

Rogers Will Play the Game And Stand by the Machine

Holds His Job as Minister of Elections and Hopes to be Rewarded in Due Time--Borden Places the Nationalists in the Parcel Room to be Called for Later--Sifton an Obstacle to Union Government--The C. N. R. Deal.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, Aug. 30. — Now that the alleged stumbling block in the path of union government has been removed, to wit the Hon. Bob Rogers, it transpires that union government is just as far away as ever it was. The real obstacle is the disinclination of those approached by Premier Borden to wrap themselves in a winding sheet, tie weights to their feet and jump overboard. If you don't like that metaphor then think of union government as the drowning man's clutch which drags the rescuer under, too. In short, nobody is willing to take chances.

Of course Premier Borden doesn't get too far away from practical considerations even when he is pursuing such a high ideal as union government with a slight sediment of ex-Liberals—if any such can be caught. Bob Rogers goes out of the Cabinet but he remains Minister of Elections. Bob is

a good sport. He will play the game and stand by the machine. Daddy's on the engine—don't you be afraid. While Bob is firing up and getting all black in the process Premier Borden stands out the pure white patriot, all shining like Lohengrin in his quest of the Holy Grail. Somebody in the outfit has to look well and what's the use of being premier if you don't take the first crack at it?

In the Parcel Room.

Similarly Premier Borden did not really lose the Nationalists the other day then he read that letter saying they were "unpatriotic in the present war." He simply left them in the parcel room to be called for later. The Nationalists are not lost for keeps. They are simply gone before. Premier Borden will meet them on the other shore after the next general election. Meanwhile Henri Bourassa's newspaper has increased its size and decreased its subscription rate for the next three months and the question naturally arises from what slush fund the debonair Henri is deriving his nourishment. Just as in 1911 so now in 1917 Henri has a great nose for the fresh pots at election time.

The Sifton Idea.

Another obstacle to union govern-

ment is the people Premier Borden has working for it—notably Sir Clifford Sifton.

The lessons of history are all against calling in a man like Sir Clifford Sifton to help form a union government. Not to go too far back what happened to the ancient Britons when they invited the Angles and Saxons in to drive out the Picts and Scots? Well that's the Sifton idea of union government—the helping hand that helps itself to everything. The Conservative party would probably be more afraid of Sir Clifford Sifton than it is of the Winnipeg convention hadn't shown that he was pretty dead. Sir Clifford is, in fact, as dead as Lazarus but he hasn't begun to smell himself yet. He has a pretty little notion of union government—split the West, split Quebec—and then unite afterwards! Something like a lobster shedding a claw and growing another.

The strange thing about Sir Clifford is that when he came back from England he was strongly pro-Laurier and said so. According to him nobody else had a chance. But he took a trip to New York, saw Lord Northcliffe there and changed his views to suit. Lord Northcliffe is a masterful man. They say he rules England through his

newspapers. He would now try it on in Canada through Sir Clifford Sifton. Time was when Canada resented Downing Street rule and struggled free but Fleet Street rule would be a damned sight worse. Meanwhile the way to administer a rebuke to Lord Northcliffe for butting into our domestic politics is to give Sir Clifford Sifton a swift kick in some definitely localized spot.

Some Raw Work.

Rumor has it that the Government will drop its little plan to pay the Toronto group of looters par for C. N. R. bonds which they bought in England at forty cents on the dollar. The pledges of the common stock, six hundred thousand shares, all water, will probably have to take it out in water. The little scheme by which Sir Joseph Flavelle's pet bank and a couple of his trust companies were to get \$60,000,000 for their worthless goods, didn't go very far before the Opposition saw through it. For a skilled player like Sir Thomas White the C. N. R. bill is really raw work.

The Government shows considerable hesitation in enforcing the Military Service Act. By the time this article sees print the Governor-General will have signed the act with his own fair hand and selective conscription will be the law. But I doubt if anything will be done about it right away, unless perhaps in Quebec. The Government doesn't want much to do with conscription until after a general election. All that is expected of the Military Service Act during this season of suspense is a few riots in Quebec, and a few Liberal meetings broken up by returned soldiers in various parts of the country. The idea is to help the voting.

The Military Voters' Act.

This idea is further carried out in the Military Voters' Act which gives the franchise to the soldiers' wives, mothers, widows and other female relations. To this part of the act there is no objection but the clauses which enable a soldier to choose his voting constituency and incidentally the Government to apply the soldier vote to the weak spots are distinctly vicious. Evidently what the Government relies on is to steal the election somewhere in England. The bill provides that both parties shall have scrutineers but that the Conservative party shall have more. The counting will be done by majority.

May Be Long Fight.

If the Franchise Act is as brisk as it threatens to be a loyal Opposition will probably fight it until Parliament expires on October 7th. The hint has gone out that all the aliens are to be disenfranchised—this in a land which boasts of freedom and democracy, a land whose immigration literature lured these poor fellows here on the promise that they would have the rights they were denied in their own country. Any Franchise Act which breaks faith with these new citizens and robs them of the one weapon with which they can repel tyranny, injustice and oppression is not an act the Liberal party can support. Such an act out-junkers junkerism. The only way to get it through the Commons would be by closure and then the chances are that it would come to grief in the Senate. The Borden Government's majority is not big enough there to play any arbitrary

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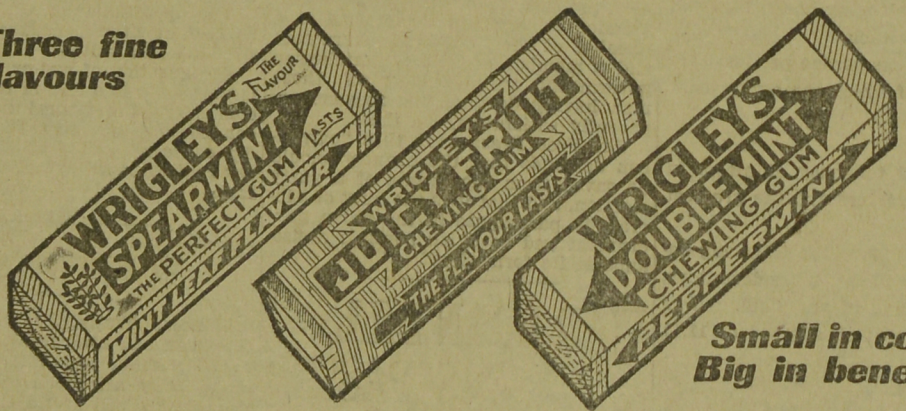
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tricks. Besides closure does not apply to the Senate.

Of course the Borden Government does not think its Franchise Act is in any sense a curtailment of popular rights. On the contrary the Borden Government is generous to a fault: it wants everybody to vote at the next election—except the Grits.

JAIL TERM FOR MISS PANKHURST

London, Sept. 4.—Adel Pankhurst, daughter of Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, the English suffragette, was sentenced today at Melbourne, Australia, to nine months' imprisonment for the holding of an unwelcome demonstration.

It is sometimes safer to throw kisses at a girl than to hand them to her.

A good many so-called matrimonial knots turn out to be serious tangles.

tion, according to despatch from that city.

Miss Pankhurst has been engaged for some time in a propaganda in Australia against conscription, and several meetings at which she was to speak were broken up by soldiers.

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