

Over Half a Million People Have no Voice in Parliament

The Borden Government Afraid to Take Chances in By-elections---Nineteen Constituencies Are Now Vacant---Thirteen Were Represented by Conservatives and Six by Liberals---How the Seats Became Vacant---The Borden Government Has a Bad Attack of Cold Feet.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, Jan. 11.—In a recent speech before the Montreal Reform Club, Mr. Hartley Dewar, K. C., M. P., drew attention in a highly detailed and statistical manner to the fact that over half a million people—to me accurate 535,684—are unrepresented in Parliament. This state of affairs which is a crying scandal, is not likely to be altered, except for the worse, until a general election comes along and re-franchises these neglected voters.

The Vacant Seats.

The constituencies which remain vacant number nineteen. Their names and populations are follows:

Lisgar, Manitoba	23,501
Brandon, Manitoba	39,734
Carleton, Ont.	28,406
East Grey, Ont.	19,650
East Hamilton, Ont.	39,793
Lincoln, Ont.	35,429
London, Ont.	46,300
Kings, N. S.	81,790
Antigonish, N. S.	11,952
Yarmouth, N. S.	23,220
Colchester, N. S.	23,364
Montmagny, Que.	17,356
Bellechasse, Que.	21,141
Nicolet, Que.	30,055
Brome, Que.	13,216
Stanstead, Que.	20,765
Regina, Sask.	70,556
Prince, P. E. I.	32,779
Restigouche, N. B.	16,687
Total	535,684

In other words, one-sixth of the population of Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island; one-seventh of the population of Saskatchewan; one-eighth of the population of Ontario; one-nineteenth of the population of Quebec, and one-twentieth of the population of New Brunswick, have not a word to say in the ordering of their taxes and other matters by the Parliament of Canada.

Many Unrepresented.

The figures in detail are as follows: Manitoba, population 455,566, people unrepresented 62,235; Nova Scotia, population 492,338, people unrepresented 80,316; Prince Edward Island, population 193,722, people unrepresented 32,779; Saskatchewan, population 492,344, people unrepresented 70,556; Ontario, population 2,520,000, people unrepresented 138,172; Quebec, population 2,000,000, people unrepresented 102,533; New Brunswick, population 351,889, people unrepresented 16,687.

Of the nineteen constituencies vacant at the present moment, thirteen went Conservative at the last general election and six went Liberal. If there was any change of this ratio being maintained the Borden Government would lose no time in opening what they consider the safe constituencies. But the fact of the matter is that only two could, by any stretch of imagination, be labelled safe, and even they are under suspicion. The other seventeen cannot even be classed as forlorn hopes for the Borden government.

Consequently the powers at Ottawa are disposed to let it go at that. The Borden government's chances, broadly speaking, will get a great deal worse before they get better. Besides, at least ten out of the thirteen so-called Conservative constituencies were surprise packages in 1911, and the party managers don't expect to get them again at a general election. Better to have them empty than hostile. Why worry about elections, anyway?

Afraid of the Test.

The time these constituencies have been vacant ranges from two years to two months, but, short or long, the time is allowed to pass. The Borden government has no wish to take it by the forelock and test things out. Faint heart never won fair lady or a bye-election, and a faint heart is what's the matter with the Borden government. It stands to reason that in this time of stress and storm, he tvery best men on both sides of politics would offer as candidates, but that breathes no courage into the Borden government, which reckons that however good its candidate might be, the other fellows will have the better reason. Faint heart, complicated with cold feet—that's what's the matter.

Of the thirteen Conservative constituencies now vacant, one member resigned to become a Senator, one left a temporary job as Speaker in the Commons to accept a permanent one as Senator; one resigned to take a government job on the Quebec harbor board; one resigned to run for the Quebec Legislature; one resigned as a protest against the extension of Parliament; one resigned over a question of party patronage; two resigned on account of graft, and four died. Of the nine who resigned four did so to take snug billets, two because they were excommunicated by Premier Borden, two because they saw what was coming at the next general election, and one because he couldn't handle the spoils of office the way he liked.

No Soft Snaps.

In the six Liberal constituencies now vacant, four members died, one resigned to accept the arduous duties of Premier of Saskatchewan, while

another resigned to run for the Local Legislature of Nova Scotia, to which he was elected. In other words, no Liberal shifted to grab a soft snap. The only thing that moved them away was death or the prospect of harder work than that on which they were then engaged.

The two vacant seats in Manitoba are Lisgar and Brandon. Lisgar was Plucked the Flower.

represented until a year and a half ago by William Henry Sharpe, who resigned to contest a seat in the Local Legislature. Manitoba went Liberal, and incidentally Mr. Sharpe was defeated. There was nothing more in it for Billy, so they bound up his wounds by making him a Senator.

