

## FOURTEEN VACANCIES IN THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT

Half a Million People Unrepresented in Nation's Council at the Present Time--- Many Tory Members Got Out While the Going Was Good---Garland and Foster of War Graft Fame Would Like to Come Back---Government is Shivering on the Brink of a General Election.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, July 12.—From Major General Sir Sam's evidence before the Davidson Commission, it appears that he doesn't know, and what's more, he doesn't care a hoot, how Colonel John Wesley Allison skins the British Admiralty in his little business dealings with them. Those who have heard Eva Tanguay sing "I don't care," will admit that Eva has nothing on Sir Sam when it comes to aggressive indifference.

Meanwhile things occur from time to time which indicate that the country at large cares a great deal. Since the war started and the Parliament at Ottawa became the House of a Thousand Scandals, four provincial elections have been pulled off, all of which may be taken as backslaps at the Borden government.

Last summer Manitoba got busy, with the result that the rollicking

Roblin band of privateers was turned out and three cabinet ministers and a contractor are walking the plank right now.

Last fall Prince Edward Island trimmed its Conservative majority to four. This spring Quebec practically wiped out the Conservative opposition, and only last week Nova Scotia increased its Liberal majority by 50 per cent.

Sir Richard McBride fled from the wrath to come to a \$15,000 a year job in London some months ago, and now the heir of his troubles cannot defer the day of judgment more than a month longer. British Columbia is only waiting for a chance to get even. Premier Bowser will make the plunge in about a month.

Afraid to Plunge.

Meanwhile the Borden Government itself is none too eager to try whether the water is cold or not. It has

been shivering on the brink of a general election ever since the war began, and it will probably go on shivering until its extended term is up in October, 1917, and then, some, if it can get another reprieve. The Borden government has evidently decided to stay the limit. Its fears are not confined to general elections. By-elections are held to be just as bad. Although fourteen vacancies have occurred in the House of Commons in the last two years, ten of which were Conservative, according to the complexion of the sitting member, the Government refrains from opening any of these constituencies for test purposes. They are satisfied to leave well enough alone.

The causes and effects of some of these vacancies are an interesting study. Sir James Aikens, for example, resigned his constituency of Brandon to lead the shattered remnants of the Roblin army to defeat in Manitoba. Sir James tried to lift his party up, but alas, his platform was too high—the thing couldn't be done. Sir James is now supposed to be waiting around until the Lieutenant Governorship of Manitoba falls in, when his wounds will be bound up.

Meanwhile the important constituency of Brandon has no representative in parliament and is not likely to have until Sir James Aikens is settled in his new job.

The Slough of Despond.

William Sharpe, M. P., of Lisgar, resigned his seat at the same time as Sir James, and for the same purpose—to dig the Conservative party in Manitoba out of the mud.

Billy made a good try, but somehow or other his foot slipped and he landed in the Slough of Despond himself.

But he did not have to despond long. He had put his hand to the work with a fat promise in his pocket, which was

cash'd very soon afterwards. He is now a Senator and a Colonel, with blushing honors full upon him. Lisgar has no member in the House of Commons, but Billy Sharpe is fixed up all right.

The War Horse County.

Kings County, N. S., has lacked a member ever since Arthur DeWitt Foster resigned under pressure during the session of 1915. Arthur is selling stock now, black fox and patent mausoleum, but looks forward to a glorious resurrection at the next general election, when he will run again for Kings if he gets the Conservative nomination.

In view of Colonel John Wesley Allison's subsequent operations, Arthur is of the opinion that he resigned too soon. Of course he unloaded a number of foundered chargers on his beloved country, but that was probably an error of judgment. Arthur draws a line between foundered chargers and unfounded charges, of both of which he claims to have been the victim. A good case has even been made out for the famous charger which was a veteran of the Boer war. It seems that it had learned to understand German in South Africa and was therefore a bilingual horse and would have been mighty handy on the march to Berlin.

Garland's Coup.

W. F. Garland, of Carleton county, who passed out along with Arthur, is in a similar case. He finds now that he was too hasty. Beside the transactions of the Bertram Shell Committee and the fuse contracts, his little forty per cent. flutter in medical supplies—most of which he coughed up—looks like thirty cents. W. F. Garland is a wronged man—he feels it. He is flirting with Carleton county for another nomination, but is in no dread of a by-election at the present time.

J. O. Lavallee, Conservative member for Bellechasse, resigned his seat last month for two reasons, so far as I can make out—one that he had no chance of being re-elected for the Federal parliament, and the other that he had still less chance of being

(Continued on page six)

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