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DAILY EDITION

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EDITORIALS

Champions of the government at Ottawa are saying that the government cannot attend to its war duties properly because of politics. That may be true. But the politics are of its own creation. The government might have enjoyed absolute freedom from partisan anxiety and worry by simply declaring that there would be no election until after the war, or at least until the time fixed by law, which is the end of the summer of 1916.

Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey, Lloyd George and Churchill, and the other members of the British government have done everything possible to cut out party politics and concentrate their own energy, and the energy of their opponents, on war measures. They have declared that there will be no election during the war. They may even change the law so as to postpone the election until after the war. An election is due this year, according to law. But the British ministers are giving no thought to the election, and will postpone it until after the war, even if it is necessary to change the law for that purpose. They want to work with their political opponents, not against them. They do not want to leave their war duties and make partisan stump speeches. They do not want to see their Conservative opponents, too, making stump speeches. They want to see Liberals and Conservatives on the same platform, asking for recruits, and for support for war measures.

The Borden government has adopted the exactly opposite course. It has stirred up party bitterness. It has provoked party hostility. For months it has been talking about a premature election, and thereby keeping alive animosities. It is nonsense to say that it has

been forced into an election by its trumpery quarrel with the Senate over the Western senators. It only thought of this excuse a few days ago. But it was talking of a general election last October, although there had been a special session of Parliament, in which absolute unanimity was shown, and at the close of which Sir Robert Borden thanked the opposition for their co-operation "in dealing with this difficult and trying situation."

But before and during the present session of Parliament the friends of the government were talking of an early election, and thereby doing all in their power to keep party spirit alive. It is true that they did not succeed in doing a great deal of mischief. The hundred million grant for the war was passed without delay and without criticism, as the fifty million grant had been in the special war session. The new customs taxation went into effect the moment the Finance Minister finished his budget speech, and the special war taxes have gone into effect at the very hour fixed by the government. The opposition did not approve of the principle of the increased customs taxation, but they were satisfied to register a protest which did not delay for a moment the raising of any money which the government required.

But the government was continually looking for pretexts for stirring up a party quarrel and springing a premature election. And at last it found a pretext. The Senate amended a bill for appointing some new senators. The Senate interfered with the patronage list which Rogers, as a Western minister, controls. Mr. Rogers is always thinking about the patronage list, and he imagines that the whole country is interested in the same absorbing



topic. The whole country is to be plunged into the heat and bitterness of a general election in order that Mr. Rogers may have his way about some Western jobs that he wants to hand out to his party friends. That is, if the latest excuse is accepted. But it is only an excuse.—Toronto Star.

GERMANS FEEL PEEVED.

Berlin, April 22.—The Society of German Engineers has declined an invitation to participate in the congress of engineers at San Francisco by preparing papers to be read there. In taking this action the society explains that German engineers at present are too busy with the war. It adds that, because of American shipment of munitions to Germany's enemies, it will be difficult to get German engineers to contribute papers for the congress.

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WILLIAM WATSON.
Dated December 26, 1914. 25-85

ORDERING A DINNER DURING WAR TIMES

The Canadian Mining Institute recently held their convention and at their annual dinner a good deal of wit and good humor was exhibited. The following is a selection from the speech of the chairman, Colonel Hay, and shows the difficulty of ordering a public dinner in war times:

"It was a difficult proposition that I was put up against when I was appointed a committee of one to order a dinner for this annual meeting of the Institute. In ordinary circumstances it would be a hard task enough, but in war times it became a very serious problem indeed. I thought the best I could do was to hold a council of war with the manager of the King Edward Hotel to ascertain whether he would be prepared to give us a dinner suitable to the times and the occasion. He assured me that they had recently got a first class Kitchener and an excellent French chef, and were therefore in a position to tackle anything. I said: 'By jove, that's good; that's more than half the battle.' He asked me what kind of a crowd they would have to face. I told him mostly mining men accustomed to skirmishing in the bush, and usually possessed of lusty appetites. 'How would it be,' he said, 'if we opened fire with a salvo of Martinis; and follow that up with some Russian Caviare and Shell fish?' 'Then,' said he, 'we have an excellent soup which we serve on special occasions, in fact, it's our Super-Dreadnought, Mulligatawny.'

"That appears to be satisfactory," said I. 'Now what about fish,' said he. 'Have you any Swordfish?' said I. 'Get off your perch,' said he, 'and take Flanders; think of the poor souls in Belgium suffering on account of the war.' So we compromised on fillets of sole.

"Next came the question of entrees. 'How would Frankfurt sausage be?' he asked. 'No,' said I, 'we might take Strassburg, but nothing German till after the war, then we'll take everything German.'

"I suppose your men will be a Hungary crowd. How do you think they would like some Turkey without Greece, with Brussels Sprouts and Pom Pommes de terre?" 'That would be all right,' said I, 'provided the Turkey is not too tough. When we meet with any tough proposition in the woods we are accustomed to using an axe or a saw to carve with.' 'All right,' said he, 'I'll give you a Warsaw.'

"I don't want to Russia," said I, 'but we must get down at once to something solid.' 'If you do, I won't Serbia,' said he. 'Then in that case we won't Roumania,' I retorted. 'Surely you don't want any more meat?' he remonstrated. 'Yes,' said I, 'there's no bridge to the appetite of mining men on an occasion of this sort. I would suggest that we have some Saddle of mutton, potatoes to boot, and other Accoutrements.'

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