

CHARGES AGAINST ROBERT CRUISE

Special Investigator Ferguson, in his report to the Dominion Government, charges Robert Cruise, M.P. for Dauphin, with securing a homestead by false representation. Personal dishonesty in public affairs is a serious charge to level at a member of parliament. Mr. Cruise was nominated and elected by the farmers of Dauphin district, and he was one of the two candidates in Western Canada who pledged themselves to support the farmers' Bill of Rights. If Mr. Cruise is a man who has used his public position for private gain, or if he took advantage of his relationship with the late Liberal government to plunder the public domain, he is certainly not the type of man to be sitting in the House of Commons as a representative of the Western farmers. It was unfortunate that the charges made against Mr. Cruise were laid before the House of Commons while he was home putting in his crop, because it gave him no opportunity to reply or explain. We would hesitate to believe these charges made against Mr. Cruise, and we consider that the farmers of the Dauphin district, as soon as seeding is over, should call upon Mr. Cruise for a complete explanation of the charges made against him. If they find him guilty he should disappear from public life, but if they find him innocent then this attempt to blacken his character will only serve to make him stronger in the confidence of his constituents.

PUNISH THE GRAFTERS

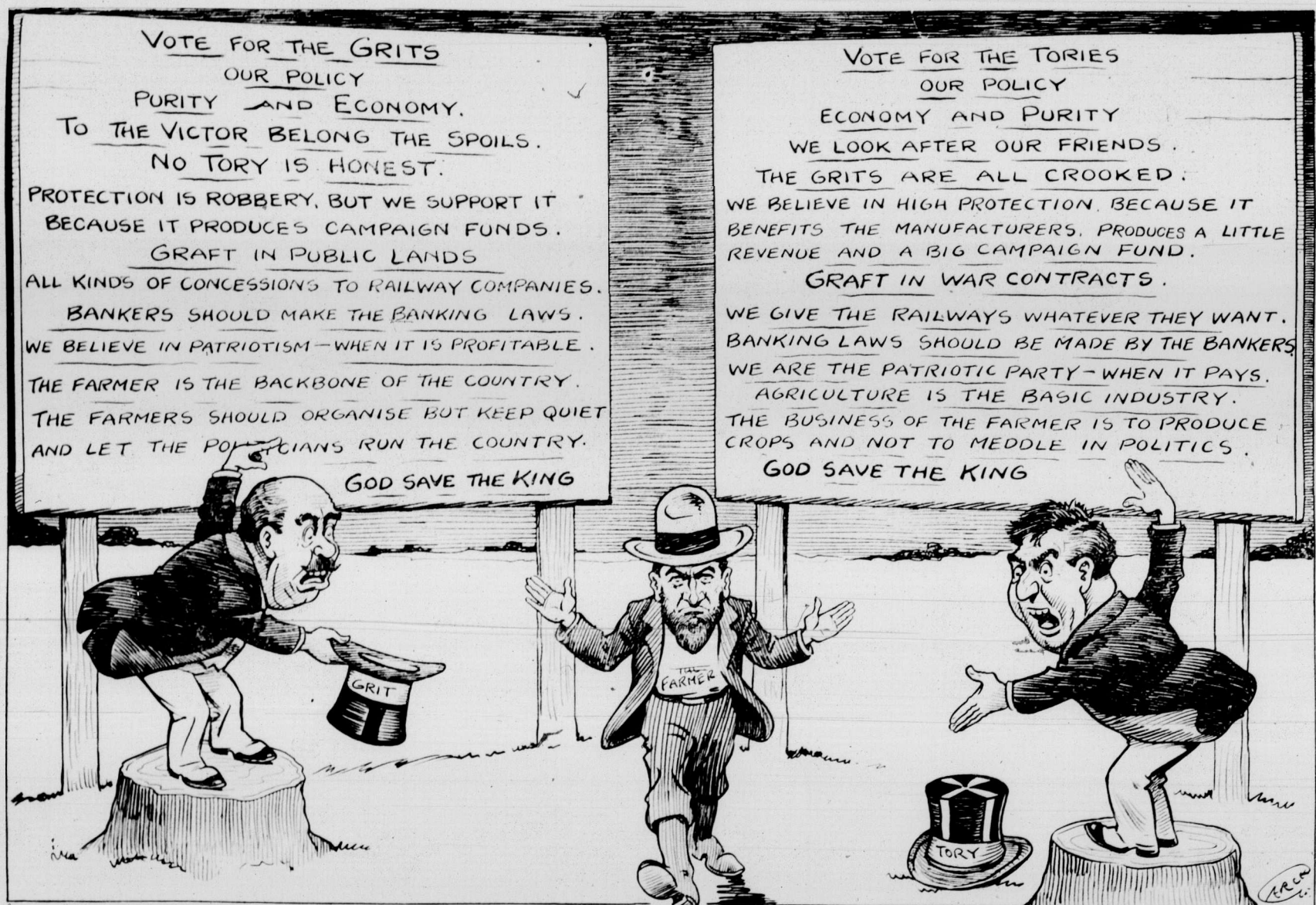
In the House of Commons during the past few weeks there have been more charges and countercharges of graft and corruption in the conduct of our public

