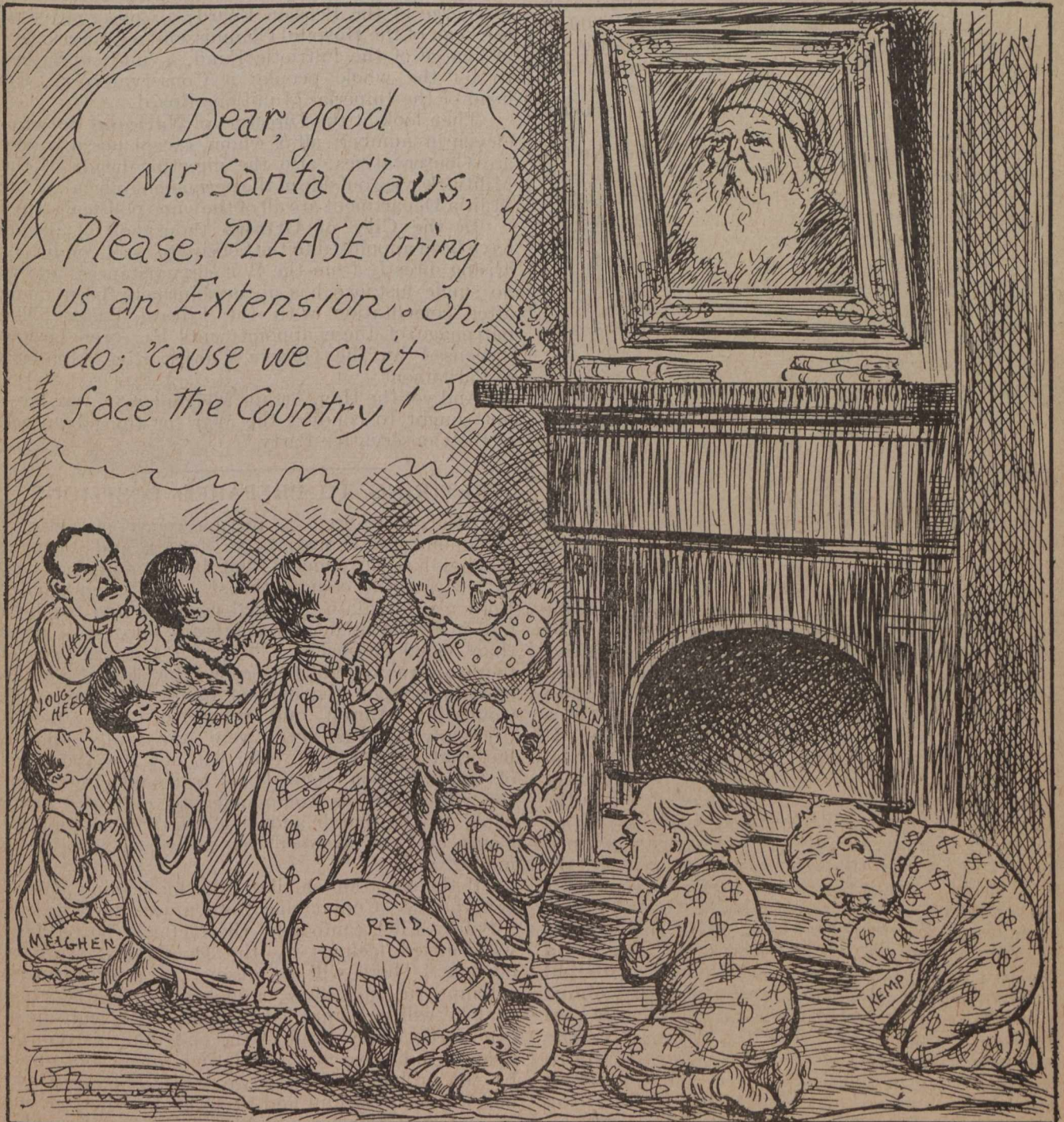


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FOLLOW UP—LIBERAL CONFERENCES.

NOW that the experiment of District Liberal Conferences has proved a success by two splendid gatherings in the Province of Ontario, it behooves other Provinces to be up and doing. It is an inspiration to have a gathering of about 300 or more of the active workers from ten Counties to assemble for an exchange of views through the medium of short speeches and resolutions not to mention the effect of social conversation in arousing enthusiasm.

Let other Provinces follow on. In the West a Conference could be held covering the area of each Federal Riding and the Maritime Provinces could choose areas suitable to their local conditions.

The Conferences are composed of leading Liberals from each Municipality or District, and the discussions are on Liberal principles and not particularly on Provincial or Federal affairs. The common bond of principle unites the forces.

CHIEF APOLOGIST OF THE BORDEN GOVERNMENT SAYS NO POLITICS IN CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

THE Hon. Arthur Meighen, who has been well described, as the special apologist for the Government, stated in his recent speech at Montreal that the Government had not sought to conduct the War for the advantage of the Conservative Party. For sheer audacity, this surely is unparalleled. No one knows better than the same Mr. Meighen that the whole **conduct of the War by Canada has been from a Conservative standpoint and under Conservative domination, and that to a very large extent the Canadian War expenditures have been made with a kindly eye to Conservative Party interests.** It is unnecessary to adduce evidence in support of this statement. It is common knowledge in every village, town and city. It has been exhibited in the purchase of supplies, in Civil appointments arising out of the War, even in the Military service, in short, in every phase of the War situation; and oh! the pity of it! **The charge we make against Sir Robert Borden and the Conservative Party is that they did not grasp the awful seriousness of the situation created by the War, and instead of taking counsel with their principal political opponents and thereby bringing about a harmony of interest and action towards real National Service, arrogated to themselves the full power and authority to carry on affairs in the old time political way. In the face of an unprecedented and unparalleled crisis calling for the sacrifice of health, life and wealth by all classes of the community, the Government carried on affairs in the same old partisan**

way, and on the same old principle of, "to the victor belong the spoils." Worse than that, the brains of the country have not been utilized to advantage. There are many able men within the ranks of the Liberal Party unfit for active service, and who would be only too glad to serve their country, without compensation, in useful capacities, but never have they been given an opportunity, except in a very few isolated cases, where their influence is overshadowed by the weight of Conservative numbers.

By way of illustration we find a Conservative in charge of the Pension Board; a Conservative at the head of the Hospital Commission; a Conservative in charge of the Patriotic Fund, a fund subscribed to by the whole people; a Conservative at the head of the Imperial Munitions Board.

Then look at the Directors of **National Service**, eleven in number, all of whom, except possibly one, are Conservatives; also the directing heads of the Militia Service outside of the permanent officials of the Militia Department are all of the same political stripe.

In the **City of Ottawa** thousands of people have been appointed to the Service to meet conditions arising directly from the War circumstances, and in no single instance has an appointment been made after consultation with the Liberal Party. The patronage of these appointments has been largely dispensed by the Ottawa Conservative Members of Parliament.

And yet the Hon. Arthur Meighen says, "we have not sought to conduct the War for the advantage of the Conservative Party."

RETIRING TO PREPARED POSITIONS.

THERE has been a recrudescence of activity among the Conservative forces and General Hughes has surrendered, but before doing so has, by a strategical counter-thrust, cut off Commander Borden's retreat to prepared positions and has held him in the front line by a literary barrage of more than usual intensity. That the General was a tactician was generally conceded; his skillful guerilla operations upon the field of munitions along with Counsellor Allison and others of the S'teenth Company of Fuse-ileers were universally known, but that he was able, even without the assistance of Guide Allison, to pick his trail and circumvent the efforts of his commander to quit the army while on the march and seek safety in a Supreme Court or Privy Council dugout was a surprise to many.

If the situation as alleged by his leading general is authentic—Commander Borden was about to lead a Safety First campaign—the fact will be received with mixed feelings by the Dominion's army of citizens. There will be disgust at their Leader's attempt to find cover, mingled with satisfaction that he will be compelled to fight to the end—however ineffectively—and in the end take his punishment. Indecisive and vacillating, when confronted by the problems his own weakness and incapacity had thrust upon him and beset by intrigues among his own staff, the Commander did not appear capable of bringing up his "tremendous reserve," but sought safety in a retreat to prepared positions.

THE BORDEN-HUGHES CORRESPONDENCE — PARLIAMENT MUST INVESTIGATE.

THE insight into the workings of the Borden Cabinet given us through the correspondence between Sir Robert Borden and Sir Sam Hughes is at once enlightening and humiliating. It satisfies our curiosity as to how we are ruled, and makes us feel ashamed of our rulers.

On a first reading of the correspondence the principle points that impressed us particularly were, first, that the main question at issue was whether Sir Max Aitken, a favorite of Hughes and the progenitor of the watered stock idea in Canada, or Perley a favorite of Borden, should be the Canadian Overseas Minister of Militia, and second, that it was the tone of a letter and not the important question of what is best for the public interest, that was the ultimate deciding factor. Matters like the Ross Rifle; the deplorable administration of the Medical Service; the Wesley Allison Graft; Camp Borden; The Eaton Battery; rotten boots; graft in bandages, binoculars, horses, medicines; the slander of the dead Kitchener; favoritism in appointments, and positive cruelty in keeping capable soldiers like General Lessard from serving their country at the front because of Hughes' spite, were apparently all minor issues as compared with the personal affront to Sir Robert Borden, and the desire of Sir Robert to promote his friend Perley rather than the new British-Canadian Baronet Aitken. Sir Robert did not bat an eye-lash while millions of the peoples' money was being wasted, while serious blunders were being committed affecting the whole morale of the Canadian overseas forces, while the joyous carnival of profiteering by party friends at the public expense went on, but the moment Sir Sam became impertinent he bridled up and got real angry. It is a curious page in our political history. The peep we get behind the Cabinet scenes certainly does not give assurance that the Government or its head, is one of commanding strength such as is necessary in these strenuous times.

Sir Robert made three great mistakes in regard to Hughes. First in taking him into the Cabinet, second in tolerating him as long as he had, and third in the manner of dismissing him.

For a long time there has been a growing feeling in the country that the Premier is weak and vacillating not only in the handling of his colleagues but in his treatment of large public matters, and this feeling has been greatly intensified by the now famous correspondence.

Parliament Must Investigate.

Undoubtedly Parliament will have to deal with some phases of it. For instance Hughes in his letters says that for the first ten months of the War all the equipment, shoes, supplies, armament, and in short everything provided by Canada was set aside by the British authorities. To quote Sir Sam's own words, "I spoke to you (Sir Robert), at the time about the rejection of all overshoes and supplies of every description, and proved to you that the excuses of the British War Office were totally without foundation. You

have my memorandum at the time proving the utter falsity of their bogus excuses regarding wagons, etc."

These statements are too grave to be allowed to pass without investigation of the most searching character. If they are true, it will be obvious that there has been bungling and mal-administration resulting in enormous financial loss to the people of Canada. Time and again in these columns we asserted practically what is now charged by Sir Sam, and as often as we made the assertion, we were told, on the authority of the Militia Department that there was no truth in what we said, but now the man who ought to know what happened, supplies confirmation of our information. But the question is not one between our veracity and that of the Government; it is whether or not it is a fact that millions upon millions of money have been spent in sending to England unsuitable supplies or at all events, supplies which were not used by our soldiers. If that charge be established the Borden government is absolutely unfitted to administer the affairs of this country.

Was the Second Contingent Held Up?

Another serious allegation made by Sir Sam is to the effect that the Second Contingent was held up for four months through squabbling in the Cabinet over the purchase of motor trucks. Again we quote Sir Sam's exact words:—

"As you are aware it took us four months in the midst of this great War to fight through the principles of purchasing for the Second Contingent these trucks at the lowest wholesale price, instead of allowing large commissions to local agents who would have nothing whatever to do with securing the order."

"You know yourself (Sir Robert) how by technicalities the 2nd division was held up for four months through little petty haggling on the question of motor trucks, etc. and etc."

Surely this cannot be true! If it is, could there be any stronger evidence of gross Governmental incapacity. At a time when the Empire was crying out for more and more soldiers to go to the Front, the Government of Canada, according to Sir Sam Hughes, spent months in settling a piffing question, comparatively speaking, as to the manner and terms of purchasing motor trucks. Parliament cannot afford to overlook this. A most rigid investigation must be made.

Did Ministers Violate their Obligations?

An equally serious statement made by the ex-Minister of Militia is that the Post Office Department, the Railway Department and the Public Works Department had improperly made purchases without the necessary Order-in-Council, and that some boats had been purchased and other large expenditures incurred without the Premier knowing anything about them, and also without the knowledge of Council.

Here is more work for Parliament. The Statutes and constitutional practice clearly define what Ministers can do individually, and what they must

submit for the decision of the Government-in-Council. According to Sir Sam Hughes at least three Ministers violated their constitutional obligations, the effect of which is to make constitutional government more or less of a farce. It will be obvious that Sir Sam's statement in this regard is a grave reflection on the Prime Minister's capacity as Captain of the Ship of State. Taking the statement at its face value, Sir Robert apparently was unable not only to control his colleagues, but they flaunted his authority by disregarding him. It is the manifest duty of Parliament to sift this matter to the bottom, in order that the extent of the improper, if not unlawful, administration may be fully realized, and so that the erring Ministers may be seized with a better idea of their responsibilities.

Intrigue, Quarrelling and Recrimination.

Running through the famous letters are charges by Sir Sam that in spite of the terrible crisis, the country was going through, the Cabinet, instead of being an harmonious whole, was an hot bed of intrigue, quarrelling and recrimination. This may account for the many stupid actions of the Government, otherwise unaccountable, for the vacillation, delay and inefficiency with which the country has been cursed, and which has been so exasperating.

The Retort Uncourteous.

