

bringing about the desired change in conditions.

HONESTY IN ELECTIONS

A few days ago at Ottawa the two political parties spent some time discussing improvements in the Election Act. This is a habit they have when time hangs heavy on their hands. Neither of the parties has any intention whatever of amending the Election Act to prevent crooked practice at election time. It would be a very easy matter to amend the Election Act so that crooked practices could be effectually prevented, and offenders put into the penitentiary, where they ought to be. At the present time every election is followed by charges and counter-charges of corruption, and protests are entered in the courts by both sides. The party papers roar about such crookedness for a few weeks, and then it quiets down, and in the course of a year, and sometimes two years, the election protests are "sawed off," and conditions remain as usual. If Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier are sincere in their desire to make politics cleaner, they can do it easily. If not, they should at least have the good grace to keep quiet about it.

SEED GRAIN GRAFT

It is charged that there has been partizanship and rake-offs in connection with the purchase of the government's seed grain, but worse than this, from the farmers' standpoint, is the charge that a considerable number of farmers have been guilty of fraud in securing and disposing of the seed which has been advanced by the government. The distribution of seed grain was a measure of

relief adopted by the government for the purpose of providing seed to enable farmers whose crop was a failure last year to sow their land and remain upon their farms. It was a very praiseworthy act on the part of the government to come to the relief of farmers in this way, and it is certainly a great disgrace if any farmers have taken advantage of this chance to rob the government. There have been some cases, it is stated, where farmers have sold as much as two carloads of grain since Christmas, with prices ranging from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a bushel, and who have, nevertheless, secured seed grain from the government on the pretext that their crop was a total failure last year, and they were unable to provide seed for themselves. Others, it is claimed, have done even worse than this, and have secured seed grain from the government and then sold it to the elevators. This latter is a criminal act, and one farmer has been arrested and will no doubt be severely punished for his dishonesty. It is very discouraging for those who are pleading the farmers' cause and endeavoring to protect the farmers from the graft of the middlemen and contractors, to have the criminal dishonesty of farmers thrown in their faces. Those farmers who have been guilty of defrauding the government in connection with seed grain should be properly punished.

