

mitting the sale and consumption of these canned vegetables in such cases as he deems necessary or expedient. One such case has already come to light in the threshing gangs throughout the West. It is not possible in a great many cases to secure green vegetables in quantities sufficient for the threshing gangs. The matter was brought to the food controller's attention by the Regina food control committee, and Mr. Hanna wired them as follows:

"On receipt of telegram from bona fide thresher will wire license to him authorizing necessary purchase of canned vegetables."

This means that any bona fide thresherman who finds it necessary to purchase any of the above mentioned vegetables should send a telegram, with charges collect, at once, addressed to "Food Controller, Ottawa, Ont.," asking permission to purchase these canned vegetables. The food controller will immediately wire back the necessary license.

THE BACON SITUATION

Following the announcement that the British food controller had notified the packers that no more Canadian bacon or hogs would be bought by the British government comes the further announcement that the importation of bacon, hams, lard and lard into Great Britain except under license has been prohibited. Beginning operations on the third of September a single buying agency is established by the British food controller in the United States. The supplies purchased through this agency will be distributed through the ordinary channels of trade in Britain at fixed terms as to commission and profits. Consignments of Canadian bacon will come under the same restrictions as American goods. Everyone seems to be very much up in the air as to what eventual effect the new ruling will have on Canadian export bacon trade. The first result was a sensational slump in

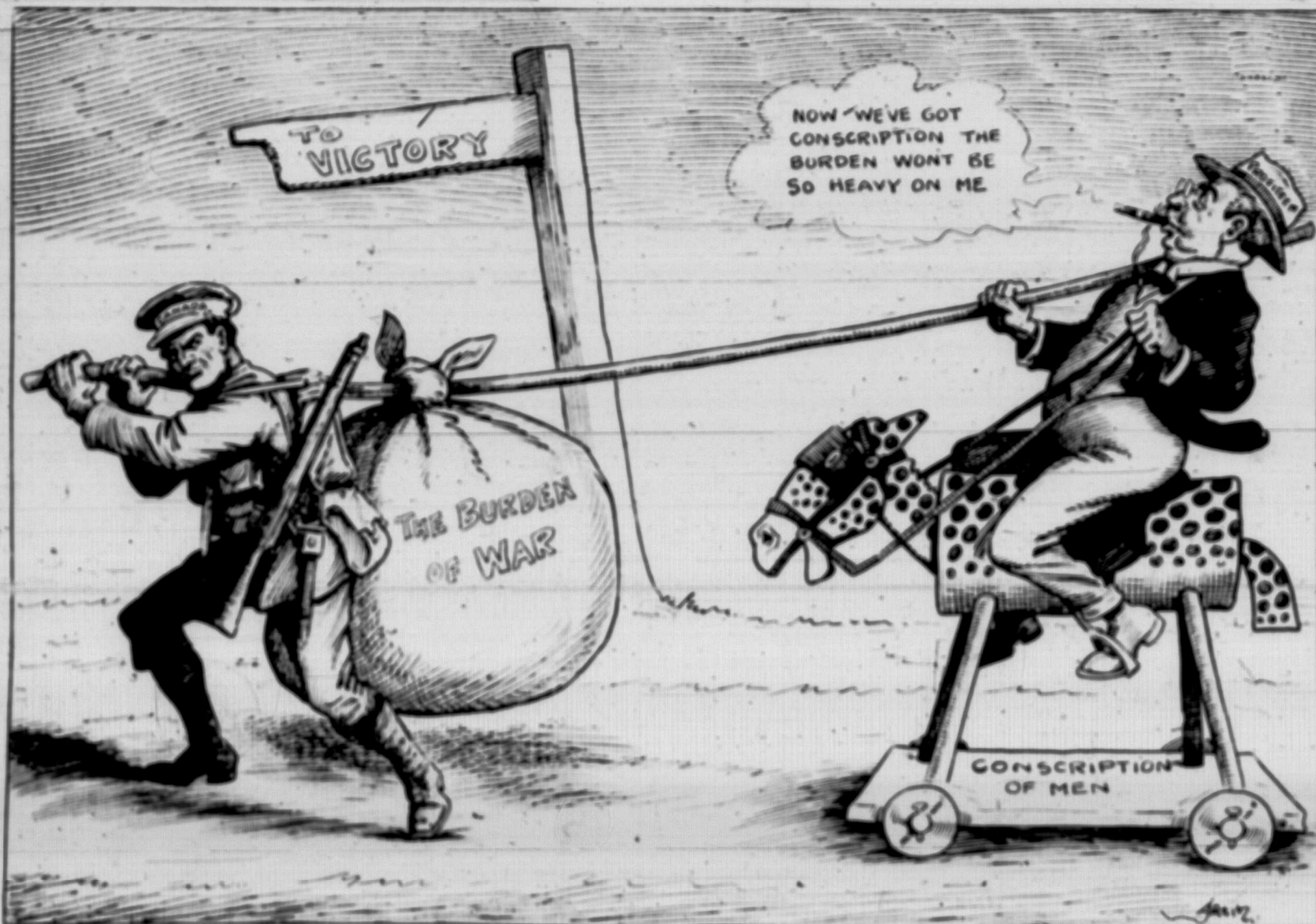
hog prices, which receded \$3.00 per hundred-weight on the day following the announcement. There may be still further reductions in price, and some dealers are talking of \$12.00 and \$14.00 pork. Last year Canada exported 200,000,000 pounds of bacon. The urgency of the demand for food stuffs in Great Britain would indicate that the authorities will not be long clearing the air by stating definitely what their aims are with regard to the bacon trade. The latest announcement seems to indicate that there has been some bungling in the situation and that Canadian bacon is still needed across the water in large quantities.

