

delayed. No more striking proof of the need of Direct Legislation could be found than the huge graft exposure which recently forced the Manitoba Government out of power. Sir Rodmond Roblin and the members of his cabinet who were responsible for the graft of the parliament buildings were the most vigorous opponents of Direct Legislation. It is quite easy now to see why they did not want the people to have any say in the making of the laws. Any government in Canada that now opposes Direct Legislation must rest under the suspicion of hiding something which it does not want the public to know about. Woman suffrage is another reform which is making great headway and the part which the women have played in the present war demonstrates beyond the shadow of a doubt that they should be placed upon equality with men at the ballot box. The high freight rates against which the organized farmers have complained were proven conclusively by the Railway Commission and some attempt at improvement was made last year in the reductions ordered by the commission. That reforms in our banking system are needed can be proven by the evidence of practically every farmer and business man in the country, and these reforms are only delayed because of the political power exercised by the bankers' organization. The protective tariff against which the farmers in the West have fought for years has proven to be a failure from every standpoint. It will neither produce sufficient revenue nor stimulate national industry. As a revenue producer the protective tariff sponge has been squeezed dry and yet Canada is running in debt steadily. Investigations at Ottawa show that public money has been squandered in untold millions by both Liberal and Conservative parties. The patronage evil has eaten the vitals out of our public life and civil service reform accompanied by business like administration of public affairs is sadly needed. These are war times, and these are

hard times and they bring a lesson home to every man and woman. The lesson is to throw aside political prejudice and stand side by side with your fellowmen and demand that these reforms for which the organized farmers have stood be instituted to give us honesty in public life, efficiency in the transaction of public business and conservation of the great resources of our country. Canada should be the home of the most prosperous and contented people on the face of the earth instead of the stamping ground of Special Privilege, the home of the most tax-burdened people on the globe and reeking with political corruption.

CANADA TO THE FRONT

In Manitoba there are now two royal commissions at work—one investigating graft charges against the late Conservative government and the other investigating charges of graft against the new Liberal government. In Ottawa a royal commission is investigating the graft in war supplies purchased by the Militia Department. A partizan commissioner has recently investigated the work of the Department of the Interior under the late Liberal government. It is a partizan report and is therefore not believed, tho there is good reason to believe that a proper commission would have uncovered graft in the same place. In British Columbia there should be a royal commission investigating the charges of graft against the McBride government. In political crookedness there are few if any countries that can surpass Canada. Wherever there is an opportunity given for a complete and impartial investigation of government expenditures graft is almost invariably found. Neither party is free from it. Generally, however, such charges are investigated by a parliamentary or legislative committee, which is, of course, a cheap scheme for whitewashing the accused government. There should

be some machinery provided by which proper and complete investigation could be made at any time into the operations of any government when charges are laid by responsible parties. The waste of public monies, the graft, patronage and corruption in Canada is huge. It has come to the stage now where any government or politician who refuses to allow an impartial investigation of such charges will be at once judged guilty by public opinion.

One of our correspondents protests that the Liberal party at Ottawa was a low tariff party and points to the defeat of the party on Reciprocity. By figuring out the tariff reductions made by the Laurier government it would have taken them just 225 years to get to free trade. Reciprocity was a splendid measure, but it should not be forgotten that it was for natural products almost entirely and Fielding publicly announced that there was to be no reduction in the duties on manufactured goods.

