

wing has dominated the party, and with few exceptions the Liberal party, like the Conservative party, has stood for high tariff, special privilege and patronage and has catered to the big interests consistently. Neither of the Eastern parties represent the progressive spirit west of the Great Lakes, and this progressive spirit is not confined by any means to the ranks of the official Liberals in these Western provinces. It is wide spread. The organized farmers have declared for democratic legislation and have adopted a national platform enunciating democratic principles. If the Western Liberals want democracy, and are prepared to stand for it, they should throw open their convention and make it a representative gathering of progressives from the entire West. If such a convention were to be held and to declare its absolute and complete independence of affiliation with either of the parties, and were to adopt the farmers' platform, it would be in accord with the spirit of the West. We believe that out of the 55 members to be elected from the four Western provinces at least 50 could be elected on such a platform. With practically a solid West, independent of party affiliations, free from campaign fund obligations and determined to re-establish democracy, they would be the most powerful influence in parliament. Let us hope the Western Liberals will take a broad view of the situation. No such opportunity has ever come to the West. It should not be lost for it may not come again. This convention by proper representation and with a democratic statesmanlike platform can win for the West the justice that has been denied this country since confederation.

TAX NATURAL RESOURCES.

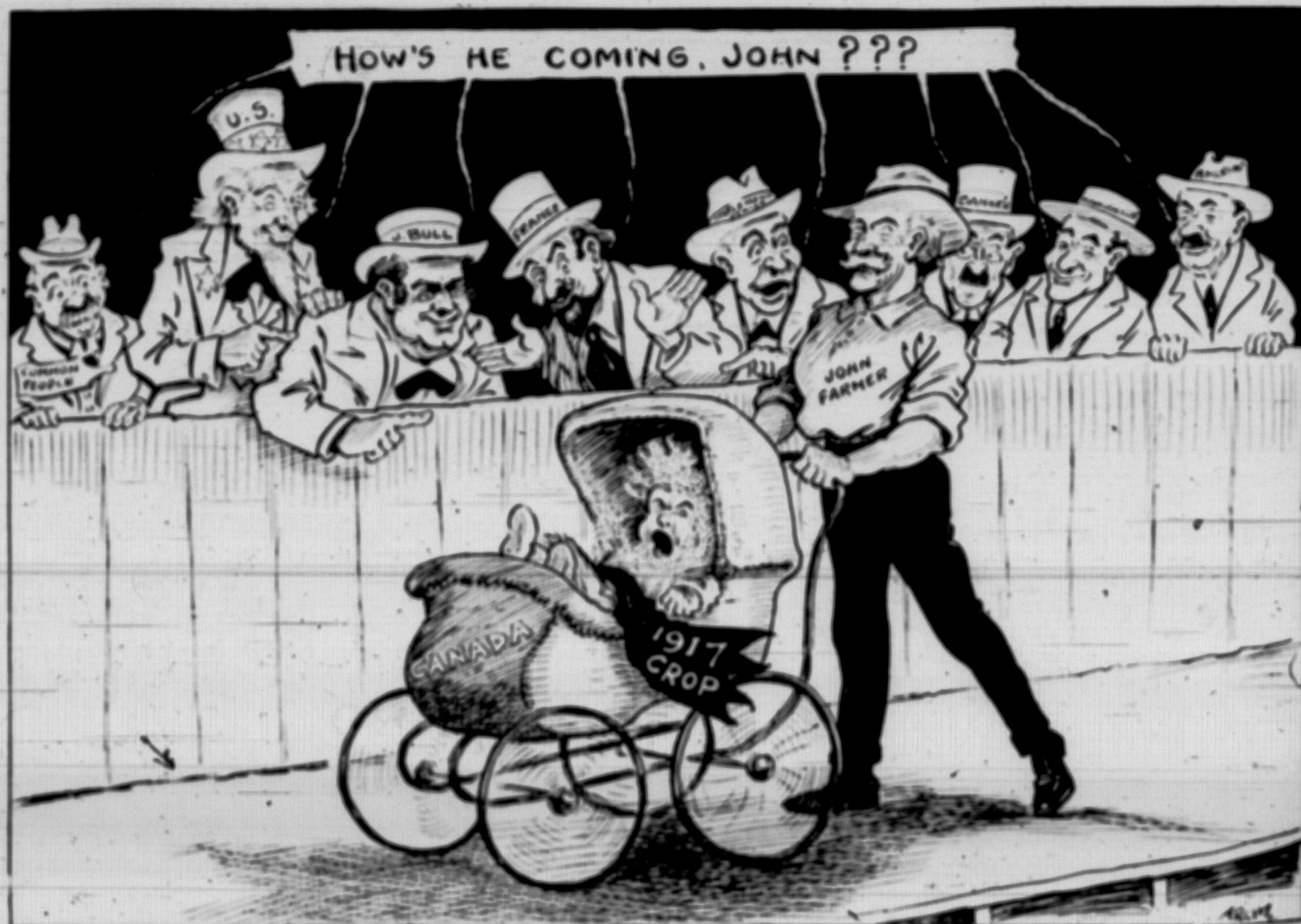
The source upon which the burden of war taxation should first have fallen still remains