The letters fairly bristle with denial and indeed the lie direct. Sir Robert Borden having written that "so far as I am aware you exercised the same control and direction over the Forces in Great Britain during the first year as subsequently." Sir Sam replied, "Sir Robert, no one knows better than you that this statement is incorrect."

What is the country to believe? Was Hughes held up and curtailed, as he says, in caring for and directing the Canadian Forces in England, through the intervention of Sir Geo. Perley acting for the Premier, and if so why? If the reason was that Borden had lost confidence in, or was afraid of Hughes, it is a lame one. The moment he lost confidence in his Minister he should have dismissed him instead of handicapping him by curtailing his powers. Therein Sir Robert showed his greatest weakness, a weakness almost intolerable in a Premier in these days of national crisis.

Sir Sam Must Prove His Case.

While we have not been at all friendly to Sir Sam Hughes, and have criticized him unsparingly, and while we still believe that his administration of the Militia Department left him open to severe condemnation, we know that he honestly thinks he has done good work for his country, but we say to him that his name and works are bound to go down into history under a cloud unless he follows up his grave charges by absolute proof. If he doest not submit that proof, we fear the verdict of history will be that he was quite irresponsible and fit only to be laughed at—not taken seriously. The man who penned such serious statements against the Government must be prepared in the interests of the country, if not in his own behalf, to prove them, or forever hold his peace.



LIBERAL CLUB FEDERATION.

THE effect of the huge meetings at London have been exceedingly beneficial in awakening the different clubs to a realization that more activity is necessary.

Requests are coming in from all over the Province with regard to the formation of new clubs and the re-organization of some now existing, and during the next few months the clubs throughout the whole Province will be doing big work.

On Dec. 1st, Mr. Stuart Lyon, Editor of the Toronto Globe, addressed a big meeting at the opening of the Oshawa Liberal Club for the season. Mr. Lyon spoke on Public Ownership with special regard to the Railway situation, and in an effective way drove home the facts of the very serious situation that Canada is bound to face in the near future.

The Federation had a large representation at the Ottawa and Belleville Conferences and the results will be far-reaching. New clubs are being formed in many sections of the Eastern District.

There are, however, scores of places throughout Ontario where no club exists at the present time. It is not necessary to have club rooms. It is not necessary to have any expensive outlay. A hall or even in the more rural parts, a good big farm house would be quite sufficient to meet all the requirements.

These clubs are for the dissimulation of Liberal principles. Wherever a club is started speakers will be sent. It behooves our friends in every town, village and poll to organize a club at once and get every poll in the Province of Ontario absorbed in some one of these Liberal Clubs.

A Special Appeal to Ontario Liberals.

Whether a club is formed or not, if fifteen, twenty or more Liberals in any one locality will set aside one night for the discussion of a Liberal Club, and will communicate with Mr. B. H. McCreath, Secretary of the Liberal Club Federation, Canada Life Building, Toronto,—a representative from the Liberal Club Federation will be sent without expense to the prospective club, to discuss with the Liberals thus assembled the formation of a club.

Every Liberal in Ontario should act, and act at once. Let the New Year be a revival of Liberalism in the Dominion.

WOMEN'S LIBERAL CLUB FEDERATION.

The Women's Liberal Club Federation of Ontario, has been rendering excellent service to the Patriotic and Red Cross work since the War started. The ladies in charge of this Federation work are anxious to see other clubs started throughout the Province. In fact, they will give their hearty co-operation and assistance to any Women's Liberal Clubs organized throughout the Dominion.

THE INSIDE STORY OF THE NATIONALIST-CONSERVATIVE ALLIANCE OR HOW SIR ROBERT BORDEN JOINED WITH BOURASSA.

THE race question has too often played an outstanding part in the politics of Canada. Apparently it has been decided by those who direct the affairs of the Conservative party that it is to be brought prominently to the front at the next Federal general elections. The race cry did yeoman service in 1911. As in 1911, so today, Bourassa in *Le Devoir* and on the platform is attempting to inflame the race passions of his French-speaking compatriots in Quebec and throughout Canada against Britain and everything British, hoping thereby to arouse antagonism against the great Liberal leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whom he accuses of British sympathies and of supporting the British cause.

As in 1911, so to-day, the *Toronto News*, the *Toronto Telegram*, the *Winnipeg Telegram*, and sundry smaller papers, are doing all they can directly by falsehood and indirectly by insinuation, to arouse active antagonism amongst the English-speaking people of Canada against the French race at large as being cowardly, treacherous and disloyal, in the hope that as in 1911, English-speaking electors will vote against Liberal candidates for Parliament because the Liberal leader is of French race and Roman Catholic religion.

The serious feature of the case is not whether Sir Wilfrid Laurier is returned to power. It is that the double-barrelled campaign against Britain and the British amongst French-speaking Canadians and against everything French-Canadian throughout English-speaking Canada cannot fail to have far-reaching effect on the future of our country no matter what party or Premier is in power.

This policy of playing race against race was glaringly evident throughout Canada when the Conservative party during the election of 1911, led by Mr. Borden, joined with the Nationalist party, led by Mr. Henri Bourassa, to defeat the Liberals. "Anything to beat Laurier," was their slogan.

Unholy Alliance.

This Unholy Conservative-Nationalist alliance joined together two parties, diametrically opposed in professed principles. The Tory political creed for years has been, "Everything for Britain and the Mother Country," while the Nationalists' creed is, "No aid to England or the English." A fine combination!

In order that there may be no possible misunderstanding as to this Unholy Alliance and the principles involved by both parties, we propose to give herewith some of the details of the agreement as arranged by Conservative Leaders and Mr. Bourassa, to show how unholy, unprincipled and unpatriotic the nefarious plot was. More than that we hope that in bringing the formation of this Alliance to the attention of the electors throughout Canada they will see how Mr. Borden from the day he was elected to the Premiership of this country

has practically been under the rule of Bourassa so far as the inclusion of French-Canadians in his Cabinet is concerned.

The Nationalist Creed.

Lest our readers may have forgotten we quote herewith four Articles, adopted in March, 1903, which are articles contained in the platform of the Nationalist party. These Articles are as follows:—

- (a) No participation by Canada in Imperial wars outside her territory.
- (b) To spurn any attempt at recruiting for British troops.
- (c) To oppose the establishment in Canada of a naval school with the help and for the benefit of imperial authorities.
- (d) Control over our militia and military colleges in time of war as in time of peace and for the defence of our territory exclusively. Refusal to grant leave of absence to any militia officer in order that he may take part in any Imperial war.

This was a portion of the Nationalist platform in March, 1903, and re-adopted at a meeting of the Nationalist League held at St. Eustache, Quebec in July, 1910. This was also the platform which Sir Robert Borden accepted when he united with Bourassa in 1911 in this Unholy Conservative-Nationalist Alliance, "to defeat Laurier at all costs."

Mr. Bourassa Tells of the Alliance with the Conservative Party.

Not wishing to be unfair to Sir Robert Borden and the Conservative party we quote hereunder what Mr. Bourassa has stated in regard to this Alliance as published in a series of fourteen articles in his paper, *Le Devoir*, in May and June, 1913.

In *Le Devoir* on May 29th, 1913, Mr. Bourassa writes as follows:—

"During the session of 1910-11 two leaders of the Conservative party requested that I meet them at the house of a mutual friend of ours.

The envoys opened as follows:—

"The Nationalists say they are fighting, as we do, the Liberal government, but their stand upon Reciprocity embarrasses us (the Conservative party) to a great extent. Were we (Conservatives and Nationalists) to unite our efforts primarily against Reciprocity, it is quite possible that an understanding, satisfactory to both parties, could be arrived at on the naval question since we are one on the point of popular consultation.

"If you press the naval question in Quebec it may provoke a display of loyalism on the extremist wing of our party. If Reciprocity

"be but a subordinate issue with you, the difference between us might broaden still more, for the sole benefit of the common foe. At the time of a general election, candidates will come forward who, while opposing the naval law will support Reciprocity; yet, others indifferent about Reciprocity will come out against the naval policy of both parties. This would be a puzzling situation for us. If we support the independent candidates, we shall be open to the charge of playing a double game. On the other hand, if we bring forward a third man—a straight Conservative—the Government candidate, will get in between."

Borden Must Come to Bourassa, or Nothing.

"Mine was a decisive answer,' says Mr. Bourassa. Mr. Monk and his group have had our support because of their pledge to oppose the naval policy of both parties until submitted for the people's verdict. Since Drummond-Arthabaska, Mr. Borden has come nearer Mr. Monk; he has practically endorsed his plan of a plebiscite. This is the only ground upon which we can meet. Not being a party, we will not bring forward any candidate, but we will heartily support any man, whether Liberal or Conservative, Pro-Reciprocitist, or Anti-Reciprocitist, provided he pledges himself to resist any plan of direct or indirect participation in Imperial wars, outside of Canada, or at least oppose such measure until submitted for popular verdict by way of a plebiscite; the welfare of either party is for us of no moment. It is up to Mr. Borden and his lieutenants to decide whether to secure the seat for a ministerial candidate by entering a three-cornered fight, or suffer the election of the candidate whom we shall support."

Borden Came to Bourassa.

"I have no doubt,' concludes Mr. Bourassa, "that the High Priest and Sanhedrin accepted the situation, since the fight was carried out according to our terms."

In *Le Devoir* of May 30th, 1913, Mr. Bourassa continues:

"As elections drew nearer, we had ample proof that the Conservative leaders were quite satisfied with the situation which the Nationalist campaign had forced upon them. The Monk group came out as the 'autonomist' party with its complete organization, headquarters and committees distinct from the Conservative party proper."

"The Tory General Committee allotted the 'autonomist party most of the ridings in the Province of Quebec, retaining for themselves the English-speaking counties of the Eastern Townships, besides Pontiac, Argenteuil and three Montreal divisions; St. Antoine, Ste. Anne and St. Laurent.

"It was distinctly agreed that with these exceptions Mr. Monk had exclusive charge of the whole Province, with the right to accept or refuse prospective candidates; with the understanding that such candidates as were approved of must fight as best they could the Naval Law and the 'no less nefarious policy' of Mr. Borden; that on Reciprocity they could take whatever stand they chose, and that they should nevertheless receive from the Conservative party their whole-hearted support."

Tory Funds assisted Bourassa's Party.

"The Conservative party made use of its funds, and indirectly fostered the chances of such candidates as had declared themselves opposed to both policies."

Conservative Party Surrendered.

Continuing in *Le Devoir*, of June 2nd, 1913, Mr. Bourassa adds:

"The most obvious proof, that the Conservative party had surrendered to Nationalist sentiment was to be found in the Eastern Townships. Through that district with the exception of Drummond-Arthabaska, no Nationalist or 'autonomist' candidates had been brought out. We took no part in the fight. Local committees and the electors generally took upon themselves to spend our principles. Such favor had Nationalism gained in public opinion that Conservative candidates, both English and French, had seen fit, willingly or not, to grant our doctrine considerable way."

There we have the positive statements of Mr. Henri Bourassa that the Conservative party did make an alliance with him to defeat the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Conservative Members Avowed Allegiance to Bourassa's Party.

We also have proof that the Conservative party, as a whole, were willing to accept the Nationalist platform of a referendum to the people on the naval policy, and no aid to England or the English. We will quote a copy of a manifesto which was signed by many of the Conservative candidates. In fact Mr. Bourassa states that eventually all Conservative candidates signed this manifesto. We have seen copies which were issued over the signature of Mr. James Davidson, Conservative candidate in Shefford, P.Q. and Mr. Pickel, Conservative candidate in Mississquoi, P.Q. Here is the manifesto:

"I declare that, if elected on the 21st of September, I shall oppose and vote against any Prime Minister, of whatever party, who will endeavour to maintain the Naval Law as adopted in 1910, without, beforehand, giving the people of Canada an

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"opportunity to express their opinion thereon by means of a special referendum.

"I shall, if elected, see to it that the rights of the French-speaking Catholic minority are recognized and respected everywhere, as are the rights of the English-speaking minority in the Province of Quebec. I endorse separate schools, recognition of the French language, etc., etc."

Hon. Frank Cochrane, A Convert.

More than that: Hon. Frank Cochrane (now Minister of Railways and Canals in the Borden government) was so impressed with the Bourassa doctrine and so approved of the principles advocated by Mr. Bourassa that he sent a message (according to Mr. Bourassa's memory, a signed letter) asking Mr. Bourassa to deliver some addresses in Northern Ontario.

Before Mr. Bourassa would accept this invitation he demanded proof of their allegiance to his doctrine. This demand brought forth the necessary avowal as shortly after Mr. Bourassa received a renewed invitation to visit Northern Ontario with the two following messages enclosed:

Mattawa, Ont., Sept. 8th, 1911.

Chas. McCrea,
Sudbury, Ont.

I certainly am opposed to Reciprocity and will support request for repeal of Naval Policy, and a Referendum to the people, no matter who is Premier.

George Gordon.

Providence Bay, Sept. 8th, 1911.

Chas. McCrea,
Sudbury, Ont.

I am opposed to Reciprocity pact. I am opposed to Naval Policy of Liberal government. I will support request for repeal of same, and Referendum to the people on Naval Question, no matter who is Premier.

W. R. Smyth.

George Gordon Gives Bourassa the Keys of the District.

Even this message did not convince Mr. Gordon that he had sufficiently humiliated himself and his party and fearing Mr. Bourassa might not be satisfied, he took the opportunity of adding a word when welcoming Mr. Bourassa to his Riding. This is what he stated:

"The Liberals are blaming us for bringing the Nationalist leader here. I am willing to take full responsibility and to express my full admiration for Bourassa. I have no use for the navy and I think Reciprocity is a baneful policy. I give Monsieur Bourassa the keys of the district."

