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NATION'S BUSINESS.

(Financial Post. April 17th, 1915.)

A new standard in Canadian politics has been set this week. Since Confederation party leaders have tacitly excused graft as a form of social evil which could not be prevented. Heelers regarded and demanded it as recompense for services rendered. In consequence millions of dollars of national money have gone in this way to grafters and form to-day part of our National Debt.

Possibly the worst feature or result of such a condition, hitherto regarded as a necessary evil in national affairs, is that the example has affected and is reflected in every day business. Every one of us is now being heavily taxed to pay the principal and interest of the millions that have thus gone into the pockets of grafters, some of whom are to day living in luxury on the revenue from the money thus secured.

The burden is borne by shareholders in financial, industrial and commercial corporations, practically all of them being people who have lived carefully and saved their money.

A hurried investigation by a Parliamentary Committee shows that war orders have proved a harvest for Conservative middlemen and thieving contractors. Millions more will pass into their pockets, to be added to our debt and paid off by the rest of us in increased taxes. In one case alone a Canadian manufacturer paid a go-between heeler over $75,000 before he was able to get an order for goods in urgent demand. This amount was added to the cost to the Government.

Party influence has always been so strong that no leader could openly denounce the practice. If we mistake not Sir John Macdonald was not able to do more than drop the offenders from the colonel and his list of friends.

The week, however, the Prime Minister, in a speech in the House, which left no doubt as to his sincerity, condemned the practice, read out of the Conservative party his colleague and supporter involved in the graft, insisted upon restitution, asked the Department of Justice to see whether the law cannot put them behind penitentiary bars, and promised further investigation. He also announced the establishment of a Government purchasing department, urged by The Financial Post. The one weak feature in an otherwise courageous speech was the reference to similar scandals under the Liberal. The example of one party has been no doubt the excuse for graft in the other.

If Sir Robert Borden has been, and made to him felt a firm place, in the opinion of the business men, as he undoubtedly has, by the strong stand he has taken in this matter, his colleague, Hon. Robert Rogers, has weakened his position by his carefully prepared speech on the reasons and necessity for a general election. Mr. Rogers is regarded as a man of unusual ability. He has had the best possible training for a Cabinet Minister and valuable public servant. He began his career in a country general store and grew from that office to a business man. The business world of the country would expect a man of his ability, experience and grasp of affairs to come forward at this critical time in the history of the nation with some constructive plan for assisting business through the difficulties of readjustment and providing work for the thousands of unemployed. Instead he merely announces that the usual patriotic appeal is an issue, and in the opinion of a branch of the Senate is provided for by the necessities of our population. The Senate, as we understand it, is home but not until the Commons has been forced to do its share and on the Senate rests the responsibility of Mr. Rogers' policy. The people are tired of the Calgary election, and when they get an election they want to know what they are voting for, and who help him want under Liberal and other policies and undoubtedly there have been legitimate grounds for complaint in regard to the whole matter. Amazing as it may seem, the Government has not yet made its appeal to the country. The week before last there was a great deal of talk about the war profit tax. Last week it was forgotten. The Government has not yet made to the House any proposal for a war profits tax. It has not even given any indication that it is considering such a tax. It has not even given any indication that it is considering such a tax. It has not even given any indication that it is considering such a