

TORIES ARE HUNTING FOR A STRONG MAN TO LEAD THEM

Premier Borden Now Looked Upon as Canada's Silent Son, and He Plays the Part Well—The War Being Used as an Excuse For Pillage—The People Pay Through the Nose For the Necessaries of Life.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, Sept. 14.—The hunt is on for the strong man to lead the Conservative forlorn hope at the next general election. It is not a Canada-wide hunt—the Cabinet being of the firm belief that the right man will be found within its own boundaries. There are four candidates—Borden, White, Rogers and Sam. Perhaps one ought to put Sam first. However, that is a matter of taste.

Premier Borden is said to have no consuming desire to lead his party to inevitable defeat. He came in on a policy of let-well-enough-alone and he has merely succeeded in making well-enough considerably worse.

Mr. J. L. Garvin, of the Pall Mall Gazette, once called him Canada's stern, strong, silent son—of which three attributes Mr. Garvin guessed one right. Premier Borden has been silent enough all right. He was silent when the Bertram Shell Committee was getting in its work, silent also when Sam's friend John Wesley Allison was committing his depredations, silent when the Canadian contingents

were being loaded up with eight million dollars worth of useless Ross rifles. Yes, indeed, in that matter of the Ross rifles he was a silent son—of a gun.

Took Arbitrary Powers.

Premier Borden has continued silent while food prices rocketed sky-high, and although his government at the beginning of the war took to itself, by common consent, the most arbitrary powers to prevent extortion by the food usurers, it has not lifted a finger to help the people and curb its friends.

Production has not fallen off during the war. As a matter of fact last year the Northwest had the largest wheat crop in its history.

There was every reason why prices should go down and no reason at all why they should go up, except that a supine government interfered with nobody using the war as an excuse for pillage.

For example, butter is 42c. a pound in Toronto; eggs at the height of the laying season were 35c. a dozen. The producer did not get these prices, but

the middleman did. The middleman is favored by the Borden government's high tariff. Everything the people eat or wear has been increased in price and decreased in quality. All the traffic will bear and then add 50 per cent on account of the war—that is what the Borden government's let-well-enough-alone policy has brought us to. Food inspection in this country is a joke. Cold storage, which promised to be a blessing, has been allowed to become a curse. Such a thing as a cheap, well-made shoe is no longer to be found in Canada. Sugar has advanced 75 per cent. Milk is 9c. a quart and blue at that. Coal has been jugged up 50 cents a ton on the pretext of a railway strike in the United States, which did not come off.

Canada's Silent Son.

Premier Borden is Canada's "silent son" all right. He remains silent while the people pay through the nose for the necessities of life in order to enrich the beneficiaries of the Borden trade policies. To make matters worse, the Borden government refuses to let the Northwest make Canada rich by allowing the farmers there to sell their wheat in a free market, which would bring them ten cents more a bushel. So far as one can see from this corner, all Canada can expect from the Borden government is higher taxes and greater trade restrictions. The let-well-enough-aloners will take it out of us going and coming.

Premier Borden's silence while all these things are happening lends color to the doubt whether he will be the strong man for the Conservatives at the next general election. The people cherish no grateful memories of his administration and the Premier feels it. He is credited with a desire to withdraw to the seclusion that the Canadian High Commissioner in London grants—that is to say, if Baron Shaughnessy doesn't want the job for himself. And this is natural enough, because Sir Robert must be tired of

playing second fiddle as he has done ever since he became Premier in 1911. One word from him and that Cabinet of his does as it pleases—such is the discipline he exercises.

Minister of Elections.

Next comes the Hon. Bob Rogers. He is known as the Minister of Elections, and certainly the elections need a great deal of ministering if the Conservative defeats in various parts of the country are any sign. They need ministering of a kind that the Hon. Bob is not able to give them. What the elections need is a policy that will give the common people a chance, but as that is the last thing the Borden government wants to do, the Honorable Bob must have recourse to his old arts, which are now outworn. Even at that the Honorable Bob is said to be more in touch with the people than is Premier Borden, because the West has a way of stating its grievances in good set terms, which the Honorable Bob can hardly avoid overhearing.

Strange as it may seem, the Honorable Bob is a better bet as a strong man than Sir Robert. At least he has the courage of his convictions—said convictions at present centering round Tom Kelly and the three Manitoba cabinet ministers. Just now the Honorable Bob is a better bet as a strong haps ten millions to Canada's prospective national debt of a billion dollars by giving us an entirely new Parliament Building at Ottawa, where the old one might have been done over. But this, as we have said before, was only to be expected.

The Honorable Bob as Minister of Public Works, with most of the public works held up, is under eclipse to Sir Sam as Minister of Militia with the greatest war in history on his hands. Sir Sam can't be allowed to spend all the money. The Honorable Bob must do his bit, too. If strong-arm work makes a strong man, then the Honorable Bob's heroic measures in regard to the new Parliament building at Ottawa entitles him to a proud place.

(Continued on page SIX)

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30 " " 15th November, 1916;
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The total allotment of bonds of this issue will be limited to one hundred million dollars exclusive of the amount (if any) paid for by the surrender of bonds at the equivalent of cash under the terms of the War Loan prospectus of 22nd November, 1915.

The instalments may be paid in full on the 16th day of October, 1916, or on any instalment due date thereafter, under discount at the rate of four per cent per annum. All payments are to be made to a chartered bank for the credit of the Minister of Finance. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture and the allotment to cancellation.

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Delivery of scrip certificates and of bonds will be made through the chartered banks.

The issue will be exempt from taxes—including any income tax—imposed in pursuance of legislation enacted by the Parliament of Canada.

The bonds with coupons will be issued in denominations of \$100, \$500, \$1,000. Fully registered bonds without coupons will be issued in denominations of \$1,000, \$5,000 or any authorized multiple of \$5,000.

The bonds will be paid at maturity at par at the office of the Minister of Finance and Receiver General at Ottawa, or at the office of the Assistant Receiver General at Halifax, St. John, Charlottetown, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, or Victoria.

The interest on the fully registered bonds will be paid by cheque, which will be remitted by post. Interest on bonds with coupons will be paid on surrender of coupons. Both cheques and coupons will be payable free of exchange at any branch in Canada of any chartered bank.

Subject to the payment of twenty-five cents for each new bond issued, holders of fully registered bonds without coupons will have the right to convert into bonds of the denomination of \$1,000 with coupons, and holders of bonds with coupons will have the right to convert into fully registered bonds of authorized denominations without coupons at any time on application to the Minister of Finance.

The books of the loan will be kept at the Department of Finance, Ottawa.

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Subscription Lists will close on or before 23rd September, 1916.

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