

thoroughly opposed to permitting women to exercise the franchise. Different organizations, however, endorsed it, the greatest impetus being given by the support of the organized farmers. None of the governments in power, however, were willing to concede this democratic reform and advanced all kinds of reasons against it. First that they were very solicitous about the women themselves—they did not want them to soil their hands nor lay themselves open to public criticism by getting into the dirty mess of politics. And then some of the politicians thought that the British Constitution could be worked in some way to keep the women from voting. It is a dull day when a politician cannot get an argument out of the old constitution. But finally one of the opposition parties adopted woman suffrage. Shortly after the opposition became the government and contrary to the usual custom, honestly fulfilled its pre-election pledge to the women. There was a wild scramble in the other provinces. The politicians who had been so prolific with excuses and arguments against woman suffrage shifted their ground overnight. They suddenly discovered that they had been in favor of it all the time. Cabinet ministers who in private had declared that they would quit politics altogether before they would see women vote, got out on the platform and delivered the most enthusiastic addresses in support of the reform. There was a real race between the legislatures of the three Prairie Provinces to see which could be first in giving the women the vote. And then the movement spread across the mountains into British Columbia with the same result. Lastly old Ontario has been aroused. The government that absolutely refused to permit the women to vote has had a most remarkable conversion and has literally tumbled over itself to give the women the vote. The reason these governments and politicians saw the light was because the people stood together, Grit and Tory alike and de-

manded that the women be given the vote. This same course will bring other reforms.

#### HOW TO HELP BRITAIN

Finance Minister White objected to placing heavier customs duties on luxuries for fear it would shut off the trade with France at a time when their country needs every resource. The same argument should apply to Great Britain even more strongly. Sir Thomas admitted that a low tariff on the importations from France would help France, surely then a reduction on the goods imported from Great Britain would help Great Britain and at the same time would help the people of Canada by reducing the cost of living.