untouched. From the Atlantic to the Pacific stretches a great belt of undeveloped natural resources, most of which have passed into private hands. Timber lands, water powers, mineral deposits and millions of acres of agricultural lands have been secured by subterranean methods from unfaithful governments. The present owners, many of them residents of foreign countries and some of enemy countries have never done a hand's turn to increase the effective wealth of the country. They have secured control of the people's resources and their game is to hold these resources from the people and eventually to sell them back to the people at their enhanced value. Meanwhile the people are waiting under the burden of war and submitting to grinding taxation to meet war expenditures. Why should the holders of these valuable holdings go untaxed while productive industry is having increasing burdens placed upon it? The value of the tenure by which these resources are held depends upon the outcome of the war. Every dollar's worth of these resources withheld from the people for productive purposes handicaps the nation in its period of industrial and financial stress. In the natural order of things such property should have been the first to be looked to as a source of war taxation, but so far it has been left unscathed. The men who have put their money into industries for the development of natural resources are being taxed, while those who are withholding natural resources from development pay not one cent for federal purposes. The taxation of natural resources, whether they be mining claims, water powers, timber holdings or vacant lands, would bring millions of dollars to the treasury, besides inducing these holding such resources to put them to productive use. In no instance have our political solons been more guilty of getting the cart before the horse than in this question of war taxation.

There are few farmers who haven't somewhere in their yards a pile of junk, old scrap iron, etc. We can remember no time when this was so valuable. Farmers are digging up old implements and getting repairs for such as they used as long back as 15 years. High prices are forcing economy and conservation of the old machinery of the West. Now is the time to go over all these thoroughly and sell every spare bit. You can't afford to keep such lying about. The old machinery piles that have stood as monuments of waste on many Western farms can now be cleaned up without so many bitter thoughts as would have been inevitable three years ago.

The C.N.R. counsel recently stated that on account of the coal strike that road had been forced to haul coal for a considerable period from Port Arthur almost to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. They were not able to secure a supply for any long time ahead with certainty of delivery. At one time last year the G.T.R. in places were operating with no more than a 24 hour supply of coal on hand and the pressure to keep transportation up to the mark was exhausting. It has been estimated that the West is now approximately 1,000,000 tons short on account of the coal strike. Estimating ten tons of this to a home it would mean there is no supply of coal for 100,000 homes in the West this year. The situation last winter was extremely critical. It seems likely to be much more so this year. Consumers can help to alleviate this more than they realize by getting in their coal supply early in the season and thus helping to equalize distribution.

A revolution is now in progress in Spain and the reports are that King Alfonso is in danger of losing his job. It is a rather risky business being a king these days.



ALL EYES ON HIM — THE MOST IMPORTANT YET



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