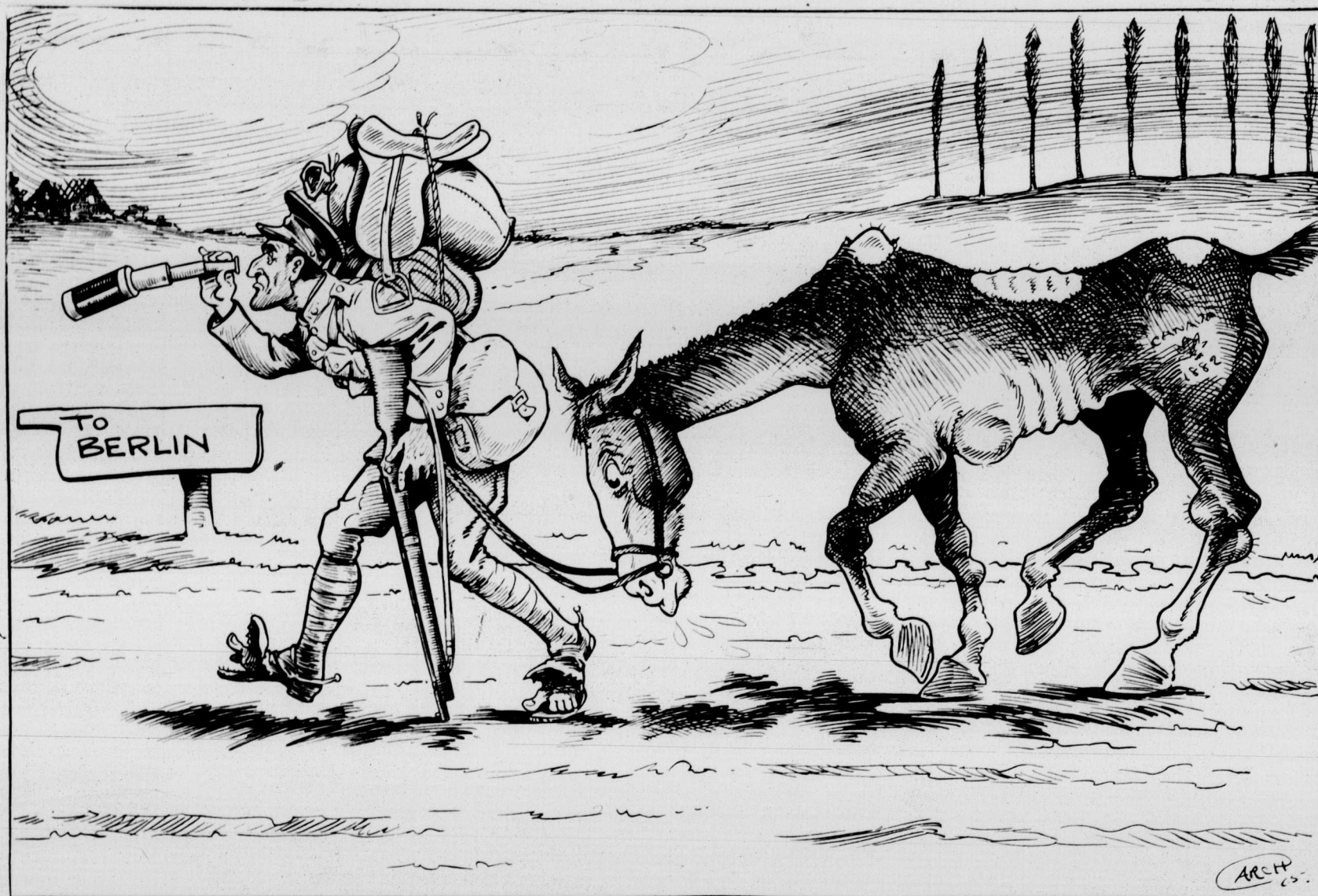
The new stamp taxes come into force on Thursday, April 15, and on and after that date a one cent stamp, in addition to the ordinary postage, must be placed on every letter and postcard mailed. If possible, the extra stamp should be one of the special issue having the words "War Tax" printed upon it, but ordinary stamps will be accepted. It is import-

ant that the extra stamp should not be forgotten, as letters on which it is not placed will be sent to the dead letter office. The war stamp will not be necessary, however, on letters to or from a member of parliament at Ottawa during the sitting of parliament, nor to the government officials at the capital, which are carried free as before.

According to the Finance Minister true patriotism demands that the Canadian people buy only imported goods, which action will ruin Canadian factories. According to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association true patriotism demands that the Canadian people buy only "Made in Canada" goods, which will bankrupt the Dominion Government. A general response to either appeal means ruination to Canada. Direct taxation upon land values which the organized farmers have consistently demanded, will provide all the revenue necessary and at the same time permit the people to stimulate home industry by purchasing Canadian made goods.

We wish again to warn our readers against the American-Canadian Securities Loan Company, of Denver, Colorado. This concern is not subject to the laws of Canada, and we have not yet been able to find that they have ever loaned any money in Canada at 6 per cent. Six per cent. money would be nice to have, but the prospect of getting it from this company does not seem at all good.

The man who votes for his party when he knows it is wrong is simply encouraging political corruption.



AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

The investigation at Ottawa shows that the patriotic manufacturers supplied our soldiers with rotten boots, and that the patronage system of graft produced inferior field glasses and spavined and useless horses. The graft extended to motor trucks, medical supplies and nearly everything else purchased. Yet these are the same "patriots" who refused to let us sell our wheat to the Americans for fear it would destroy our patriotism. Ye Gods!