George Gordon.

Both Mr. George Gordon and Mr. W. R. Smyth were elected Conservative members of Parliament. Mr. Gordon was afterwards elevated to the Senate and was succeeded by the Hon. Frank Cochrane and Mr. W. R. Smyth is to-day Conservative member for Algoma East.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane Pleased.

To show how perfectly satisfied was the Hon. Mr. Cochrane with this arrangement Mr. Bourassa adds:

"Mr. Cochrane, usually very shy of his compliments, has since done me the honor of telling me that my arguments had made a deep impression, deeper still among English-speaking than French-speaking people."

Tory Campaign Funds Paid for Le Devoir.

But that was not all. Mr. Bourassa makes a most serious admission in regard to a Conservative member of Parliament. Mr. Bourassa states:—

"There came to our office one of the most prominent members of the Conservative party, carrying under his arm the Voters' Lists of all the Eastern Ridings. He paid into our hands subscription to "Le Devoir" for thousands and thousands of electors. We asked nothing but the regular subscription price, deducting therefrom the ordinary commission paid to agents. We thus enjoyed the satisfaction of using Tory money to circulate the good Nationalist gospel everywhere."

Who was this prominent member of the Conservative party? Who was the man who had charge of the campaign funds for the Province of Quebec and who deliberately and undoubtedly with the knowledge and consent of the leaders of the Conservative party of Canada walked into Mr. Bourassa's office and paid for thousands and thousands of copies of *Le Devoir*, to be circulated through the Dominion of Canada, a paper publishing a doctrine which to-day the Conservative press of Canada are attempting to repudiate. It has been publically stated, and never denied, that this prominent member of the Conservative party was Mr. H. B. Ames, Conservative member for St. Antoine Division, Montreal, now Sir Herbert Ames, and the same gentleman who is to-day the head of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, the same gentleman whose firm at the beginning of the war made shoes for the soldiers and the same gentleman who on every possible occasion flaunts his loyalty before the people of this country. It is really wonderful what combinations you can find in certain individuals connected with the Conservative party.

This brings us to a date in the campaign of 1911 when the Conservative party were in full alliance with the Nationalist party and they together were fighting Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The elections were held and the Conservative-Nationalist party were elected to office.

How the Nationalists Were Included.

Sir Robert Borden proceeded to form his Cabinet, and we quote from the Toronto *Telegram*, one of the strongest Conservative papers in Ontario, showing how it was that Bourassa and his friends were able to have included in the Borden government several Nationalist members.

"The process of Cabinet making was in the final stages of its completion when the Nationalists proceeded to tell Canada's Premier 'who's who and what's what.'

"The Nationalists' demand, with all the weight of Henri Bourassa's authority behind it, was briefly: Department of Public Works for F. D. Monk. Department of Inland Revenue for W. B. Nantel. Portfolio of Postmaster-General for L. P. Pelletier. No Quebec Protestant to hold a portfolio in the Cabinet.

The Ultimatum failed to bend R. L. Borden to the purposes of the Nationalists. The Premier suggested that he would complete the making of his Cabinet in a spirit of justice to everybody. Whereupon the Nationalists departed supplementing their ultimatum with words to this effect:

"You will either meet the demands of our Ultimatum, or you will meet Parliament with a majority of eight to nine, the reduction being due to the nineteen Nationalists voting with Laurier."

"The Nationalist gloatingly betrays the truth that the Nationalists were sent for on behalf of Hon. R. L. Borden, and they got everything they asked for in the allotment of portfolios, because the Premier of Canada weakened under the pressure of a pale bluff that the Quebec Nationalists would have never dared to make good."

Bourassa Was Boss When Portfolios Were Filled.

It is stated that the above named Nationalist Leaders, namely, Messrs. Monk, Nantel and Pelletier, were the direct nominees of Mr. Bourassa. In fact, Mr. Lavergne has publicly stated on several occasions that Sir Robert Borden offered both he and his colleague, Mr. Bourassa, their choice of these portfolios and when they declined, Mr. R. L. Borden asked him (Mr. Lavergne) to name the French-Canadian representatives who would be included in his Cabinet and he gave them the three names of Monk, Nantel and Pelletier.

We quote the following extract from a speech delivered by Mr. Lavergne at St. Stanislaus, Que., on Nov. 7th, 1915:

"If I had wanted to be a Cabinet Minister I could have been one four years before Blondin. The late Mr. Monk of Quebec, head of the Borden Government, offered Mr. Bourassa and myself portfolios. We refused, for we wanted to be free men. They wanted to know then in what way they could recompense me, whether with money or with a position, but I told them my reward was to have them keep their word of honor. They have not done so."—*Armand Lavergne, M.L.A., at St. Stanislaus, Que., Nov. 7th, 1915.*

There is a very strong suspicion that Mr. Bourassa even up to the present time says what French-Canadians shall or shall not be appointed to the Borden government and in support of this we ask why was Mr. Blondin taken into the Cabinet?

Look at the Record of these Nationalist Ministers.

Mr. Monk, Nationalist No. 1 Rewarded.—

The late Hon. Mr. Monk was appointed Minister of Public Works in the Borden government. There can be no question of Mr. Monk's Nationalist leanings as he was the one Nationalist who when Sir Robert Borden presented his contribution naval policy, resigned his portfolio and retired to private life. Mr. Monk put honor before politics. He had pledged himself to use his utmost endeavors to have this naval question submitted to the people and when he found Sir Robert Borden playing the political game, flirting with the Nationalists and not carrying out his promises, he resigned.

Mr. Pelletier, Nationalist No. 2 Rewarded.

The Hon. L. P. Pelletier was appointed Postmaster-General. During the election of 1911 he styled himself Lavergne's disciple. We have Mr. Bourassa's statement that Mr. Pelletier's newspaper *L'Evenement*, spoke very eulogistically of the Nationalist league, of the Nationalist platform and of the Nationalist leader, Mr. Bourassa, who presented it.

Eventually Mr. Pelletier resigned his portfolio owing to ill-health. He was, however, not sufficiently ill to refuse a Judgeship on the King's Bench of the Province of Quebec.

Mr. Nantel, Nationalist No. 3 Rewarded.—

Mr. W. B. Nantel, Minister of Inland Revenue, who was as pronounced a Nationalist as the others, was Bourassa's nominee and the man who Bourassa felt was most worthy of this position.

Like Mr. Pelletier, he resigned when he found that a good comfortable life berth, could be secured on the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada free from politics and worry.

Mr. Coderre, Nationalist No. 4 Rewarded.—

Mr. Borden found it necessary to reconstruct his Cabinet at the time Mr. Monk resigned. Eventually the position of Secretary of State became vacant.

Mr. Louis Coderre of Montreal was appointed and in order that we may not misrepresent his connection with the Nationalist party, we will quote from one of Mr. Bourassa's articles which says: "The second meeting of the Nationalist League took place at St. Henri, Montreal and the invitations were sent out by Mr. Louis Coderre, present Secretary of State."

"At this meeting declarations of adherence to the Nationalist principles were made. Similar resolutions were read and endorsed. Mr. Coderre disavowed Sir Robert Borden and later on in 1910 Mr. Coderre expressed disapproval of the Laurier Naval Law and demanded that the whole Naval policy be referred to the people." Sir Robert Borden was forced to take him into his Cabinet. Everything was forgotten. His Nationalist utterances accepted.

Later on the Hon. Mr. Coderre resigned and is now a Judge in the Province of Quebec.

Mr. Blondin, Nationalist No. 5 Rewarded.—

Of all vile appointments it was the selection of Mr. P. E. Blondin to be Minister of Inland Revenue to succeed the Hon. Mr. Nantel. Since then Mr. Blondin has been promoted and he is now Secretary of State for Canada and in charge of the Great Seal of the Dominion.

Sir Robert Borden might possibly be forgiven for some of these Nationalist appointments but when one reads the following utterances which Mr. Blondin made during the election of 1911 and then recognizes that it is the same gentleman that Sir Robert Borden has taken into his Cabinet is it any wonder the people are surprised?

We will quote a few extracts from Mr. Blondin's speeches, prior to the general elections of 1911.

"Mr. Blondin: (on the 25th October, 1910, at St. Louis de Blandford.) (Hansard 1910, pp. 145-146).

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

"The English have never done anything for the French Canadians. We do not owe them anything. French Canadians have nothing to care about the opinion of the other provinces upon this naval question. They can and must settle the questions which concern them without consulting others. Those very ones who disembowelled their forefathers on the Plains of Abraham ask of you to day to be slaughtered for their sake."

"England has gone so far as to grind down the colonies as did Imperial Rome of old."

"The only liberties which we enjoy have been snatched. England has not conquered Canada for love or to plant the cross of Christ as did France, but to establish trading posts and make money. She has so wed the world with hatred, quarrels and wars. We have had enough of England and the English."

"Those who butchered your forefathers on the Plains of Abraham ask to day that you sacrifice your lives for their sake. We have had enough of England the British."

"Our liberties, we have wrested them from England, and we owe her nothing."

"Canada owes nothing to England. The British did not conquer us for love, not to plant the cross of Christ as did France, and we are kept under her flag for the advantage of the trade. She benefitted by her colony of Canada. What do we owe her?"

Mr. Patenaude, Nationalist No. 6 Rewarded.—

When Mr. Blondin was promoted from Minister of Inland Revenue to Secretary of State, Mr. E. L. Patenaude was taken into the Government and appointed Minister of Inland Revenue. Another Nationalist follower of Bourassa's. At St. Remi in the Province of Quebec, Mr. Patenaude declared that:—

"We (the Nationalist Party) hold nothing in common with either political parties."

Mr. Patenaude was Chairman of the Meeting when the Nationalist Party was formed.

Mr. Sevigny, Nationalist No. 7 Rewarded.—

The appointment of Mr. Albert Sevigny as First Commoner and Speaker of the House of Commons is another dark blot on the doings of the Borden government. A Nationalist to the extreme. Let us see what he said on one occasion:—

"The Laurier Cabinet is a Cabinet of Imperialists who want to sacrifice Canada's interests and plunge us into wars with which we have nothing to do. The Navy Bill is an attempt by Ontario and the Provinces of the West to coerce Quebec and enslave our people forever. What has England ever done for you? She has no need of your help. She is strong enough to defend herself. Laurier's ideal is to make you the vassals of the majority in the West. You must protest against helping England in her wars; unless you do conscription will come next."

Read that paragraph over again and recall the fact that these are the utterances of the gentleman selected by Sir Robert Borden since war was declared to be Speaker of the House of Commons.

Mr. Casgrain, Nationalist No. 8 Rewarded.—

Last, but not least, we refer to the Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, Postmaster-General in the Borden government. We were always under the impression that Mr. Casgrain was a straight Conservative, not in any way connected with the Nationalist party. We now have our doubts, as Mr. Bourassa when speaking at Nicolet on Sunday, October 1st, 1916, made the following statement:—

"Mr. Casgrain came to me (Mr. Bourassa) in 1911, and advised me to oppose, not only the Laurier Naval Policy, but all participation in the Empire's wars."

This is briefly the story of the Nationalist Conservative Alliance. We could go on indefinitely quoting the sayings of these and other Nationalists. It is true that recently some of these Nationalist leaders have been delivering in the Province of Quebec, what they termed patriotic speeches.

One has only to read the context of these speeches to decide whether they are patriotic or political.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ONTARIO REFORM ASSOCIATION

(HELD IN TORONTO, NOVEMBER 24th, 1916.)

THE President, A. J. Young, opened the Twelfth Annual Meeting with cordial greetings to the largest and most representative attendance of members of the General Reform Association for Ontario in its twelve years of activity.

The Minutes of the last annual meeting were confirmed.

The President then delivered a most illuminating and instructive address.

Letters of regret of their inability to be present were read from the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Ottawa, and John B. MacKay, Fenelon Falls.

The following Resolutions were Unanimously Adopted.

Proposed by Sir Allen Aylesworth, seconded by Thomas H. Shipway, Toronto, that:—

"The General Reform Association for Ontario cordially extends to the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier hearty congratulations upon his having attained his seventy-fifth birthday in fullness of health and vigor and with bodily and mental strength unimpaired.

"During forty-five years he has been continually eminent in Legislature and Parliament and for nearly thirty years he has been the leader of the loyal Liberal Party of Canada.

"He has wrought unceasingly and faithfully for the welfare of Canada, for union and harmony among its people and for the advancement and the best interests of the British Empire.

"In him the Country recognizes its foremost statesman, and the Reformers of Ontario enthusiastically give to him their fullest confidence and their unanimous support in the course which he has taken in Parliament and in the public affairs of the Dominion.

"It is a cause for unfeigned regret that during the critical time through which this Country and the Empire is at present passing Canada and Great Britain should not have had, especially during the last two years, the inestimable advantage of his great ability and attainments, his long experience and wisdom, of his patriotism, his inflexible honesty, and his firmness of character, as Canada's Prime Minister, and it has been a distinct loss to this Country and to the Empire that the present Dominion Government should have thought fit not to ask even his advice in the matter which is of the supremest importance to us all, and to loyal men everywhere—the successful prosecution of the War in which we are engaged."

Proposed by James McEwing, Draton, and seconded by Thomas Urquhart, Toronto:—

"WHEREAS under the leadership of Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., M.P.P., and his colleagues, the public interests of the Province have been most carefully guarded and advanced by the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature, and

"WHEREAS several of the progressive policies which they have advocated have been so fully in accord with public opinion in the Province that the Government in conjunction with the Opposition have put them into effect by legislation, and

"WHEREAS Mr. Rowell and his colleagues have performed such signal service in aiding the cause of recruiting and patriotic endeavors of all kinds in connection with the War;

"WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Reform Association of Ontario, in annual meeting assembled, place on record their full confidence in the capable and public-spirited leadership of Mr. N. W.

