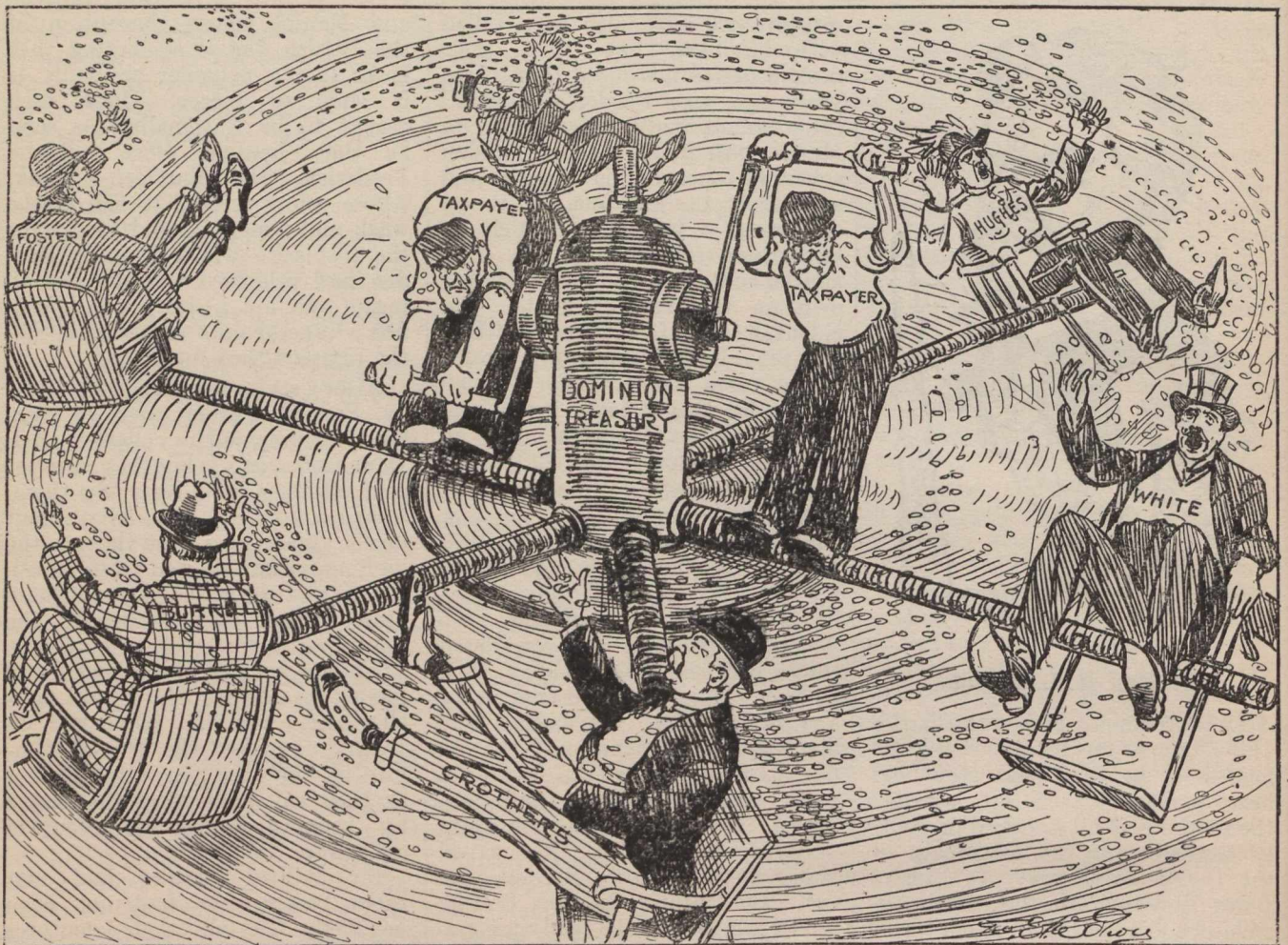


"THE MERRY-GO-ROUND."



THE MINISTERIAL JOY-RIDERS.

THE Borden Government has found many ways of spending the accumulations of the Dominion Treasury. With the Ministry no method has been more popular than that of luxurious travel at the public expense. For months at a time, many of the Departments have been without their departmental heads because of long absences of Ministers from the Capital. Among those who enjoyed trips to Europe during the past summer were: the Minister of Militia, Colonel the Honorable Sam. Hughes, with his staff of twenty-one officers, and members of their families; the Minister of Labor, Hon. Thomas Crothers, who took an ocean voyage and spent a couple of months in the British Isles to be away from the labor difficulties on Vancouver Island; the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Martin Burrell, who went abroad to attend an Exhibition; the Minister of Finance, Hon. W. T. White, who went to England to secure a Government loan, which may incidentally help towards an "emergency" contribution to England should the "emergency" be resurrected; and the Secretary of State, Hon. W. J. Roche, who through ill health was justified in taking some time abroad.

The chief joy-rider, however, has been the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Hon. George E. Foster, who during the past six months has been half way round the world and back, and who announces that he will leave again shortly for England. As yet there have been no tangible results from Mr. Foster's world-girdling tours, save bills for travelling expenses and Canadian Club addresses on "Impressions" of Korea, Japan, China, etc.

The travelling of the other Ministers during the past summer has been confined to the North American continent. There have been six transcontinental trips in government cars, exclusive of the special 10,000 mile tour of the \$40,000—special—train, chartered by Colonel Hughes. When all the bills are in, the Auditor-General's report may be expected to reveal a pretty successful raid on the Dominion Treasury. Meanwhile the Canadian taxpayer has the pleasure of knowing that he is keeping the Merry-Go-Round in motion and helping the Ministers to enjoy themselves.