

annually by a tax on the idle land. The land speculator must be driven out of this country if it is ever to come to its own and he can only be driven out by taxation.

OUR DUTY TO AGRICULTURE

If Canada is to develop as rapidly and substantially as her best citizens hope for, that development can only come through a consistently sympathetic policy toward agriculture. Such a policy can find room for proper growth only in the hands of men who comprehend the economics of agriculture in a broad and practical sense. They must be men who appreciate the difference between a policy of encouragement mainly by talk and superficial methods and one of encouragement by the correction of fundamental handicaps like the tariff, land exploitation, etc. They must be men who know farming, are interested directly in it or are closely associated with agricultural pursuits. They must be men who realize that a healthy organization of agriculture is necessary to the prosperity of the country. The smooth-tongued demagogue, the cheap opportunist and the political whitewasher must go.

The greatest problem now before Canada is how to give the most help in winning the war, and in sustaining its burden by the utmost possible equalization of sacrifice. Farmers appreciate that problem as keenly as any class. The war has enormously handicapped them, but they are determined to see it through. But Canada will face tremendous problems after the war. They will pile up thick and fast. Her land must be settled, her industry readjusted, her war debt paid, extensive public works carried on, her commerce encouraged. Primarily her after-war recovery and prosperity must rest on agriculture and largely on the development of the three prairie provinces. Hence the necessity now for most thoughtful consideration of the make-up of Canada's

next federal parliament. Conscription is the main, but not the only issue. For years Western Canada has been suffering under economic burdens too heavy to bear and which have resulted in serious rural depopulation, emigration and an alarming growth of farm tenantry in some parts. The interests of Western farmers have been a secondary consideration in the minds of politicians. From now on they must be a primary consideration in the interests of the nation. They will only be so if Western electors make them so, if they see to it that candidates at the forthcoming election stand for the policy to which Western farmers have pledged themselves. This war is almost certain to end long before the life of the next parliament expires. The immediate work of reconstruction will likely fall on the next government. That government ought to be elected on the highest patriotic principles and the policy that will mean the fullest freedom for the development of agriculture; Canada's essentially basic industry for generations to come. Now is the time to do this, not when it is too late. The great battle of freedom is now on in Europe, but there are other places as well where that battle must be fought. There is no divergency of these paths of duty, no inconsistency in demanding support of both. They both stand for the promotion of freedom.

EXTEND THE POSTAL SERVICE

The little installment of parcels post service which has been in operation in Canada for a few years past has been a decided success. It has been well handled by the post office and affords very considerable advantage to the general public. It has, however, two main weaknesses. The limit of 11 pounds weight is decidedly too small and the charges are too high. Eleven pounds is much less than the weight carried through the post office in any