Rowell, K.C., M.P.P., their appreciation of the loyal whole-hearted and effective support given by his fellow members of the Legislature and of the great services they together have rendered to the people of Ontario, and pledge to Mr. Rowell and his colleagues unswerving support in their efforts on behalf of good government and public service."

Proposed by W. G. Charlton, Aylmer, and seconded by R. R. Hall, Peterboro:—

"WHEREAS the Conservative Party under Sir Robert Borden deliberately allied itself with the Nationalist Party in Quebec under Henri Bourassa upon their avowed policy of non-participation in the wars of the Empire to endeavour to procure the defeat of the Liberal administration of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and

"WHEREAS following the success of this unholy alliance Sir Robert Borden publicly recognized and included in his Cabinet men selected by Henri Bourassa, Armand Lavergne, and their associates, and

"WHEREAS, this alliance helps to explain the weak and vacillating policy of the Government in connection with the War, and

"WHEREAS, Sir Robert Borden still retains in his Cabinet two intense Nationalists, Blondin, the most rabid of them all, and Patenaude, a former Nationalist organizer;

"BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the Liberals of Ontario, in our annual meeting assembled, desire most emphatically to condemn the continuance in this trying time of war, of this unholy Conservative-Nationalist Alliance, as unfair to Canada and inimical to the best interests of the Empire."

Proposed by Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, C.M.G., and seconded by C. O'Reilly, Norwood:—

"That on behalf of the Liberals of the Province of Ontario, this Association extends to Canada's fighting forces beyond the seas an expression of profound admiration of their conspicuous bravery and distinguished services; and the assurance that as a political party, the Liberals of this Province in common with Liberals everywhere in Canada are unanimous in the determination to give undivided support to the heroic efforts of Canada's Army in co-operation with the other British and Allied forces to prosecute the present War to a successful issue.

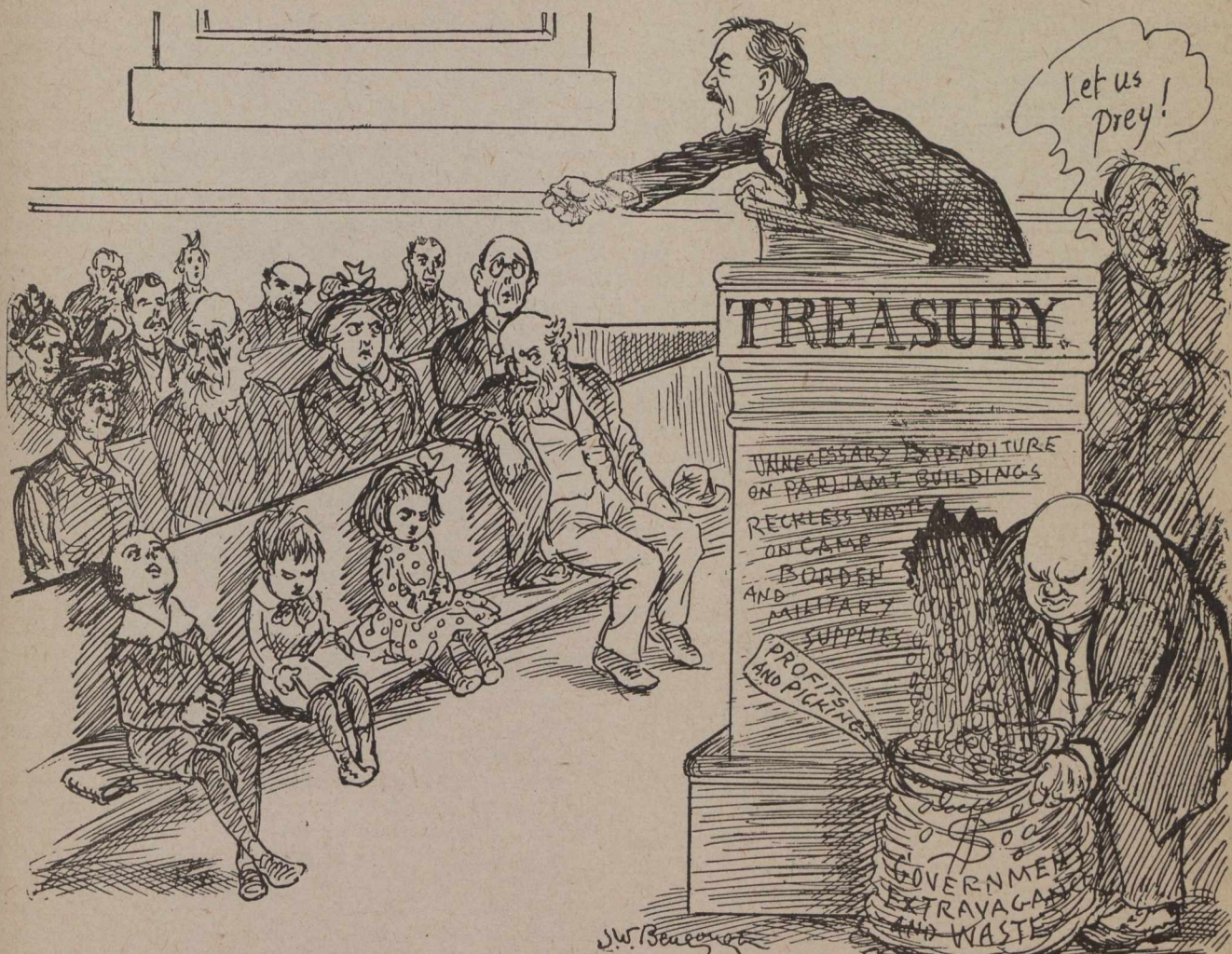
Other resolutions unanimously adopted were:—

"That the General Reform Association for Ontario should make a special effort to forward the ideals of Canadian Liberalism and British citizenship amongst the people of foreign origin resident in Ontario, so that they may be enabled to qualify for, and obtain citizenship in our great Empire."

"That his meeting of representative Liberals desires to place on record our approval of that spirit of independence, actuated by honest and patriotic motives, which enables electors to exercise their franchise free from all party ties or restraint."

The election of Officers then took place, after which addresses were delivered by Hon. George P. Graham, M.P., N. W. Rowell, K.C., M.P.P., E. M. McDonald, M.P. (Pictou, Nova Scotia), Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, C.M.G., E. W. Nesbit, M.P., Hartley Dewart, K.C., M.P.P., George S. Gibbons, London, R. B. White, Niagara Falls, F. D. Kerr, Peterboro, J. B. McColl, Cobourg, H. J. Pettypiece, Forest, D. J. McEachren, Alvinston, Louis Gurofsky, Toronto, and C. O'Reilly, Norwood.

PREACHING AND PREY--ING



SIR THOMAS WHITE (Minister of Finance) Brethren — Save! Save!! Save!!!

A BANQUET OF BORROWING AND FREE SPENDING.

“At such a period as this nothing will serve us better than the practice of thrift and economy, where thrift and economy are needed.” — *Extract from speech delivered by Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works, before the Canadian Club at Montreal, Nov. 31st, 1916.*

The above doctrine at a time when the end of the present War is not yet in sight will be admitted by all to be perfectly sound. So also is that expressed in the words of Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance prior to his departure for England: “The watch-word of the Canadian people must be Save, Save, Save.”

When such doctrines are expounded by members of the government, however, it is to be expected that the government itself will set an example of thrift, economy and saving.

The War Tax.

Roughly speaking, the people of Canada have economized to the extent of about \$400,000,000 since the present War commenced. They have

contributed \$250,000,000 toward the Canadian War loans. They have subscribed upwards of \$20,000,000 towards the Canadian Patriotic Fund, and several millions more toward the Red Cross, Belgian Relief, Soldiers Comforts and other funds which supplement the aid of the State toward the men who are fighting and toward their dependents. In addition they will contribute through the new business war tax the sum of over \$10,000,000 during the present year, while several millions extra will be contributed through the stamp, and other direct war taxes. But that is not all. By virtue of the horizontal increase in the Customs tariff upwards of \$50,000,000 additional Customs revenue will be obtained from the people during the present year on the basis of the increase for the first six months. And this does not take into account the additional sacrifice arising from the fact that goods purchased in Canada, without importation, have risen proportionately in price through the imposition of the additional duty.

In other words, though the people of the Dominion are struggling against the increasing cost

in living, they are cheerfully contributing to every war fund and war tax which calls for their subscriptions. And obviously they must in proportion to their contributions be curtailing their own personal spendings. There are some men in the country, it is true, who are not contributing toward the war in proportion to what they are making out of it. But that is due to the fact that the Government's business tax is not equitable in so far as it makes little discrimination between the war profiteer, and the legitimate business man.

For the raising of the money necessary for the War; for the proceeds of the loans, and extra taxation measures the government takes credit to itself. It banquets on borrowing, and glories on the extra taxes taken from the people. But to the people alone belongs the credit for the Canadian War loans, and for the providing of the extra money secured from the war taxes. The government must seek credit, if there were any credit coming to it, from a judicious and wise expenditure of the money which the public provides.

It is not the purpose of this article to go into the matter of expenditure on war. Judging by the correspondence which has passed between the Prime Minister, and his late Minister of Militia, there has been great waste and extravagance in this connection. But it is only the purpose of this article to deal with domestic expenditures, apart from the War. The public has economized in their domestic expenditures to the extent of their contributions. To what extent has the government economized in its household?

Government Promised Rigid Economy.

At the beginning of the War the Government pledged itself to undertake a rigid retrenchment in Ordinary Expenditure, and to cut down Capital Expenditure to necessary works. Despite that promise the Government has spent on Consolidated, or Ordinary Account during the fiscal war years, 1914-15 and 1915-16, 26 million dollars more than they spent during the two preceding ante-bellum years, or an increase of ten per cent; and 80 millions more than was spent during the last two years of Liberal rule, or an increase of over 42 per cent. On Capital Account where a heavy saving was to have been effected they spent in the two years 16 millions more than during the preceding two years, or an increase of 18 per cent; and 18 millions more than was spent in the last two years of Liberal rule or an increase of 22 per cent.

In fact the total domestic expenditure of the Government, (apart from war and railway subsidies) during the two years when rigid economy was a necessity, and extravagance a crime, exceeded that for the two previous ante-bellum years by \$32,000,000, and exceeded that for the two last years of Liberal rule by just about \$100,000,000, or at the rate of \$50,000,000 a year.

And Sir Robert Borden in the old days of opposition was wont to refer to the Liberal expenditure (in prosperous, peace times) as "prima facie evidence of graft and corruption."

It may be contended that additional interest charges on the national debt, coupled with pension

charges are partly responsible for the increased expenditures in these years. But against the ten million odd dollars added to Consolidated Expenditure from these causes must be deducted the Militia estimates turned over during these years to War Account.

The reasons for the unpardonable increases, especially in Ordinary Expenditures, are to be found in the outrageous, and unjustifiable extravagance, and profligacy practiced by the administration in connection with the various departments of the government. They can not be attributed to war, for any item of expenditure in any department of the government which in the least resembles a war expenditure is charged promptly to War Account. In addition to that fact it will be noted from a comparison of figures which follows that many departments, whose functions have been practically abolished by the War, show tremendous increases in their running expenses.

The following tables give a comparison of the expenditures on Consolidated Fund Account (excepting where otherwise designated) for the fiscal years 1910-11 and 1914-15. They are quite as applicable to the full war year 1915-16, the detailed figures for which are not yet all available. The total Consolidated Expenditure for 1914-15 only falls five millions short of the preceding year's expenditure, and that is mostly accounted for by a decrease in Militia estimates, which were turned over to War Account.

The increases in Immigration, Dominion Lands, Indians, etc., are particularly interesting, in that there has been little or no immigration, and quite as little land settlement during the war years, while the population of Canada's Indians is not increasing to any appreciable extent. In view of Mr. Rogers appeal for thrift and economy, the increase in the Public Works Department are also illuminating. In two departments only are decreases shown—the Labor Department and (of all departments in time of war) the Naval Service Department.

So far only a few of the detailed figures of Consolidated Expenditure for the fiscal year 1915-16 are available, but such as are show no general improvement over the preceding year in departmental spendings. Departments whose duties are gradually growing less as the War continues are still being handled in the same extravagant manner, while there is the same comparative increase in all departments as was evident in the 1914-15 expenditures compared with those for 1910-11.

Expenditures on Arts and Agriculture for 1915-16 show an increase of 208 per cent as compared with 1910-11; Customs expenditure shows an increase of 84 per cent; Civil Government an increase of 38 per cent; Indian Affairs an increase of 62 per cent; and Post Office an increase of 124 per cent (with an additional half million dollars turned over to War Account).