business than ever occurred before in the same period of time in the history of Canada. Sir Robert Borden has declared that the graft in connection with the purchase of war supplies will be sifted to the bottom by the Department of Justice, that restitution will be secured from the grafters and that they will be punished. He has publicly reprimanded A. DeWitt Foster, M.P., and W. F. Garland, M.P., two Conservative members who were more or less responsible for some of the graft, and has announced the appointment of a commission of business men to have charge of the war purchases. The people of Canada with one accord will heartily approve of Sir Robert's action in this respect. The charges against Frank Oliver, the ex-Minister of the Interior, and officials in his department under the late government, are made by T. R. Ferguson, the special commissioner appointed at a salary of \$15,000 per year and all expenses. Mr. Ferguson has spent two years investigating the records of the Department of the Interior under the late government. He charges wholesale graft and corruption against Frank Oliver, as well as the late Deputy Minister of the Interior, the late Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and a number of minor officials. No doubt Mr. Ferguson's report is largely partizan, because he was appointed for that purpose, but there must be a certain degree of truth in the charges he has made. We hope that Sir Robert Borden will pursue these charges of graft against the late government as vigorously as he will pursue the graft in the purchase of war supplies. Ordinarily charges of graft and corruption made by one party against the other in Canada are hurled across the floor of par-

liament, but are not taken into the Courts of Justice and sifted to the bottom and the wrongdoers punished. We hope that Premier Borden will push these charges of graft against his own party and against grafters in the Liberal party to the very end, and allow justice to take its course and the penitentiary to claim its own. If the charges and countercharges made at Ottawa during the past few weeks are true, it discloses a condition of affairs as bad as, if not worse than, ever brought to light in any other civilized country. It is time for a clean-up and an intervention of an iron hand.

Parliament adopted the whitewashing report declaring the soldiers' shoes reflected great credit on the manufacturers, so evidently the soldiers who thought their shoes came to pieces and wore out in a few days were mistaken. Most people, however, will believe the soldiers rather than the partizan lawyers who framed the report.

T. R. Ferguson, the government commissioner, who has been investigating the graft in the Department of the Interior under the late government, has been paid a salary of \$15,000 a year and all expenses in addition. This is equal to the salary of Premier Borden, and more than the salaries of the chief justices of Canada or the chairman of the railway commission, and is double the salary of a cabinet minister. Just as good a man could have been secured for one-third the money. We are heartily in favor of the investigation but this is simply allowing a partizan to wallow in the public treasury.



THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE

The Farmer: The only thing I can see to do is to put an independent candidate in the field so that honest men will have someone to vote for.