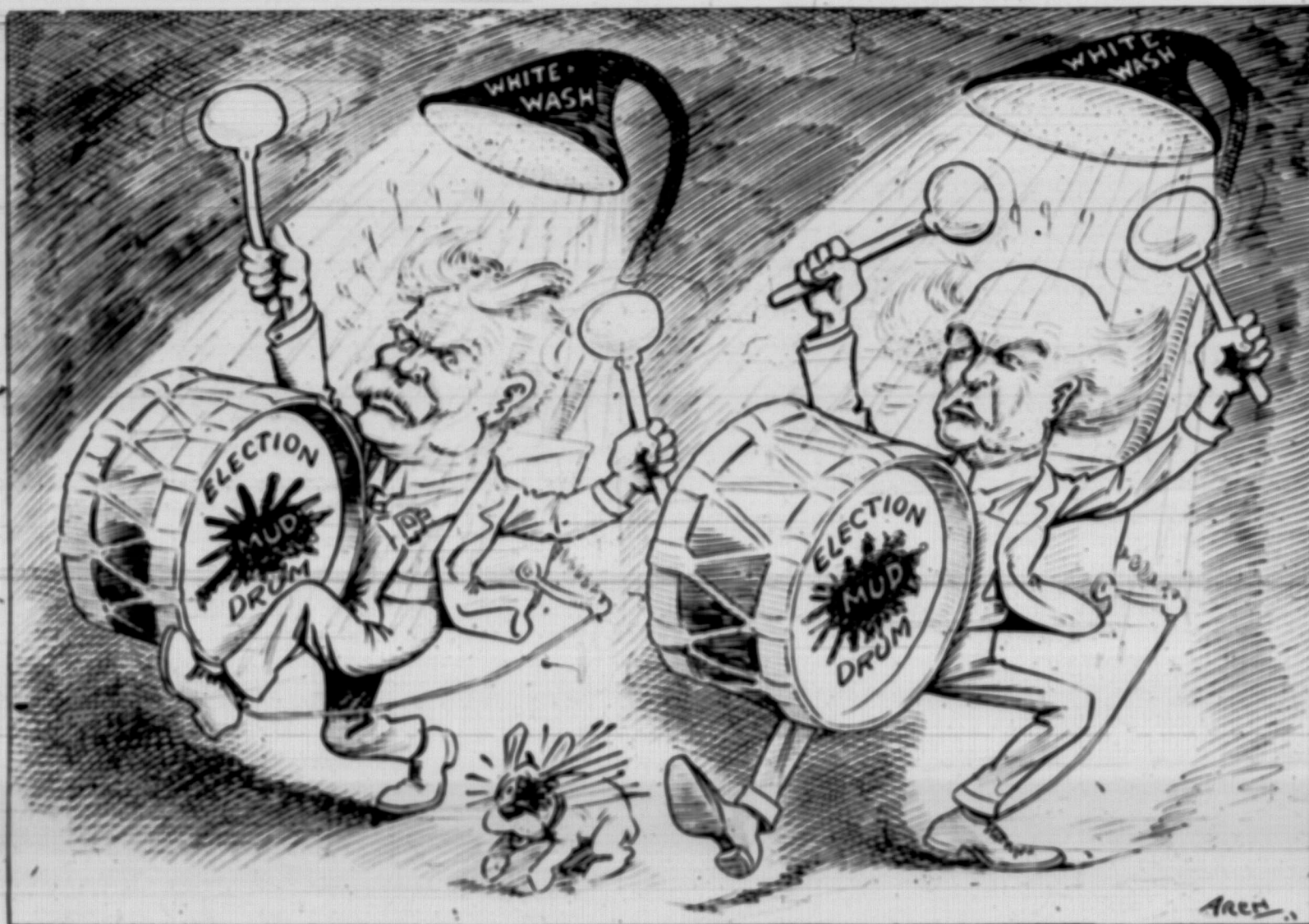
of the countries where there is successful parcels post. As an indication of what the postal service does in other countries, it might be pointed out that in the United States the limit is 50 pounds, and in Germany before the war the limit was 200 pounds. Our postal service is well equipped to handle a considerable extension in the weight and the extension should be made at once, at least to 25 pounds and very shortly to 50 pounds at least.

John Wanamaker, the great merchant prince of the United States, when postmaster-general, stated there were only four arguments against the parcels post system and those four arguments were the four express companies. In Canada the situation is the same. The only reason why our parcels post system is not extended is because of the influence of the express companies. The express business is a veritable gold mine to the express companies. The profits they have earned are absolutely fabulous. The post office could give a far better service, cover a much wider field and at a lower cost than the express companies. Public opinion should demand that the parcels post system be extended immediately.

In New Zealand there is a State Life Insurance Department, a State Fire Insurance Department, a State Accident Insurance Department, and postal service that is unexcelled in the world.

The new income tax is all right as far as it goes. It will be necessary, however, to go further before the war bill is paid.

The principles set forth in the farmers' platform are daily commanding more attention throughout Canada. The powers that be in all directions are beginning to realize that the common people are determined to have more of a square deal than ever before.



THE BIG CIRCUS—IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN, MUST IT EVER BE.