In fact for all intents and purposes the departmental expenditures of the Government for 1914-15 may be taken as their War time standard of economy. As compared with those for 1910-11 they are as follows:—

The Comparisons are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF	1910-11	1914-15	INCREASE	
Justice.....	\$1,292,401	\$1,469,504	\$ 177,103	13 per cent increase
Arts, Agriculture and Statistics.....	1,319,905	3,618,487	2,298,582	300 " "
Civil Government.....	4,463,094	6,157,966	1,694,872	38 " "
Fisheries.....	760,734	1,465,360	704,626	91 " "
Mines (Geological Survey).....	244,274	470,194	225,920	92 " "
Immigration.....	1,079,129	1,658,181	579,052	50 " "
Indians.....	1,449,961	2,400,629	950,668	65 " "
Legislation.....	1,655,418	2,376,983	721,565	43 " "
Lighthouse and Coast Service.....	1,979,838	2,583,025	603,187	30 " "
Miscellaneous.....	1,129,453	2,837,136	1,707,683	151 " "
Mounted Police.....	713,813	952,017	238,204	32 " "
Ocean & River Service.....	869,164	1,133,716	264,552	30 " "
Penitentiaries.....	527,760	850,031	322,251	63 " "
Police.....	64,484	118,994	54,510	89 " "
Public Works (Consolidated Account).....	8,621,431	19,343,532	10,722,101	124 " "
Public Works (Capital Account).....	3,742,717	11,049,029	6,296,316	233 " "
Public Works (Collection of Revenue).....	594,868	799,152	204,284	36 " "
Railways & Canals.....	635,018	727,205	92,187	14 " "
Steamboat Inspection.....	42,818	65,063	22,245	52 " "
Administration of Yukon Territory.....	303,674	340,043	36,369	12 " "
Adulteration of Food.....	21,245	47,238	25,993	124 " "
Customs.....	2,187,174	3,775,364	1,588,190	72 " "
Dominion Lands.....	1,804,250	3,701,179	1,896,929	105 " "
Excise.....	703,659	830,174	126,515	18 " "
Post Office.....	7,954,222	15,961,191	8,006,969	114 " "
Labor.....	93,402	63,441	29,961	32 " "
Rys. & Canals (Collection of Revenue).....	11,123,250	13,876,059	2,752,809	18 " "
Weights & Measures.....	105,865	288,831	182,966	172 " "
Naval Service.....	2,256,709	1,289,021	967,688	43 " "

And now the members of the Government undertake to tell the electors of Canada that they curtailed the expenditure.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT OF CONSOLIDATED FUND.	Month of Nov., 1915.	Total to 30th Nov., 1915.	Month of Nov., 1916.	Total to 30th Nov., 1916.
REVENUE:	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Customs.....	9,101,595 41	60,155,959 28	11,208,109 52	86,399,359 81
Excise.....	2,127,125 10	14,161,880 25	2,145,573 91	16,130,867 65
Post Office.....	1,550,000 00	10,949,779 65	1,600,000 00	11,950,000 00
Public Works, including Railways and Canals.....	2,880,409 30	13,104,300 51	2,560,881 34	17,661,569 48
Miscellaneous.....	1,413,326 95	6,384,385 56	5,650,200 93	12,770,776 91
Total.....	17,072,456 76	104,756,305 25	23,164,765 70	144,912,573 85
EXPENDITURE.....	8,997,899 07	65,345,503 03	12,006,457 05	69,567,573 94
EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT, ETC.				
War.....	13,155,797 08	66,514,955 38	19,040,383 92	146,527,530 98
Public Works, including Railways and Canals.....	4,306,180 15	23,993,023 27	2,457,552 80	15,997,789 27
Railway Subsidies.....		967,910 74		363,478 61
Total.....	17,461,977 23	91,475,889 36	21,497,936 72	162,888,798 86

CANADA'S PUBLIC DEBT.

Total Net Debt, September, 1911.....	\$323,938,768.74	Total Net Debt, March, 1916.....	\$555,027,542.73
" " " September, 1915.....	484,841,633.73	" " " April, 1916.....	573,213,386.11
" " " October, 1915.....	492,528,492.09	" " " May, 1916.....	577,896,690.85
" " " November, 1915.....	501,668,167.71	" " " June, 1916.....	593,910,637.81
" " " December, 1915.....	515,144,019.37	" " " October, 1916.....	695,778,516.55
" " " January, 1916.....	527,488,999.94	" " " November, 1916.....	706,128,082.14
" " " February, 1916.....	537,530,696.21		

THE EASTERN ONTARIO LIBERAL CONVENTION.

AT the meeting of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Liberal Advisory Committee held in July, 1916, the following recommendation was unanimously passed:

"That the Liberal organization for each Province hold district conferences covering a number of ridings with the view of discussing political questions of the day and other practical political affairs."

Acting upon this resolution the Liberals of Eastern Ontario comprising the counties of Leeds, Dundas, Stormont, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell, Grenville, Carleton, Lanark and Renfrew, and the City of Ottawa met in conference at Ottawa on November 16th and 17th.

The meeting was convened under the auspices of the Ottawa Reform Association and at the out-set the Hon. Geo. P. Graham, M.P., was appointed Chairman; D. Racine, M.L.A. for Russell County, Vice-Chairman, and Messrs. Geo. Higgerty, E. R. E. Chevrier, A. J. Fraser, all of Ottawa, Joint Secretaries.

After a few words of welcome by D. B. Rochester, President of the Ottawa Reform Association, and short addresses by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Mr. Graham and Mr. Racine, the Convention, which was very largely attended, proceeded to business.

The Hon. Sydney Fisher, Hon. W. S. Fielding and Senator Cloran of Montreal spoke briefly and occupied seats on the platform.

Mr. John Bain of Ottawa gave a short dispassionate address on the conduct of the Borden government showing how war contracts and other matters of vital importance had been dealt with.

Others who took an active part in the various matters brought up for discussion were Mr. W. C. Maclaren, Brockville; Mr. H. B. McGiverin, Ex-M.P., Ottawa; A. C. Hardy, Brockville; James E. McGlade, Brockville; C. H. Cline, Cornwall; Geo. F. McKim, Smith's Falls; T. H. Moffatt, Pembroke; Simon Hutt, John A. Chisholm, Cornwall; W. E. Smallfield, Renfrew; W. J. Wylie, Cardinal; D. A. Jones, Pembroke; J. F. Munroe, Pembroke; T. B. Caldwell, Lanark; Dr. O'Connor, Leeds; Dr. Fleming, Prescott; W. A. Lewis, Brockville; Mr. Lauder, Hawkesbury, Mr. Alex. Smith, Ottawa; Mr. Rogers, Brockville; C. M. Bowman, Liberal Whip for Province of Ontario; Mr. Nelson Parliament, M.L.A., Ameliasburg; Mr. Hugh Munro, M.L.A., Alexandria; Mr. A. J. Young, Toronto, President of the General Reform Association for Ontario; Mr. Horn, Mr. Gallow and others.

A discussion on the work of the Liberal Club Federation took place when its aims and objects were fully outlined by Mr. W. J. Wylie of Cardinal, Vice-President of the Ontario Liberal Club Federation; Mr. H. E. M. Chisholm of Ottawa, a member of the Executive and Mr. C. M. Goddard, Ottawa.

Before the Conference adjourned Alexander Smith, Chairman and A. J. Fraser, George Higgerty and E. R. E. Chevrier, Secretaries, were appointed a committee to arrange for interchange of speakers between the various counties and to consult and advise with the leaders on matters of organization and platform discussion.

A committee appointed to receive suggestions

and draft resolutions presented the following which after thorough discussion were unanimously passed.

RESOLVED,

"That this convention of representative Liberals of Eastern Ontario, in session assembled at Ottawa this 16th day of November, takes this earliest opportunity of placing upon record its unswerving loyalty to the King and Empire and pledging ourselves to assist in the ultimate success, and at the same time to record our resentment at the reported remarks of certain Conservative politicians impugning the loyalty of the Great Liberal Party, which remarks we consider as entirely unjustifiable and an insult to the thousands of true Liberals who to-day mourn their sons and brothers who have given their lives at the front as proof of their loyalty and love of the British Empire;

And that this Convention express its condolence and heartfelt sympathy with all Canadians who have lost their sons and relatives at the front."

"That this Convention of Eastern Ontario Liberals convened at Ottawa declare its confidence in the Federal leader of the Liberal Party, the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, P.C., G.C.M.G., M.P., and in the Ontario Liberal leader, Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., M.P.P., and pledge them their whole-hearted, ardent, and united support."

"That this Convention concur in the resolutions passed at the last meeting of the National Liberal Advisory Committee and endorse the principles of Liberalism therein laid down and recommend to the sub-committee of the Advisory Committee on Soldier's Welfare, the advisability of providing for an increased pension for soldiers who have been wholly deprived of their sight and recommend that equal pensions be paid to soldiers entitled to pensions, irrespective of rank."

On the evening of the 16th a banquet was held at the Chateau Laurier at which all delegates and several of their friends attended. At this banquet addresses were delivered by the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Geo. P. Graham and Hon. Charles Murphy. We quote herewith extracts from these speeches.

The Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

After making a brief reference to Mr. H. B. McGiverin, Ex-M.P., who had proposed the toast to the leader of the Liberal Party, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in replying, stated:—

Thirty Years' Work.

"It has been my privilege now for nearly thirty years to be the accepted leader of the Liberals of Canada, a position of very high responsibility. During that time it has been my aim and my endeavor to unite the races. I knew beforehand that such an object could not be accomplished in the course of one single life; it is the work of more than one generation; but I am satisfied, and I will claim no more of credit for my public career, if it can be said, as I think it must be said in the future, that at all events I opened the way, and that I can hope that this object will become an accomplished fact, and that we shall have a united nation in Canada.

His Constant Endeavor.

"This at least I can claim, that in the exercise of the trust placed in me by the Liberals of Canada it has been the constant endeavor of my life at all times to bring together the different elements which compose our

population. Upon this policy we fought and upon this policy we won in the year 1896. Upon this policy we maintained the administration for fifteen years; and I think I can claim that the fifteen years of our administration have left upon the country an impress which must live forever, an impress which the voice of malignity can not undo. Upon this policy we fell in 1911; for let it be known, let it be recorded, that if we were defeated in 1911, it was not so much upon the policy which I and my colleagues advocated before the Canadian people, as we thought for the advancement of Canada in the line of freedom, but it was that we had to face and were defeated by a coalition of elements discordant and antagonistic in their aims and purposes.

Object of the Meeting.

"Sir, to-day the Liberals of the Eastern part of Ontario have gathered in a meeting, and that meeting has set awagging many Conservative tongues. They have asked what was the meaning of it. They do not put such a question when there are meetings of their association, nor do we. But, for my part, I have no objection at all to answer their inquiry, to respond to their inquisitiveness, and tell them what is the object which has brought together the Liberals of the Eastern part of Ontario.

"Sir, under the British institutions under which it is our privilege to live, the government is carried on under the party system. Parties, in their broadest and highest meaning, have for their special feature the association of men who believe in certain principles and certain ideals which they think to be essential to the welfare of the country, and these men who so associate assume duties and responsibilities to the State. It is because we hold these things in view, because we hold together Liberal aspirations, principles and ideals which we want to foster, which we think essential to the welfare of the community, that we have met to-day.

Still the Duty to Assist.

"When the War broke out, now some twenty-eight months ago, we, Liberals all over Canada, came to the conclusion that the issue was so great, the cause for which the allies were fighting was so sacred, that it was our duty to facilitate the work of the Government in Canada's participation in the War. After two years, meeting again together to review the situation and discuss the duties which now rest on us, we think that it is still our duty to assist in every possible way in winning that War, on which so much depends for the happiness of mankind. When we had taken that determination, it became my duty, as the spokesman of the party, to announce our determination and to declare to the Government that, whilst it was their duty to execute, we would make it our duty to facilitate their work, and to the trust which we then assumed, I claim that we have been faithful ever since, and to the end we shall remain true and faithful.

The 1915 Tariff.

"When, in the year 1915, the Government introduced its new tariff measure, we thought that it was wrong in principle, and we thought we would be recreant to our duty if we failed to point out in what it was deficient.

"The Government proposed a flat increase of the tariff of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., without any discrimination; and we pointed out to them that duties so imposed were sure to weigh unjustly upon several classes of the community; that a duty which would weigh heavily upon the commodities of primary necessity, in time of war especially, was very ill-conceived.

So Much the Worse.

"We pointed out also that to increase the duty upon British goods, to decrease the British preference at a time when the trade of Great Britain had to undergo the destruction contemplated by Germany, that such a policy was not only an error but was also a crime. Our views were not accepted; they are to-day before the

Canadian people; BUT THE SOARING PRICES OF ALL THE COMMODITIES WHICH GO UPON THE TABLES OF THE POOR AS WELL AS OF THE RICH, ALL THESE SOARING PRICES SHOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY YET HAVE TO REVIEW THEIR POLICY—and if they fail to do so, so much the worse for the Government, so much the worse for the country.

"As to the administration of the Government in so far as our part in the War was concerned, we refrained from criticism; and, in fact, it was only when we could not do otherwise, it was only when failing to criticize would have been a mistake; when it would have been not only a mistake but would have been simply a recreancy to our duty, that we criticized, and in so doing we performed a painful duty, but a duty which could not be gainsaid.

Rigid Honesty, Rigid Economy.

"Sir, in the early months of the War, in the summer of 1915, information commenced to leak out that contracts for materials of war were given to favored individuals at inordinate prices. We thought that such a condition of things should be investigated. We thought that if we were to obtain from our sacrifices all that we had a right to expect in the result of the War, rigid inquiry, rigid honesty, rigid economy should be enforced. We asked for an investigation during the last session of Parliament, but we were met at once by a constitutional non possumus—it could not be done.

Fuse Enquiry Restricted.

"But when the valiant member for Richmond, Mr. Kyte, was able to show that, upon a contract for fuses, there was a great measure of truth in this very information that we had, the public conscience was so outraged that an inquiry was granted, but upon this and upon this alone; and, as you all know, the inquiry has shown that the accusations, all the facts set forth by Mr. Kyte, were only too true. Though the inquiry was much restricted—not by the judges, able and eminent men, but by the terms of the reference—though the terms were very much restricted, it was shown that abnormal profits had been made at the expense of the Imperial treasury, profits which enabled one single gentleman, known to fame as Colonel J. W. Allison, to give largesses such as scarcely King or Emperor ever dreamed of.

Typist Received over \$100,000.

"It does not happen, even in the highest circles of life, that a simple typist can get a tip of \$100,000. This was done at the expense of the treasury. This was shown when we were allowed to lift, ever so little, the lid—and I leave you to imagine what would have been disclosed if the full light of day had been thrown into these operations.