THE CLOSURE

The closure has again been resorted to in the Canadian parliament. Last week the C.N.R. bill was given its third reading under the closure rule and sent on to the senate. The circumstances showed that some provision for putting a stop to otherwise interminable discussions is essential to getting along with the country's business. All that could be said on the subject had been reiterated and the members had made up their minds as to how they were going to vote. There was therefore no need of wasting more time on the matter. The government would have eventually carried its bill through in any case. No object except the satisfaction that comes to politicians in the indulging in mutual recriminations could have been served in prolonging the debate. The bill is now before the senate where no recourse to closure proceedings can be had. It has been hinted that although the government has now a small majority in the upper house the measure will be talked out. The time is coming when there will be a time limit set not only to debates, but to individual speeches and that in both houses. The affairs of the country would not suffer for want of discussion if the

time taken up by parliamentary talkfests was cut in half.

In the Post Office savings banks of Canada there is somewhere about \$40,000,000 of the people's money on deposit bearing interest at three per cent. In the chartered banks of Canada there is on deposit in savings accounts nearly \$900,000,000 bearing interest at three per cent. This money deposited in the banks at three per cent. is being invested by the banks in government war bonds to a considerable extent at five and one-third per cent. Why could not the government secure a much larger volume of deposits through the Post Office savings banks at three per cent. or a little higher rate, and thus save a part of the huge interest bill on the war debt? At present out of about 15,000 post offices in Canada less than 10 per cent. receive deposits for the Post Office savings bank. The post office department makes practically no effort to increase these deposits. Undoubtedly the chartered banks would look with disfavor upon any attempt to develop the Post Office savings bank, but what good reason is there why these should not be developed in the interests of the general public? Why should not the number of post offices receiving deposits be extended and the service be advertised to secure more patronage from the general public? In the olden days the post office savings banks in Canada paid four per cent. interest on deposits, while the chartered banks paid only three per cent. The banks succeeded in getting the ear of the government and had the deposit rate of the postal savings banks reduced to three per cent. When the government is paying five and one-third per cent. for the hundreds of millions of dollars being borrowed, it could well afford to pay three and a half or four per cent. on deposits in the Post Office savings banks. Here is an opportunity for developing public business in the public interest.



SHARING THE WAR BURDEN

NOTE—The producer's idea of sharing up is that he gets the money and the soldier does the work and makes the sacrifice.