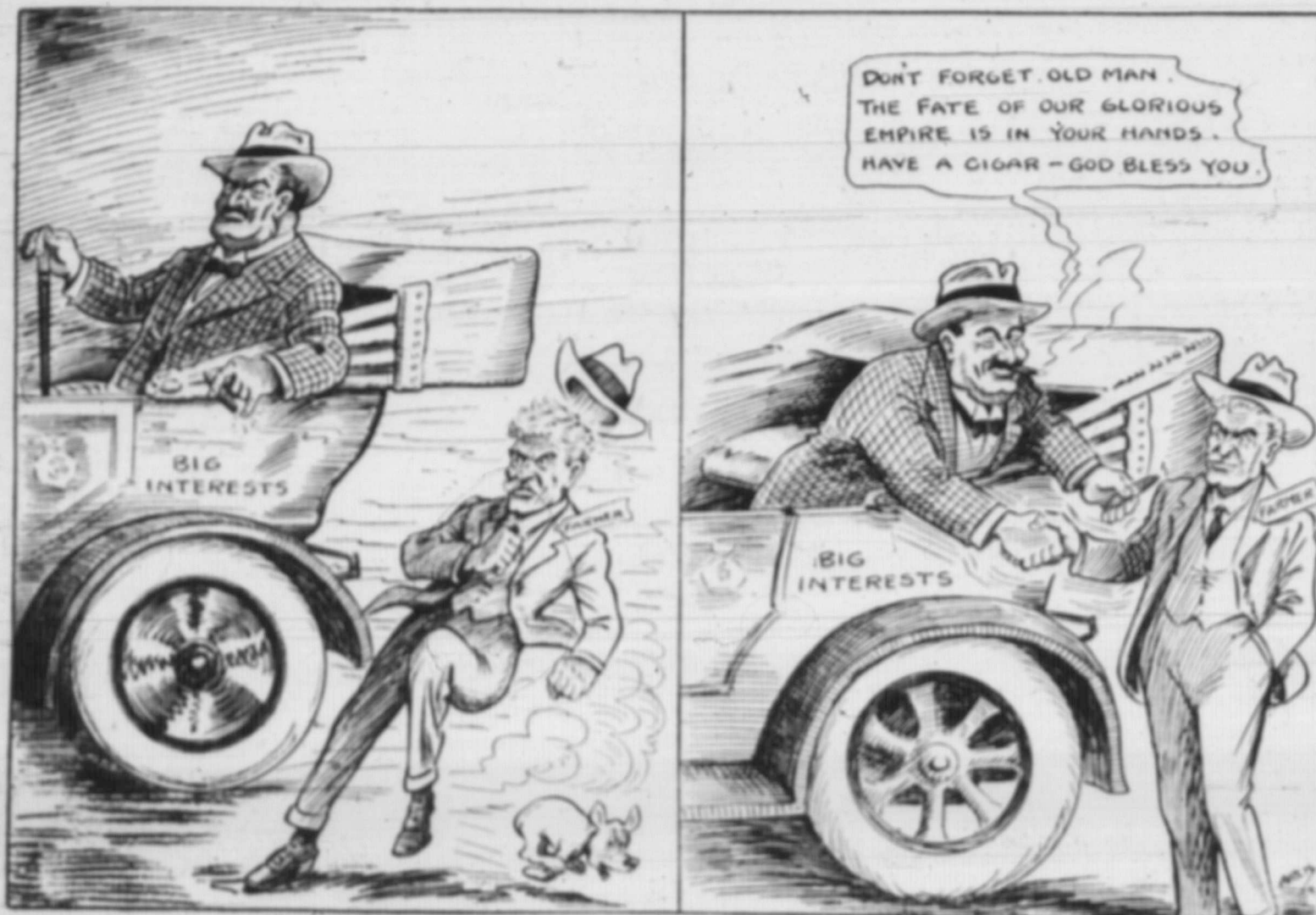
#### COST OF IDLE LAND

The four western governments would be doing a good service to have a complete survey made of each province. The amount of vacant land and its location should be readily ascertained at a comparatively small cost. It would then be seen how the country is suffering by having land held idle which should be occupied by those already in the country. It would be seen that thousands of families are living far away from railroads when there is plenty of land for them within easy reach of railroad facilities. It would be found that there is plenty of railroad accommodation in this country for the people who are here. It would be found that our schools could be maintained much more cheaply if the idle land were occupied and that hospital service would be much more efficient. It would be shown that the church is suffering by seeking to serve sparsely settled areas, also it would be seen that the cost of road construction could be reduced by an immense amount if only roads were built where people were living. Holding land out of use is a great drawback to the

country and it should be made as difficult as possible.

#### DELEGATED GOVERNMENT

The development of Dominion politics since 1911 bears striking evidence to the distance Canada is from having a truly representative form of government. The election of that year was fought on the reciprocity question. The result was to negative a proposed national course of action. Outside of this one question there was no indication as to what course the people wished national legislation to take. No initiative was given to any other legislation, yet since that time what responsibilities have been assumed by parliament? It has given away millions of the people's money to railway companies. It has declared war, and sent 400,000 men of Canada to fight overseas. It has assumed obligations of hundreds of millions to meet war expenditures, and has levied millions of extra taxes to help meet the cost of the war. It may assume the right within the next few days to conscript and send to the front another 100,000 men. It has done all these things without ascertaining the will of the people regarding a single one of them. Aside altogether from the merits of the measures that have been adopted, it is advisable that we do not lose sight of how small a place the principle of representative government occupies in the administration of national affairs. We have merely the shadow of representative government. We have a delegated government, a form of government in which the will of uninstructed delegates only functions in the formulation of legislation, and in which the will of the people is seen only in the background of a remote election. And so it will remain until a national measure of direct legislation gives the people the right to express their will regarding some of these momentous questions of national policy.



BEFORE THE WAR

HOW TIMES DO CHANGE

TODAY