

risen to an average of 35 per cent. As a general rule similar articles sell at the same price in Canada whether imported or home manufactured. Industries protected by the tariff sell their goods at a tariff enhanced price. As Sir Geo. Foster, minister of trade and commerce, remarked some years ago in effect: "What's the use of a Protective Tariff if it doesn't allow the home manufacturer to increase the price of his goods and the increase will be practically the amount of the tariff?" If the tariff tax is 35 per cent. on dutiable goods imported what must be the tremendous burden placed on the people of Canada by a similar tax levied on home made goods for the benefit of the protected industries?

### BRITISH WAR TAXATION

In speaking to a deputation from the Trades Union Congress a few days ago, Premier Asquith informed them that before the war incomes of \$2,500 were taxed \$65, but now are taxed \$255; incomes of \$5,000 formerly taxed at \$190 are now taxed \$695, and incomes of \$25,000 formerly taxed at \$1,460 are now taxed \$6,010. It was pointed out in another press dispatch that the British Government is taking in taxes 77 per cent. of the profits of shipping companies. These figures are an indication that the wealthy classes of Great Britain are being forced to contribute a much larger share of their wealth to the public treasury than ever before. British finance during the war has been the wonder of the world. Not only is Great Britain financing her own war costs, but she is also assisting to finance nearly all her allies, including several of the overseas Dominions of the British Empire. In Canada taxation has always been imposed most heavily on those least able to bear it. There is plenty of money in Canada today and if the taxes were imposed equitably it would be easily possible to raise a very much larger revenue yearly

without imposing any additional burden upon industry. Such increases in taxation would be eminently preferable to piling up a great war debt to be laid upon the shoulders of future generations.