Deficient in Weapons.

"Then, gentlemen, you know that in connection with the administration there were complaints coming home from the front almost by every mail that our boys fighting in the trenches were deficient in much of the equipment which was necessary to them. We heard that many and many a man had met death on the battle-field for want of weapons to meet the foe. We had complaints to which we called the attention of the Government and upon which denials were made every time—and now, Sir, we have the explanation. The correspondence, which is all fresh in our memories, which has come out within the last three or four days, between the Prime Minister and the gentleman who was once Minister of Militia, is very illuminating upon that score.

No Firm Hand at the Helm.

"The correspondence shows, and shows conclusively, not through any charge made by the Opposition but through what went to and fro between the Prime

Minister and the Minister of Militia, that, from the start, in the administration of the most sacred trust that was ever placed in the hands of any government in Canada, there were jarring disputations, dissensions and quarrels—and, Sir, what can you expect under such circumstances. There was no firm hand at time to guide; and when there is no firm hand at the helm, when there is dissention and not harmony, it is folly to expect efficiency.

The National Service Board.

"Some few weeks ago, the Government undertook to establish a National Service Board. At the head of this Board they placed a man of the highest character, tried upon many lines of business and found true in every one—I mean Sir Thos. Tait. Everybody approved of the selection which had been made of Sir Thomas Tait.

"Sir Thomas Tait's Board set to work, and the first thing they did was to ask for the organization of a Parliamentary committee to assist them in their work. But, Sir, scarcely was the ink dry upon that resolution, before, at the very next step that Sir Thomas Tait wanted to take, he found himself so balked in his work that he had to resign. He had to resign on account of these jarring disputations and dissensions and quarrels which were going on the Militia Department.

Assistance Asked.

"And the Prime Minister, on the morrow of that day, blandly, coolly, asked me to join in the task which Sir Thomas Tait had to give up. Would I appeal, myself? Would I appeal, co-operating with him, and so facilitate the work of recruiting? I need not tell that to you because I have done my share, as much as he has done in this respect and more. From the day that War was declared, on the floor of Parliament, on the soil of my native province, amongst those of my own speech, speaking in French and speaking in English, I pointed out the duty as I conceived it to be, of Canadians of all classes and of all races, to support Great Britain and France and the allied nations; and, Sir, it would have been my pleasure to contribute in this way or in any other way.

"But when the invitation came to me, following the resignation of the good man who had been selected to do this work, I would have been simply countenancing this condition of things against which Sir Thomas Tait had protested, if I had accepted. I am willing to do my share in this, and my share I shall do, not only so long as I have the honor to remain the leader of the Liberal party, but so long as God gives me life and power to do so.

The Nickel Question.

"There are only two countries in the world so far as my information goes, and I think it is correct, where nickel is obtained; one is Canada, our country, and the other is New Caledonia, a colony in the Pacific which belongs to France. Some twenty or twenty-five years ago, deposits of this new metal were discovered in the Northern part of Ontario, in the district of Sudbury. These mines were exploited by two companies, an English company, the Mond Mining Company, and an American company, the International Nickel Company. So long as we were at peace, nobody in Canada was very much concerned where the products of our mines went. It is safe to say that both the Mond Company and the International Nickel Company sold their products to all the civilized governments of the world, barring France, which had nickel of her own.

"But when the War broke out, suddenly we were awakened to the fact that it was our nickel that had gone into German armaments. It was felt that even if the American company, the International Nickel Company, should sell nickel to the Germans, owing to the mastery of the seas by the British fleet, it could not be delivered to Germany, and every ton would be confiscated by the British Government as contraband of war. This, at all events, was the view that I had in my own mind.

Submarine Carried Nickel.

"But a new feature has now appeared in the fact that the Germans have adapted the submarine vessel to the carrying trade. We were shocked some months ago when we heard that the Deutschland, a trading German submarine, had reached Baltimore, and we were still more shocked when we heard that that vessel had left a few weeks afterwards with a rich cargo, of which nickel was a large part. We were hoping that the Deutschland would not reach a German harbor; but we learned a few weeks afterwards that she had reached the harbor of Bremen and had delivered her cargo to the German authorities—and then we had the thought before us that it was Canadian nickel which was going into German armaments to be used in fighting the allies and fighting our own troops. The Deutschland is again in a harbor of the United States and at this moment is loaded with nickel. Where does that nickel come from? Sir, if it comes from any other source than Canada, from any other part of the continent, or any other country than Canada, we should be relieved if the Government would tell us so.

We Must Know Where this Nickel Comes From.

"I do not lay any accusation against the Government to-day, but I call their attention to a condition of things which is weighing upon every Canadian mind. If, as we have read in certain newspapers, the cargo which was taken to Germany in the month of August by the Deutschland, if the cargo which to-day is on board the Deutschland, is not Canadian nickel, then we have nothing more to say. But we have the right to expect from the Government that they will satisfy the Canadian public that it is not our own metal which is going to fill that vessel to go into German armaments to be used against our own troops.

"Therefore, I repeat, not in any carping spirit, but speaking as a Canadian to fellow-Canadians, as a British subject to fellow-British subjects, that we desire to have this question set at rest, and to have it absolutely sure than henceforth we shall not be subject to the thought that it may be possible that our own metal may go into German armaments to fight our own troops.

The Extension of Parliament.

"Since that time another event has taken place which is now much in the minds of the people, and which has been brought to the attention of the Canadian people by two Ministers of the Crown. Some nine or ten days ago, an important Minister of the Cabinet, who, it is said, to-morrow or the day after will be Minister of Militia, went to Toronto, where he stated that he had just left the Council, that he was coming with a message all warm from the Cabinet, and that message was that the Canadian Parliament was to be asked for another extension of time. The same statement was made a few days afterwards by another member of the Cabinet, the Solicitor-General, Mr. Meighen, in Montreal.

Not Afraid of Responsibility.

"Both gentlemen in making that statement said that Parliament was to be asked for an extension of time for the present Parliament, AND THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY WAS TO BE PLACED UPON THE LIBERALS, AND ESPECIALLY UPON THE LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY. SIR, LET ME SAY AT ONCE I AM NOT AFRAID OF RESPONSIBILITY. (Cheers.) I AM NOT NOW AND NEVER WAS. (Cheers.) I have been for some twenty-eight years now the accepted leader of the Liberal party, and in the course of my career, both in Opposition and in the Government, both in good fortune and ill fortune, it has been my lot to have to face many difficult problems, religious, national, racial and others.

No Terrors for Him.

"I never was afraid to take the responsibility.

Responsibility I took on every occasion, not with a view to winning anything of fame, but with one aim before my eyes, and that was the welfare of Canada, our country.

"When it comes to a decision whether Parliament should have an extension or should not have an extension, we shall weigh the proposals of the Government, we shall hear their reasons, we shall see what arguments they have set forth—and then, Sir, we shall be equal to the responsibility.

"In looking at this matter, IT IS EVIDENT FROM THE WAY IN WHICH IT WAS PUT FORTH THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SO MUCH IN VIEW THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY, THE CONSIDERATION OF THE WAR, AS THE FORTUNES OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

"I discard that view altogether. Office is the legitimate aspiration of every political party in every country which is blessed with British institutions. Office is the common object pursued by every political party, because no party unless it is in office can aspire to the duty and to the opportunity of carrying out its objects, principles and ideals.

The Means to an End.

"But, Sir, Office is not the end; it is the means to the end. The end is the welfare of Canada, our common country. It is in this view, my fellow-Liberals in the Province of Ontario, that I approach this question, as all other questions. Sir, I am a partisan, I do not make any mystery about that. We are all partisans, we advocate, it, but partisan for an object, for the welfare of Canada, our common country. And it is for these considerations and for these objects that the Liberals of Eastern Ontario have met to-day, and it is with this thought that tomorrow they will depart, each one to his own home, each one to develop and favor this object in so far as his own power may enable him to do so. In so far as I am concerned, I am altogether associated with you."

HON. GEO. P. GRAHAM'S SPEECH.

"Permit me Sir, to congratulate you and those associated with you on the great success of this gathering. Sir Wilfrid has intimated that Mr. McGiverin will again represent Ottawa in the House of Commons, which leads one to wonder at the grave responsibility a member for Ottawa assumes. With such constituents as Sir Wilfrid, Hon. Mr. Fielding, Hon. Mr. Fisher, Hon. Mr. Lemieux, Hon. Mr. Murphy, Senator Belcourt and others of like calibre, there is no marvel that the man who sits for the Capital considers himself honored above others.

"Allow me to say to Senator Belcourt who so eloquently proposed this toast, that the Liberal Party was never in more robust health. As has been demonstrated by the great speech to which we have just listened, the Party's head is clear, and every member of the body is vigorous and working in harmony with the head.

Why this Convention?

"We have been asked the meaning of this wonderful gathering. Why are the Liberals of Eastern Ontario assembled here to confer with each other? Sir, it is not only for conference and interchange of views, but to serve notice on the members of the Government, that should they succeed at an early date in carrying out the threat of a General Election which has been suspended

over the head of the Liberal Party since August, 1914, they will find us not unprepared for the emergency. Parliament has yet a full year to run before its term expires, but in the face of this we find a member of the Government rushing to Toronto and fresh from a Cabinet meeting, swinging aloft his bludgeon and threatening a General Election if the Liberal Party dare to disagree with legislation that may be offered. Let there be no mistake, the Liberal Party will not shrink from doing what it believes will inure to the success of the War in which we are engaged, or refusing to do what it considers inimical to the speedy achievement of victory. Let malicious tongues slander our great Chief as they will, we will continue to be guided by the ideals of integrity and patriotism, feeling assured that history will correct any misunderstandings created by the benighted bigotry of unreasoning partisans. Whenever the election is brought on by this Government, they will be swept from power as men altogether lacking in these qualities necessary for the successful management of the Country's affairs, particularly in this testing time of War.

Sir Robert Is Weak.

Is there a man in Canada, who having read the correspondence carried on between Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister and Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia, has not glowed with indignation and blushed with shame? In the midst of the World War, when the blood of our sons is being spilled on the battlefield; when our dear ones are coming back to us halt, maimed, blind; when financially we are bleeding at every pore, Canada is disgusted, the Empire is shocked and the enemy delighted to find the men to whom has been entrusted the sacred task of leading Canada in the performance of her share in the mighty struggle, making petty differences of greater importance than the Nation's life, and leaving the work of prosecuting the War, to dissipate their energies in abusing each other. Such a spectacle has never been witnessed in any constitutionally governed country in the world. The humiliation of Canada is complete.

What Sir Sam Wrote.

"What Sir Sam wrote is true or it is not true, and in either case it proves that Sir Robert is not master of the situation, and is altogether too weak to grip conditions as they must arise in the Government of the country. A successful Prime Minister must be sufficiently strong to control every element in his Cabinet, and the warmest personal friends of Sir Robert, admit that in this respect, he has woefully failed. Sir Sam as Minister of Militia has publicly charged Sir Robert as Prime Minister with having been untruthful; with having allowed members of the Government to spend millions, illegally and without authority; with winking at members of the Cabinet, intriguing and meddling so that supplies sorely needed by our boys at the front were prevented from going forward for four months, and many other equally serious offences.

"Sir Sam further charges that the reason this

intriguing and meddling took place was that Sir Robert's colleagues insisted on these supplies being purchased through friendly middlemen who were to get a rake-off. Sir Robert has not denied one of these serious charges. On the other hand he has charged Sir Sam with defying Cabinet authority and ignoring Government responsibility. The Prime Minister makes the humiliating confession, which in itself stamps him as utterly weak, that he has devoted much of his time to straightening out these difficulties, which should have been spent in prosecuting the War. If Sir Robert really knew what he says he knew about Sir Sam, then the very thought that the Prime Minister of our Country could be guilty of worse than weakness, in tolerating such conduct is beyond the scope of our imagination.

"But Sir, notwithstanding all the charges made by Sir Robert against Sir Sam, these do not form the reason the latter's resignation was demanded. Had it not been written by Sir Robert himself, it would be inconceivable (but it is nevertheless true) that the Prime Minister of Canada should, after making serious charges against his colleague, practically say to him, **'But for none of these things do I seriously condemn you, and had it not been that you committed the grave offence of writing me a letter derogatory to my dignity, you could still remain a member of the Government. As you did write me such a letter, however, you cannot expect to be kept in the Cabinet and I ask your resignation.'**

"Sir, the utter supineness of the Prime Minister is shown in that he wrote letters at all. Worse than weak he showed himself in falling into the meshes of the net of letter writing so cleverly woven for his discomfiture by Sir Sam. What would a strong man have done under such circumstances? What would Sir Wilfrid have done? No letter would have passed, no parleying indulged in, but with a ring of the telephone he would have summoned the recalcitrant Minister to his office, and talked to him face to face. If he proved uncontrollable, that man who entered Sir Wilfrid's office as a Minister would have departed from it a private citizen, with no copious correspondence for public consumption. A real Prime Minister must be master in his political house, and that Sir Robert is not and never has been.

The Loyalty Boasters.

