

### ORDERS FROM OTTAWA

Ottawa despatches state that the political leaders have reached an agreement among themselves by which all by-elections now pending are to go by acclamation, each party being permitted to retain the seats which they held before the vacancy occurred. This arrangement has been made to avoid the strife and expense of election contests during the war and, under present circumstances, there is, perhaps, something to be said in favor of it. It is a remarkable thing, however, that it should be at Ottawa that this arrangement is made, and not at Terrebonne, Jacques Cartier, London, Waterloo and Prince Albert, the constituencies in which members have to be elected. The generally accepted theory is that Canada is governed by a parliament chosen by, and representative of, the people. In this instance, and the same thing has happened before, the people of Prince Albert, Waterloo, London and the other places are allowed no voice whatever in the choice of their member, or to be more correct, the election practically takes place in the nominating convention of the party which is to receive the acclamation. Anyone who has been in a party nominating convention to choose a man for a "safe" seat knows what that means. There is no law against bribery, either with money, liquor or promises of patronage, at a party convention, and when there is no hard fought, expensive and doubtful election contest to follow, the conditions surrounding the convention are not such, to say the least, as to favor the selection of a man of high ideals. It may, of course, be said that the opposite party is not bound by law to accept disenchisements and permit its opponents to have a walk-over. But the fact that

they do submit to the orders sent out from Ottawa shows how absolutely the party machines dominate at election time. Democracy is in grave danger when the men in charge of the political machines at Ottawa, can dictate to the voters thousands of miles away.

A good suggestion was made by one of the delegates at Brandon when he urged that the benefits secured by the organized farmers be set forth in a manner that would convince other farmers of the need of joining with their fellows in pushing ahead the work. A mighty attractive pamphlet could be produced showing in a few words a large number of benefits secured by the organization, which have brought dollars and cents into the pockets of every farmer in Western Canada. These outsiders must be brought inside. Those of the farmers themselves who stay outside are the biggest handicap the organization has to face, and they can be brought in if they can be shown.

In the olden days in Canada it was the men who sacrificed their personal interests to the common good who were held up as examples to our children; today the honors and titles largely go to those who have been most successful in skinning the public. With this as the leading form of hero worship in our country what can we expect of the generations to come?

When the farmers get together in their conventions they only ask that they be given a square deal with all other classes in the framing of legislation. They have never asked that other classes be compelled to pay a part of their earnings into the farmers' pockets merely for the privilege of remaining in the country.

The reduction in the commission on oats which was secured by the organized farmers will mean a saving of from \$6.00 to \$7.00 to every farmer who ships a carload of oats henceforth, yet there are some farmers who say that they cannot afford to pay \$1.00 membership fee to the organization which secured this benefit.

"Skinning the Farmer" is a game which has been very popular in Canada for some years past. But the process is becoming a little harder all the time and soon those who have profited by this occupation will have to seek for more useful employment.

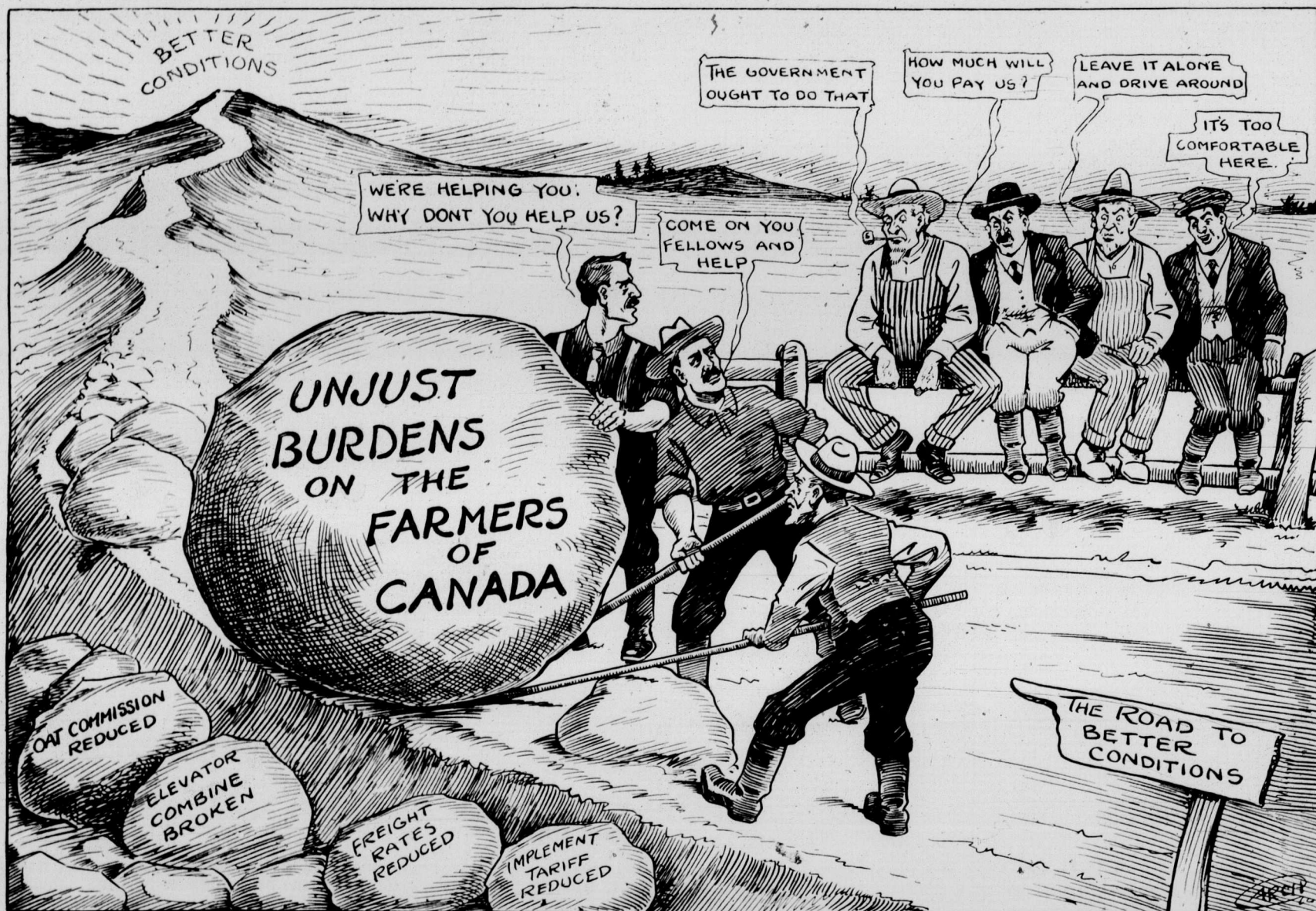
If every local farmers' and farm women's association in the three Prairie Provinces would devote a part of their attention to improving the rural school there is no one movement which would bring such an uplift to the country as a whole.

Alberta's booze bill last year was \$12,000,000. If the prohibition plebiscite carries next July there will be a big saving to the pocket books as well as to the morals of the Alberta people.

Delegates to the provincial conventions should take back to their local associations some of the enthusiasm which is generated at the big meetings.

A broader outlook, a bigger membership, and greater accomplishments—these are the evidences furnished by the conventions of the progress of the organized farmers.

We spend a great deal of time educating our horses; why not be equally careful in the education of our children.



WHY PROGRESS IS SLOW.