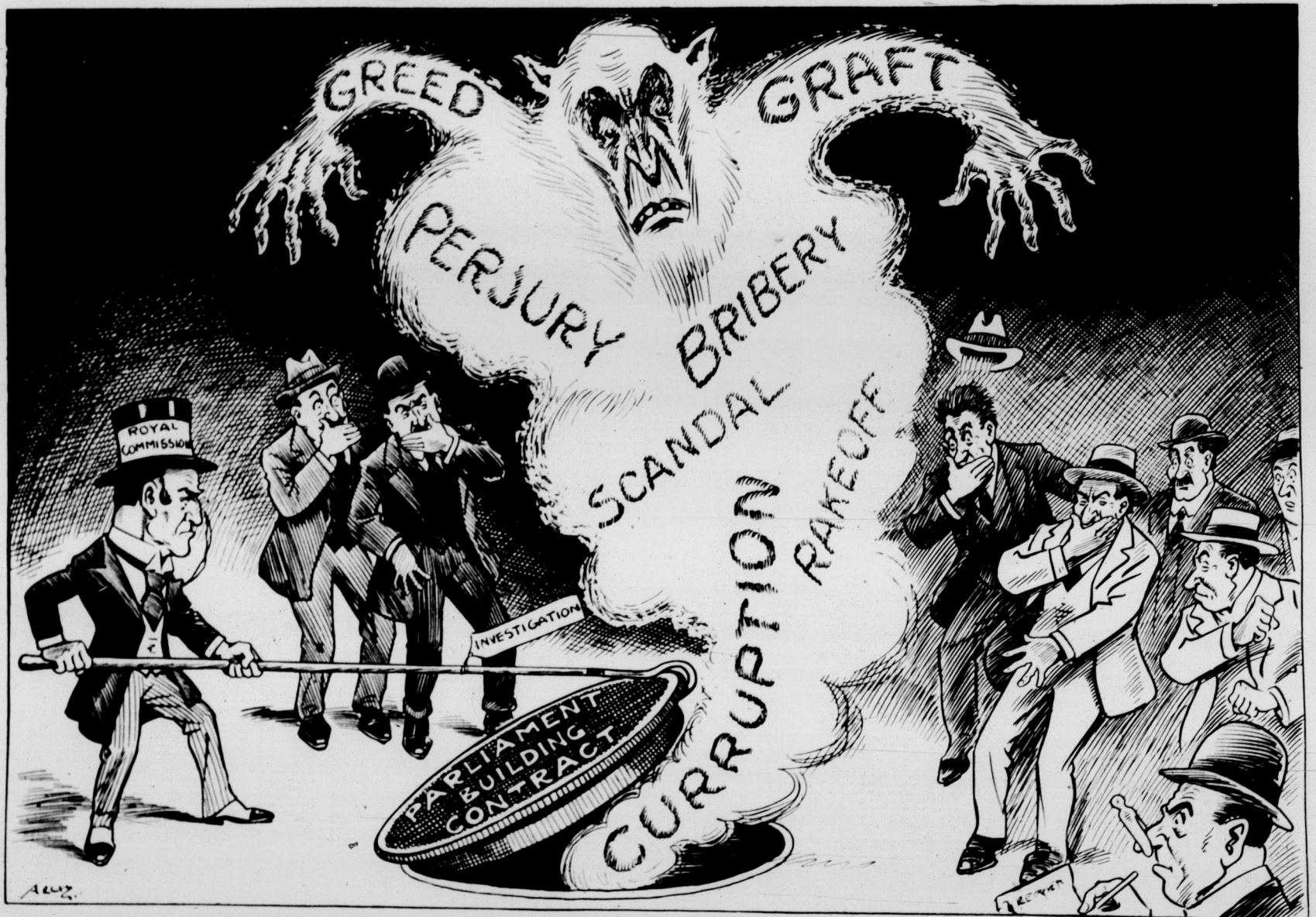
And now there is talk of another hand-out to Mackenzie and Mann. We should like to see a royal commission investigate the relationship between these hand-outs and the campaign funds of the two political parties.

With three royal commissions investigating charges of political graft all at one time, Canada has made a record upon which she might challenge all comers.

Any person who can understand the wheat market these days must be possessed of wisdom more than human.

An honest politician is Canada's greatest need.

We hope some of the royal commissions will investigate the Winnipeg Telegram.



LIFTING THE LID IN MANITOBA