"It has been made evident that the Conservative Party is again going to arrogate to itself all the loyalty of Canadian and British citizenship. Sir, Liberals do not boast of their loyalty, neither do they charge disloyalty against the Tories, for sensible and reasonable men gladly admit that fidelity to the Empire and sacrifices in the gigantic struggle for maintenance of true freedom, are not confined to any creed or party. Notwithstanding this, leading Conservatives have but recently questioned the loyalty of Liberal leaders, and the word has been passed on, to whisper the same throughout the hamlets and up and down the concessions, particularly in Ontario. Let it be called to mind Sir, that the Liberals are not in alliance with the 'No-Aid-to-Britain' party. On the contrary when under

Sir Wilfrid the Canadian Government for the first time in the South African War, sent aid to the Motherland, certain men forsook him, and the Tory party took them to its bosom, and in the Election of 1911 they greatly assisted that party. Let it not be forgotten that the present Government came into power and remains in power on account of an alliance it made with that body of the electorate, whose policy was and is 'We owe nothing to England.' The public mind will not be diverted from the fact that Sir Robert still keeps in his Government men elected on the policy of 'No Participations in the Wars of the Motherland.' We have no apologies to make for Liberalism, which through the ages in shade and sunshine has stood for what is best among the peoples of the world.

"History as well will record, that while the Conservative Party has always insisted that its loyalty is of a clearer strain than that of the Liberals, it was left for the latter with Sir Wilfrid as Prime Minister and Hon. W. S. Fielding, Finance Minister, to give Great Britain a preference in our markets. History of a later date records the fact that when the present Government introduced its 7½% addition to the tariff under the guise of war necessity, the Liberals opposed it as unscientific and unfair, and particularly did they most strenuously oppose the added incumbrance placed on trade between the Motherland and Canada. So strongly did the Liberals feel on this point, that before the vote was called, they offered to withdraw all opposition to the tariff proposals if the trade of Great Britain with Canada were exempted from this extreme burden of taxation. The Conservatives refused this offer, not one from the Prime Minister down, dissenting.

About Policies.

"The Canadian people, if this knowledge be not Empire, yes world wide, knew now that a huge blunder was made, when the present Government in order to carry out its pre-election pledges to its ally the Nationalist party, refused to proceed with the building of war ships in Canada. Had Sir Robert never been in league with the Nationalists, he would have adhered to his own pronounced policy of 1909, and Canada to-day would have her shores protected by ships of her own; our troops would have been conveyed across the sea by Canadian cruisers, and our commerce would have been protected by the same means. Had there never been a Tory-Nationalist alliance, Sir Richard McBride would not have felt compelled to rush to the United States on the outbreak of War, and for the defence of British Columbian coast cities, purchase without any authority whatever, two submarines built for the Chilian Government. If Sir Robert had refused the demand of the Nationalists to dismantle the Niobe, that ship would have been able to capture German vessels, on their rush to cover, when War was declared, in sufficient numbers to pay for herself many times over.

As to the War.

"The winning of the War and how best to perform our full duty is the aim we all ought to have in view.

Now that the pilot has been pitched overboard, and it has been made clear that the energy of the Government has been dissipated through internal quarrels, is it not time for plain speaking? Who can truthfully affirm that the people are being given the clear ringing note of a confident leadership, unbiased by party considerations; or unclouded by personal ambition? Look at the Government's appointments to and management of the 'National Service Board.' In the selection of the eleven men, Sir Robert could find a place for but one Liberal, while among the Tories were members of Parliament and I am told, at least one Conservative organizer. To say that the country was astounded at this display of narrow partisan bigotry, is putting it mildly. When Sir Thomas Tait was named as head of the Board, the public mind was a trifle relieved, and it was thought that if he were given a free hand, some good might be accomplished and progress made in this important work. But the country was doomed to disappointment. Sir Thomas is a man of supreme organizing ability with no political axe to grind, and he went about his work, like a man who believed in his ability to perform the task in hand. He began by choosing as Secretary, Mr. Murray, who as Secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, has made a name for himself on both sides of the ocean. If the world had been ransacked for a man able to fill the duties of that office in a moment to bring results, none superior to Murray could have been found. It is almost unthinkable, yet nevertheless true, that the Government told the head of the Board, that it would not allow him to have Mr. Murray for Secretary, and Sir Thomas resigned in disgust. Thus at one stroke Sir Robert spurned the services of Mr. Murray, who offered to act without salary, and lost, in this great National crisis, all that the ability, experience, and devotion of Sir Thomas Tait meant to Canada and the Empire.

"And why did the Government refuse to accept the freely offered services of Mr. Murray. Simply because, that at the beginning of the War, that gentleman as Secretary of the Manufacturers' Association, warned Sir Robert that War supplies could not be sold direct to the Government, but manufacturers were being compelled to dispose of them through middlemen who got their rake-off. Think of it seriously, Sir, the Government being so contracted in its view, as to allow its own petty pique to loom larger on the National horizon, than the good that might have been accomplished by Sir Thomas Tait, aided by Mr. Murray. Sir, let it not be forgotten that this was but one act in the tragedy of events, which led to the resignation in disgust of Sir Thomas Tait. Yet, people there be, who seem to think, that in the face of this condition of affairs, the leader of the Liberal Party should have shouldered a part of the responsibility by accepting Sir Robert's invitation to step in after Sir Thomas Tait had been driven out, the victim of what Sir Sam calls '**Ministerial intrigue and meddling.**' This surely is not winning the War.

"There has not been a day since the War Session of 1914, during which the threat of a General Election has not been held over the Liberal Party. Ballots for the soldiers were printed and hurried off

to England in charge of a trusted partisan; attacks of the most violent character have been made and are still being made on our great Chieftain; the first month of the extended term of Parliament has been distinguished by bickerings and strife in the Government and another threat of a General Election. Yet we are told that Liberals should remain silent and take no thought for the national or political morrow. If we are to contribute our full share to the victory we believe is sure to come, there must be a broader outlook, a clearer vision and a much stronger leadership in the Government. Canadians are for the most part doing their duty, and they look for inspiration and encouragement in the conduct of public affairs.

After the War.

"What this great conflict will bring in its wake, can only be conjectured. It seems inevitable, however that a period of readjustment if not actual dislocation in industrial conditions will have to be grappled with. The manufacture of munitions and war supplies will come to an end, and in all probability armies of men will be compelled to look elsewhere for employment. Manufacturers who have been devoting their energies to meeting the requirements of the War Office, will find themselves confined to the production of goods for staple trade. Thousands of our boys will be home from the War, who must be employed, but how? After months and months of adventure will they be content to settle down to routine business or agricultural life? New ideas as to taxation will have to be worked out in order that the greatest returns may be secured, with the burden placed on the right shoulders. But, Sir, while the future conditions must be anticipated so far as possible, the first and most pressing duty, if Canada is to have a future worth while, is to see that the War is won. Sir Wilfrid has well said that, '**if the War be lost little else matters.**' The assertion by Sir George Foster that Canada is sound asleep is scarcely born out by the facts. The business men of Canada are not slothful, but are meeting the new conditions with astonishing success.

"What of the future? Sir, the best teacher is experience. Conditions in Canada that we must ere long face, require the grip of a strong hand, and the sagacity of a master mind. There is one man in Canada, to whom, above all others the people look for leadership in the crisis; that man is Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It is true he is being viciously attacked by journals and men who depend for success on an appeal to the prejudices of one portion of the community. Thinking men will not forget that in 1896, when these very men who are now appealing to prejudice, were willing to abandon all their professed principles in the hope of retaining power, Sir Wilfrid, though in Opposition, practically took charge of affairs, and risking more than his political life, stood out like the sturdy oak, unaffected by the storm that raged about him, for the rights of Manitoba to manage her own educational affairs. Who among these babblers would have been sufficiently courageous to do as Sir Wilfrid did in 1896? He brought order out of chaos and started

Canada out on a new way of peace and good fellowship between the races. In 1896, Sir Wilfrid found Canada in a state of depression financially and commercially. Business was stagnated, and the Government year by year was compelled to announce that its expenditure was greatly in excess of its income. All this was changed so that when he went out of office in 1911, the incoming Government found an overflowing treasury at Ottawa, a buoyant business in the country and a happy and contented people throughout the land. Sir, the surest precaution against any conditions that may present themselves after the War is to place again at the head of the affairs the man whose public career has been marked by such brilliant achievement. In doing this Sir, I fully believe we will be acting in the best interests of Canada and the Empire. The good of the world, the good of the Empire, and our own good, demand strong and sturdy action at home as well as abroad, so that when the mountain passes have ceased to reverberate with the roar of the cannon, when no more on the plains is heard the din of battle; when war and devastation have made way for peace and reconstruction, may history be able to truthfully record of us, that in the most trying time of the Nation's life, we did not shirk or shrink from doing our full duty."

HON. CHARLES MURPHY'S SPEECH.

The second to reply to the Toast to the Liberal Party was Hon. Charles Murphy, M.P., former Secretary of State in the Liberal Cabinet.

Beginning his speech, in French, Mr. Murphy paid a tribute to the French-Canadian people, and added that as Sir Wilfrid's French address had expressed his sentiments most fully, and, as the hour was late, he would proceed in English.

Continuing in English Mr. Murphy congratulated the organizers of the District Conference on the happy idea of bringing together so many Canadians of diverse origin at a time when national unity was so much needed and after alluding to the benefits that would follow a full and frank exchange of opinions, he said:—

"The difficulty under which I labor in addressing a meeting of any kind has, in one respect at least, been to a large extent removed. The speeches already delivered have dealt in a comprehensive way with the larger aspect of public affairs and there remain but a few details for me to touch upon during the short time that I will claim the indulgence of your attention.

Cob-Webs Removed.

"Let me begin by brushing away some of the political cob-webs so industriously spun by our political opponents for the double purpose of obscuring public vision and of confusing the public mind.

Tories and a War-Time Election.

"There is first the attempt of our opponents to make the Liberals responsible for an election during the War.

"That will deceive nobody who keeps in mind the fact that three times since the War began the Tories tried to force a dissolution of Parliament and that each attempt failed. One such attempt was made at the time the Soldiers' Votes Bill was passed and the ballots were rushed to England to "synchronize," as Sir Thomas White would say, with the delivery of a speech by Hon. Robert Rogers at Montreal in which he said the demand for an election came from the whole country in tones louder than thunder.

Borden's Pledge in Parliament.

"Then it is important to bear in mind also what took place in Parliament when the extension of one year was granted. Speaking in the House of Commons on February 8th, 1916, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said:—

"There is another consideration. If we pass this resolution I take it as a pledge from the Government that we shall be delivered from the threat which was held over our heads last year of an instantaneous and premature dissolution at any time the Government thought fit. If the Government asks us to extend the life of Parliament I take it that there will be no election until the fall of 1917. We shall then know exactly where we are and shall not be subject to all the uncertainties which have been hanging over us for the last twelve months."

"The words just quoted were addressed to Sir Robert Borden across the floor of the House. He did not utter even a syllable of dissent, and he is therefore in honor bound to adhere to the terms upon which Sir Wilfrid consented to the extension of the life of Parliament, namely that there would be no election until the fall of 1917 in any event.

What Kemp and Meighen Did.

"But are Sir Robert and his colleagues adhering to their pledge? They are not. The first month of the year's extension had not elapsed before Mr. Kemp rushed out of the Council Chamber and up to Toronto to tell a Conservative gathering that the Government were going to ask for another extension and if it was not granted the Liberals would be responsible for an election. Then Hon. Mr. Meighen went down to Montreal and repeated Mr. Kemp's statement to a Tory assemblage in that city. And these itinerant politicians want the people to believe that they are devoting their whole time to the War! There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Rogers was the instigator of the performances of Mr. Kemp at Toronto and of Mr. Meighen at Montreal. They knew the Hughes disclosures were coming and to head off their effect Mr. Rogers decided on a move based on the tactics of the cuttle-fish. So he sent Mr. Kemp to Toronto to raise a cloud there, and Mr. Meighen to Montreal to raise another cloud there, in the hope that public opinion would be fogged when Sir Sam Hughes' correspondence with the Prime Minister was published. But the political atmosphere was not clouded by these performances and the people know perfectly well that Mr. Rogers and his colleagues have failed in their clumsy attempt to

escape responsibility for an election which if they had had their way would have taken place at one of the worst periods of the War.

Charges Against Government Proved.

"When speaking at Montreal, Mr. Meighen had the audacity to say that the charges made against the Government for its conduct of the War had not been proved and that, everything considered, not a dollar of public money had been lost. I will cite two witnesses to refute Mr. Meighen and neither of them is a Liberal.

The Two Witnesses.

"These two witnesses are Sir Robert Borden and Sir Sam Hughes. In dismissing Sir Sam, Sir Robert proved our charges against the Militia Department to have been true. In his exposure of Sir Robert Borden and the other members of the Cabinet, Sir Sam not only proves our charges against the Government but he makes additional charges and he proves them also.

The Borden-Hughes Letters.

"The correspondence between Sir Robert Borden and Sir Sam Hughes is without parallel in the history of any Country enjoying responsible government. For anything like Sir Sam's arraignment of the Prime Minister and his colleagues you must go back to the impeachment of Warren Hastings. But there are two features in regard to which the Hughes charges are absolutely unique. In the first place Sir Robert Borden has not denied them. In the second place he dismissed Sir Sam, not for making the charges, but for accusing him of not telling the truth. Read the letters and these two amazing features burn into your brain.

Some of Hughes' Charges.

"Let me hurriedly place before you the enormity of the public crimes charged against the Prime Minister and the other members of the Government by Sir Sam Hughes and not denied by the Prime Minister in any of the numerous replies that he sent to his colleague.

"During the first ten months of the War Sir Sam alleges that all the equipment, stores, supplies and armament provided by Canada for her soldiers were thrown away and that he not only spoke to Sir Robert Borden about this wholesale rejection but that he wrote him a memorandum on the subject. Nothing was done, but the equipment, supplies and armament, including the Ross Rifles, that the Government knew would be rejected, were turned out at enormous cost as before and supplied to the Canadian soldiers merely for the purpose of allowing the friends of the Government to rake in their profits. And in the face of this colossal waste during the first ten months of the War, Mr. Meighen says that not a dollar of public money was lost! As a matter of fact the soldiers are still supplied with equipment whose use will not be allowed at the front and the waste of public money goes merrily on.