The same way with Brandon, normally a Liberal constituency, but lost for a while to Sir J. A. M. Alkins, who, not finding as much room in public life at Ottawa as he expected, resigned to incur the same disaster as overwhelmed Mr. Sharpe. Like Mr. Sharpe he plucked the flower of victory from the nettle of defeat, and is now Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba. Both showed rare intelligence in getting in out of the wet.

The four vacant seats in Nova Scotia are Kings, Antigonish, Yarmouth and Colchester. Kings has been vacant a year and a half. It was represented by Arthur DeWitt Foster, who bought superannuated horses for the army and was edged out by the Premier.

The other Conservative constituency in Nova Scotia, Colchester, has been vacant at this writing about six weeks. John Stanfield, M. P., the chief Conservative whip, having resigned because he and General Manager Gutelius had a quarrel as to who handed out the jobs on the Intercolonial. Col. Stanfield's resignation was carefully placed with the secretary of the County Conservative Association. If it hasn't arrived at Ottawa yet it probably won't stick.

In Quebec there are five vacant constituencies, four nominally Conservative and one Liberal. As far as Quebec is concerned the Borden government sorrows as those without hope.

In New Brunswick James Reid, the Liberal member for Restigouche, died over a year ago. About the same time James Richards, the Liberal member for Prince, P. E. I., also died. No suggestion has been made that these constituencies be opened.

In Ontario there are five vacant constituencies, all of which went Conservative at the last general election—a fact, however, which puts little heart in the Borden government to take any chances just now.

Some men are born artistic liars; some acquire the art of lying; but most of them merely get married and have it gradually thrust upon them.

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ICONS ARE RUSSIA'S DEVOTIONAL TABLETS

There is not a home in Russia that does not possess its icon, the devotional tablet in the mystic power of which every Russian believes. These icons vary in size, quality, and decoration, many of them being of great value and antiquity. There is an interesting collection of them at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The word "icon" is really the Latinized form of a Greek word signifying portrait.

The portrait may be small enough to carry in the pocket, or it may be life size, and the icons in the Russo-Greek churches are often of wonderful workmanship and costly design. The raised halos of the portrait figures are specially enriched with precious stones and in the case of the portraits of the Virgin the robes are encrusted with seed pearls and the fingers and neck adorned with jewels.

Some icons take the shape of a square or oblong box, set in metal thickly enamelled and hinged, which, when open, reveal figures of religious interest. Some curious examples of icons of finely carved horn are also to be found, the effect being most beautiful when hung in a position which admits of the light being seen through the carving. A small but exceedingly fine specimen of the horn icon is minutely carved with a series of episodes in connection with the birth of Christ. Its mounting is of silver-gilt, chased in a cord pattern, and the whole hangs from a suspensory bead. One may also come across the icon of carved boxwood, fitted for the sake of the protection of its fragile beauty into a case of precious metal, enamelled and studded with precious stones.

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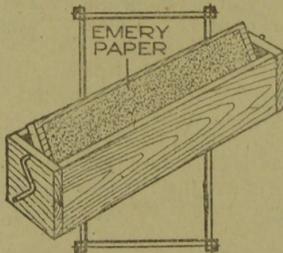
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Efficiency in Repair Work Sought by Canadian Roads

The principal car repair plant of the Grand Trunk Railway for the lines west of the St. Clair River at Port Huron for many years, was destroyed by fire during the winter of 1914-1915. Their old plant was of limited capacity and located at what was the old terminus of the line previous to the construction of the tunnel under the St. Clair River. After the six negotiations were carried on between the town of Port Huron and the railroad, resulting in the acquisition of the property vacated by the Port Huron Thresher Company, which property was very much more advantageously situated, being near the tunnel line.

The plant was first planned to consist of a power house containing 6 150 h.p. boilers serving double turbo-steam generating units of 300 k.w. for developing the electric power for lighting and operation of machines, all motor driven; a passenger car shop accommodating 27 modern passenger cars; a freight car shop accommodating 70 freight cars; and other buildings. These buildings, including track-ways, were to take a space of approximately 55 acres; arranged for economical operation, special attention having been given to this feature to ensure maximum efficiency. The total cost was estimated at \$700,000.

Cleanly Pencil Sharpener



Pencils may be pointed without spreading the dust from them by the uses of the device shown in the illustration. A piece of emery paper is fixed to one side of the cover of the box. By turning over the cover with a handle, after a pencil has been pointed, the dust may be directed into the box and removed from face to face. Popular Mechanic.

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