How Things Are Manipulated at Ottawa by Those Holding the Seats of the Mighty-Bob Rogers Wants an Election, but Sir Robert Uncertain as to Tory Prospects, Adopts the September Morn Attitude—Inclined to be Finickey on Issues.

Ottawa, June 19-Sir Wilfrid Laur- wreath of bays he was expecting, it ier's challenge, 'I will not open the is his own fault for grabbing more portals of office with that bloody than his share.

key,' has captured the imagination Certain working members of the of the country. The opinion grows cabinet have begun to complain that Premier Borden must either at a division of labor which apportake it or leave it. The opinion also tions all the glory to Sir Robert and grows that he will leave it because so all the blame to his humble and infar he has refused to discuss it. ferior associates. Sir Robert, so Silence is one of the best things the they say may hold his head premier does.

A plain statement from Premier planted on earth to know what the Borden that there will be no general Honorable Bob and his side partners election until the war is over would are doing. In a word, Sir Robert is be a great boon to Canada but that the real minister of elections and the statement Sir Robert shirks making. Honorable Bob is only the screen It is true, as his campaign literature door which keeps the flies from irriadvertises, that Borden backs Brit- tating his master. ain, but that probably means that he If anything the Honorable Bob is has not considered, for example, the -but Sir Robert can be scared off. ter of public opinion is never out of possibility of backing Britain by fol- The premier is much of Hamlet's Sir Robert's hand but every time he

PORDEN'S TACILLATION. is fraying at the edges. Even his fair prospect of success. What he worst with the features of the oppoown friends condem his vacillation. sought to defer was failure—in which sition. If there is a chance at any It is well known that the premier attitude he was strengthened by prac- stage of the game to nip in and get likes to monopolize all the stained tical friends in the cabinet who a snap verdict Sir Robert is not glass attitudes in party politics. For thought it a shame to hand the going to miss it. instance, if any ex-communicating spending of one hundred and fifty is to be done it is Sir Robert who million dollars over to the Liberals. Robert does not resist a general elecindulges in the grand gestures which In short, the election has been as tion, but that a general election resweep sinners like Garland and Fos- moveable as Premier Borden's fears sists him. Twice he has appeared as ter out of sight. Sometimes the sin- which receive new impetus every time September Morn shivering on the ners refuse to stay swept but that a Canadian casualty list arrives brink-but both times the water has makes no difference—the Great Puri- from Europe. fier has done his work and been seen in one of his favorite poses. Like- It is not men that intimidate the wise Sir Robert has a habit of seiz- premier but events. If there was a

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backs Britain as far as expedient. He the traver man-he would do it now have the right of way. The baromelowing her example and postponing frame of mind when about to commit has read it, the glass has said "unpartisan strife until Germany is suicide. He hesitates to fly to evils settled weather." Meanwhile the Con he wots not of. The rumor runs that servative job presses are turning out Premier Borden has never been oppos- tons of campaign literature and the Meanwhile Premier Borden's halo ed to any general election that had a nimble cartoonists are doing their

The situation seems to be that Sin been too cold. Last fall he recoiled shuddering. The recoil was so strong

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ing any laurels that may be handed smashing victory for the Allies to-

about and if occasionally he gets a morrow the proprieties would be for-Garland of thistles instead of the gotten and a general election would

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that it sent him as far south as the Virginia hot springs, where he go warmed through again. Early this summer he gabbled his toes in the water but found it too cold for politicians. It was the right tempera

ture, however, for fish, so he wen

After his return from his fishing trip two suggestions met him, both of which he succeeded in dodging.

One was that the government should hold office till the war was over, the other that its term should be extended over two years. These suggestions were unofficial but hearty. Many Con servatives believed that this was the election stands at present-Sir Robonly way the government could prolong its life because on its record the one thing it could plead was extenuating circumstances. Besides there

position might adopt a policy of passive resistance, let the government have all the seats without a fight and put it in wrong with the Sir Robert is as finicky about people that way. At least that sues as he is about occasions for ed but Sir Robert did not see it in issues have been weighed in the bal-

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in the school books, he felt that he ought to "hang on a little longer. That is how the case for a general ert getting all the bouquets for way ing it back and the Honorable Bol getting all the brick-bats for pushing it forward. Some people call Sir Cooling Wash Robert's attitude resisting, others, more accurate, speak of it as wait-

FINICKY ON ISSUES. was what the specious reasoners urg- general election. Up to date four entific compound of soothing oil of Winthat ,ight. Like John Maynard, the ance and found wanting. The first brave pilot, of whom he used to read was the contumeliousness of the sen-

ate which was discovered by Bo Rogers in April, just about the time bill a heavy financial load? Is your pain the Manitoba government began tottering. As that excuse would not wash a second issue was put for ward-the necessity of securing mandate from the people to spend one hundred and fifty million del- issue having been laughed out



lars which had been unanimously court the fourth issue is now broachvoted by parliament. The second ed-the shortcomings of Mr White's issue proving as flimsy as the first a war tariff. Though its defects are third issue was invented-the over- admitted, Mr. White has plenary great burden of responsible govern- power to altar and amend and noment on the shoulders of fifteen body is asking for a general eleccabinet ministers who would there- tion on the head of it-nobody, that fore ask the people to allow them to is to say, except the Borden govcarry it five years longer. The third ernment to whom a poor excuse is

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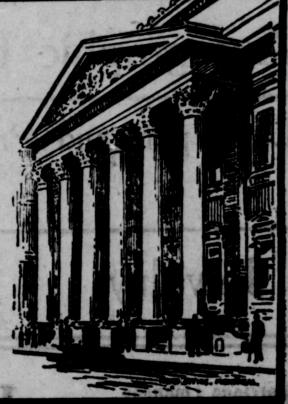
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