"And what else does Sir Sam charge? In two of the letters that he wrote to Sir Robert Borden he charges that the Second Canadian Division was held in Canada for 4 months while the Ministers "haggled" about middlemen's commissions on contracts for motor trucks. What crime against Canada could be greater than that? With Canadians dying in the trenches, with appeals coming for men and arms, with thousands of Canadian soldiers in the Second Division ready and eager to get to the front, the Canadian Government deliberately wasted 4 months of precious time in "haggling" over a division of filthy spoils. Who can tell of the loss of life and the waste of money during those 4 months; Mr. Meighen says there was none. Mr. Meighen is an honorable man. In fact they are all honorable men.

"As with the equipment and motor trucks, so with all the other details entrusted to the Government. Sir Sam charges that the Pay Department was chaotic; that the Medical Service lacked system and efficiency; that in consequence millions were lost to Canada; that the Hospital Commission and the National Service Commission are absurdities; that meddling and intrigue were rampant in the Cabinet; that had he depended on Cabinet action the First Canadian Division would not have left Valcartier yet; that the Finance Minister never brought before Council any proposed Canadian loan or any single important act of his Department; that in the same way Council was ignored by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Postmaster-General, the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Railways and Canals; that Sir Robert Borden had told him that boats had been purchased and other large expenditures incurred without any Orders-in-Council and without the Premier's knowledge or authority; and finally that in regard to certain other matters discussed in the correspondence Sir Robert is not telling the truth. For making the latter statement Sir Sam was dismissed. The rest of his indictment remains unchallenged. Was there ever such a spectacle presented in any other country in the world?

Give Borden His Due.

"If I am critical of Sir Robert Borden I must also be fair to him and give him his due. For that reason I should add that when he gravely handed to our new Governor-General, the Duke of Devonshire, on the very day that His Excellency first set foot in Ottawa, the Hughes correspondence detailing his own and his Government's hideous mismanagement of Canada's part in the War he once more displayed his unerring aptitude for doing the wrong thing at the wrong time.

Moral from U.S. Election.

"Let me take advantage of this occasion to point out a moral that we may draw from the recent Presidential Election in the United States. In doing so I am not in any way concerned about the success of either of the political parties or of either of the candidates representing these parties. I merely wish to point out that when the Big Interests

ranged themselves solidly behind Mr. Hughes, the common people got behind Mr. Wilson and the common people won. Their victory marked the shifting of political power in the United States from the toll collectors to the toll payers and was, so far as my knowledge goes, the first instance of its kind within our generation in the American Republic. This example should not be lost upon us. I submit that it is the immediate duty of the Liberal Party to bring that lesson home to the common people of Canada, and if we measure up to our obligations in that regard Canada will be a better land to live in and the Liberal Party will be more solidly based on public confidence than it has ever been in the past.

The Government and the High Cost of Living.

"It should be the easiest thing in the world to rouse our people in defence of their own interests and in putting an end to the methods of the War profiteers and the Apostles of High Tariffs. What more do we require to induce the people to get together than the Government's action with reference to the high cost of living? A representative delegation waited upon a committee of the Cabinet, submitted facts relating to the increased cost of living and prayed for relief. What did they receive? A reply from Mr. Rogers that the increased cost of living was due to world-wide causes, that these causes existed outside of Canada and the Government in consequence could do nothing. Following fast upon this answer the Government was made aware of its stupidity and then what did they do? The self-same gentlemen who had wisely declared that they could not deal with the causes of the increased cost of living because these causes existed outside of Canada, solemnly passed an Order-in-Council dumping upon Municipal, Township and City Councils throughout Canada the duty of dealing with these very causes. Could bungling, hopeless, incompetence farther go? In their wildest conceits Gilbert & Sullivan never pictured anything more grotesque than this Borden government.

Sir Wilfrid's Courage.

"One more word and I have done. You will recall that when the Parliament Building was destroyed by fire last Winter, the House of Commons was moved out to the Victoria Museum. At the time there were silly rumours that the fire had been caused by an enemy—presumably a German. Public feeling was wrought up and it happened that a high functionary of Parliament whose duty it is, amongst other things to look after the precincts of the House of Commons conceived the idea of ensuring the safety of the members of the House by excluding the public from the galleries of the Chamber. In due course he sought the approval of Sir Wilfrid for his proposal and Sir Wilfrid not only refused to give it, but insisted that the galleries must be kept open in accordance with the constitutional practice that requires the business of the country to be transacted within the sight and hearing of such members of the public as wish to attend the proceedings. But said this functionary

to Sir Wilfrid: 'We are running the danger of having some crank or criminal come into the gallery and throw a bomb that will blow us up.' Sir Wilfrid's reply in effect was this: 'When you entered public life you assumed the risk of being hit by a bomb, and that risk you and I and the rest of us will have to continue to assume.'

"The physical courage with which Sir Wilfrid has faced personal danger is the natural accompaniment of the moral courage with which he has faced and overcome all political dangers during his long and honoured career. He has been often attacked and no doubt will continue to be attacked, but those who are honest must give him credit for the possession of this dual quality. Its constant display has won back public confidence. In fact this most violent assailant of late has, in a burst of candor, paid him this very tribute.

Bourassa's Attack.

"You will recall that when Mr. Bourassa made an attack upon Sir Wilfrid about five weeks ago and denounced him as the most nefarious man that the Province of Quebec had produced he said at the same time that he wanted his hearers to understand that he was not attacking a fallen man but that he was attacking a man who seemed to be about to regain his ascendancy over the Canadian people. The significance of this latter statement should not be lost. However, we may disagree with Mr. Bourassa about his other statements, we all agree with him that Sir Wilfrid is about to regain his ascendancy over the public, and we all feel absolutely confident that that ascendancy will be completely established just as soon as the Government gives the Canadian people a chance to pronounce their verdict upon the acts of the present administration."

SECOND DISTRICT LIBERAL CONFERENCE.

A SECOND District Liberal Conference was held at Belleville on Wednesday, December 6th, and the proceedings were most enthusiastic throughout. Hon. George P. Graham, M.P., was elected Chairman and Nelson Parliament, M.P.P., Vice-Chairman. There was a large attendance of delegates, and after a masterly address by H. H. Dewart, K.C., M.P.P., Toronto, many short speeches were delivered during the afternoon.

In the evening at a banquet presided over by F. E. O'Fynn, K.C., of Belleville, who had charge of all the preliminaries and direction of details of the day's proceedings. Addresses were delivered by Hon. Geo. P. Graham, M.P.; N. W. Rowell, M.P.P., and C. M. Bowman, M.P.P. In addition to these proceedings a large recruiting meeting was held in the opera house, and the citizens generally had an opportunity to hear addresses by Messrs. H. H. Horsey, Picton, Dr. Richardson, Kingston, and N. W. Rowell, H. H. Dewart, C. M. Bowman and N. Parliament, M.P.P.'s.

The Counties represented at the Conference were Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, Prince Edward, Hastings, Durham and Northumberland, and the Cities of Kingston and Belleville. Other Ontario Conferences will follow during the next year.

HIGH COST OF LIVING.

THREE years ago as the result of constant pressure the present government appointed a departmental commission to enquire into the High Cost of Living, and make recommendations in connection therewith. The commission submitted its report at the last session of Parliament. But it made no recommendation.

At the annual meeting of the Trade and Labor Congress held in Toronto recently one of the principal resolutions passed by the gathering called for immediate action by the Government to control food prices. On October 13th, a delegation representing Boards of Trade and Councils from all important eastern points; the Union of Canadian Municipalities; the National Council of Women; the Trade and Labor Congress; the Dominion Retailers Association and other prominent bodies waited upon the Government in the House of Commons, and asked that steps be taken by the Federal authorities to control prices. The delegation made a strong appeal based on figures of the cost of living during the past few months.

Sympathy and Nothing Else.

At the conclusion of the hearing **Hon. T. W. Crothers**, Minister of Labor endeavored to console the gathering by stating that prices had increased to a far greater degree in Germany than in Canada, and that as a matter of fact there were few countries in the world where prices were lower than in the Dominion. He thought that the main trouble was with wages. **Hon. Robert Rogers** informed the gathering that **nobody had placed his finger upon a remedy**, and intimated that there was **little that the Government could do**. **Hon. C. J. Doherty**, Minister of Justice declared that **"if someone else would take the initiative"** the Department of Justice would be willing to place all the machinery it had in its possession at their disposal; but that the Department would of itself initiate no investigation. The Delegation received sympathy—but nothing else.

Since then Grocer Associations have made strenuous complaint at the prices being charged by wholesalers. Encouraged no doubt by the Government's stand on the matter, and secure because of the high protection which they enjoy, the Canadian canners have announced increases in various canned goods approximating as high as 100 per cent. Retailers associations have also met in conference and complained loudly concerning prices charged them by the wholesalers. And the National Council of Women has since assembled in Ottawa and passed resolutions favoring control of food prices.

Pressure of public opinion finally brought the Government to a realization that something must be done. A sub-committee of the Cabinet was appointed, consisting of **Hon. C. J. Doherty**, **Hon. Arthur Meighen**, **Hon. T. J. Crothers** and **Hon. Robert Rogers**, to go into the matter and draft an order-in-council which might be calculated to allay the public agitation.

There emanated from this committee a compli-

cated piece of machinery the provisions of which may briefly be summarized as follows:—

Upon the Council of a municipality declaring that excessive prices are being demanded for any necessity of life, it may institute a partial investigation so far as conditions within its boundaries are concerned. **It cannot, however, enforce the attendance of witnesses from outside its boundaries, nor can it penalize those who decline to be examined.**

The Council upon making such investigation may report to the Minister of Labor, that a further and more complete enquiry is necessary; and this may be ordered by the Minister.

If this second investigation is ordered, and it shows that an offence has been committed under the regulations prohibiting the undue raising of prices the facts may be reported to the Attorney-General of the Province "for such action as he may be pleased to institute."

The clumsy, and complicated nature of the machinery is clearly indicated from the above summary. It has already been described by more than one Municipal Council, which has endeavored to take advantage of it, as **"Passing the Responsibility."** The Government to which the people look to see that the cost of food in war time is not unduly enhanced, passes the responsibility to the municipalities, whose powers are limited within their own particular boundaries, and the municipalities then pass the responsibility on to the provincial governments.

In view of the failure several years ago of the Minister of Labor to take any decisive action in connection with the Shoe Machinery Trust, under the Combines Act, little better results may be anticipated from this new and clumsy piece of legislation.

The Government is not at all anxious to probe too deeply into the question of soaring food prices, for fear of what it might find. Many of its own particular friends are making large profits from the handling of food supplies. It would, for instance, be a delicate matter to inquire into the workings of the Canners Combine, which is one of the particular price boosters since the war commenced. Among the Government benches in the House of Commons is to be found the seat of **Francis Ramsey Lalor**, Conservative M.P. for Haldimand. Mr. Lalor is designated in the Parliamentary Guide as "a self-made man." He is one of the particular heads of the Canners Combine aforementioned. So it will be seen that the Government's position in this connection is a delicate one.

It may be interesting in view of the stand taken by the Canadian Government to note what action has been taken by other countries in this respect.

Australia.

In Australia a **Commonwealth Prices Adjustment Board** has been established, with power to summon witnesses, take evidence, enter premises, inspect books, and do everything

considered necessary to make a complete investigation of the cost of commodities. The Government may on the recommendation of the Board determine the maximum rates which may be charged for foodstuffs, and other commodities, and the maximum rates which may be charged for services in any specified area. The Government may also determine the conditions of the sale, or the performance of the service. Failure to observe prices and rates thus fixed is made an indictable offence.

The first work of the Board is now being undertaken in connection with the fixing of the prices of groceries and household necessities.

Newfoundland.

In Newfoundland the governor-in-council was authorized to take possession, at a reasonable price, of foodstuffs unreasonably withheld, and to issue a statement of maximum prices. Foods held for higher than maximum prices were to be regarded as unreasonably withheld, and liable to acquisition at the Government's price.

New Zealand.

In New Zealand the Regulation of Trade and Commerce Act enabled the Government by order-in-council to fix and determine and vary the maximum price of any class of goods. To sell above this price has been made an indictable offence punishable by a fine of \$2,500.

Other Precedents.

Other precedents which the Government might follow are to be found in Queensland, Australia, where the Meat Supply for Imperial Uses Act, which may be extended to other foodstuffs, not only secured ample supplies for the use of the Government during the war but, in effect, fixed prices; and where the Control of Trade Act provided against the restriction of supply or the undue raising of prices by the appointment of Boards of Control responsible to the Chief Secretary. In Victoria the Price of Goods Act provided for the fixing of maximum prices by the Prices Board acting in conjunction with the Governor. In Western Australia by the Control of Trade in War Time Act a royal commission was authorized to fix prices, and any person possessing the necessities of life, and refusing to sell them at the lawful price was made liable to a fine of \$5,000, while the State Treasurer was empowered to purchase compulsorily at the maximum price.

In addition to the above a commissioner is appointed by the Commonwealth Government for each Australian State to report to the Federal Prices Adjustment Board.

It is needless to refer in supplementing the above cases to the thorough system of price control established by the British Government.

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The only comment we have to make on the utterances of Mr. McNaught of Toronto, which were intended to reflect on the loyalty of Liberals, is that if the "Mc" were left from his name what is left would be indicative of his brain power.

To paraphrase Nelson's famous message to his sailors on the eve of the battle of Trafalgar, our national watchword should be, "CANADA EXPECTS EVERY DOLLAR TO DO ITS DUTY."

Gabriel's horn may blow before Sir Charles Peers Davidson makes his report on the charges of graft in the conduct of the Militia Department.

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