### TREE TRADE SPIRIT

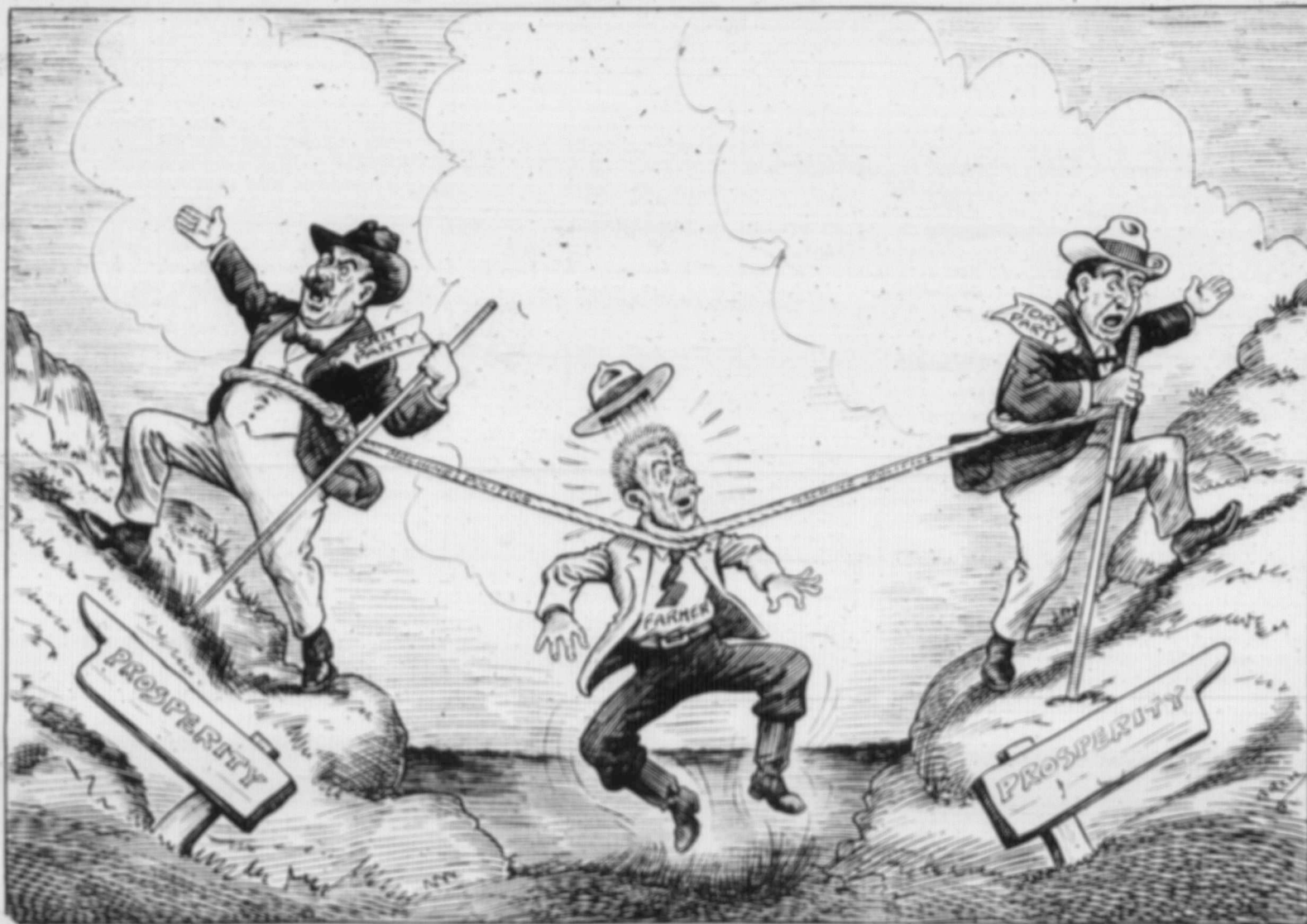
The Winnipeg Telegram replying to a correspondent recently made the statement that the Free Trade sentiment in Western Canada "was much stronger twenty years ago—it is not developing, it is decaying and this war will speed the process." The Telegram merely makes the bald statement without elaborating or proving it in any way. We challenge the accuracy of the statement. Twenty years ago the Free Trade sentiment in the West was largely developed by Liberal politicians seeking the overthrow of the Conservative Government, and like most of our politicians they were willing to promise anything before election. There was no organization among the people of Western Canada twenty years ago standing for Free Trade. After the accession of the Liberal party in 1896 and their subsequent betrayal of the people on the tariff question the Free Trade sentiment in the West was dormant for a number of years and was only aroused when the farmers began to organize, about twelve years ago. Since that time the farmers' organizations in all three Prairie Provinces have developed at an extraordinary rate and have become by far the strongest farmers' organization ever known in Canada, numbering approximately 55,000 farmers with powerful financial organizations of their own creation and under their own control. These great farmers' organizations one and all have repeatedly declared their unalterable opposition to the Protective Tariff system and in favor of direct taxation on the unimproved value of the land. This is our reason for saying that the Free Trade sentiment in

Western Canada is stronger than it was twenty years ago and stronger than it ever has been in the history of the West, and we cannot see how the war will tend in any way to decrease or abate the demand for the abolition of the Protective system. Every month brings some new abuse of the Protective Tariff and adds some new burden to the farmers of the West for the benefit of the protective interests. The Telegram may, like the ostrich with its head in the sand, claim that the Free Trade sentiment is decaying, but the facts are all against them.

We hope our protectionist friends will not forget that we are offering \$25.00 for the best 2,000 word article or letter received before September 1 showing that the Protective Tariff is beneficial to the farmers of the Prairie Provinces. This challenge is open to any protectionist in the Dominion of Canada, be he editor, manufacturer, political economist or what not, and we promise to publish the best one received—and reply to it.

We hope that our readers will encourage boys and girls in their own families and in their own neighborhood to enter our \$150 prize seed selection competition announced in another column of this issue.

We have reports from several farmers who have been very active in farmers' organization work in their local communities and have even had the courage to contribute their views on the banking situation to the newspapers that they have been refused credit from their local banks on this account. This is putting the pressure on pretty strong and while it is decidedly unfair to the farmers who are thus suffering it is contributing towards a condition which will force a readjustment of rural credit.



HOW IT WORKS OUT FOR THE FARMER