

our soldiers at the front. In war time traitors are shot. This is war time, and if such graft does not constitute traitorous action, then it is something far worse. No one will for one moment accuse Sir Robert Borden of having any part, either directly or indirectly, in the graft that has been exposed. But if he does not see that swift and certain justice is meted out to the grafters, he will be lacking in those patriotic qualities of which the Canadian people believe him to be possessed.

#### FARMING CONTRASTS

Success in farming depends more than anything else on attention to details. A successful farmer is, above all things, a first-class manager. It is the little things, so-called, which count in farming. A farmer in Manitoba last year broke up a piece of land, properly dressed it, harrowed it, and made a fine seed bed, treated with formalin and seeded on it the very best strain of well-cleaned wheat he could obtain at the rate of one and a half bushels to the acre. He set the drill to put the seed where it would be directly in contact with the moisture, harrowed after the drill and waited developments. In the fall the crop was ready to cut early, he stacked it, then threshed it and obtained 26 bushels to the acre of wheat which graded an extra good No. 1 Northern and weighed about 64 pounds to the bushel. This wheat he sold for seed at from \$1.45 to \$1.75 per bushel and considered he had a fair return. What did his neighbor do? In a field across the road, on land practically the same, the sod was broken up carelessly, left lying open, worked down at the end of the summer, left rough and seeded in the

spring. The seed used was taken straight out of the bin, and put right into the drill box without any treatment for smut. On account of the lumps in the ground some seed went down four inches and some was left lying on the surface. It was left in that condition to grow as best it might, and what was the result? The crop was late in maturing, rust caught it, it was left in the stook and became weathered, so that when it finally was threshed the yield was only six bushels to the acre and the grade was No. 3 Northern. Which man made money, and why? These are facts, but, for obvious reasons, the names are not given.

#### PAY MEMBERS MORE

It is difficult to understand, when both political parties at Ottawa have squandered and wasted endless millions of the public money in the past decade, why they pursue such a stingy policy in the payment of Members of Parliament. The salary of a Member of Parliament to-day is \$2,500 per year. It should be increased to at least \$4,000 per year, and if it were made \$5,000 a year it would be money well expended. The present salary of \$2,500 is one of the reasons why there is so little independence in Parliament. No member of parliament can pay his election expenses, his living expenses at Ottawa and save anything in payment for his time out of \$2,500 a year. For this reason most of the members get some assistance from the campaign funds, and in turn have to line up and vote for their party whenever they are told to do so. Members from Ontario and Quebec can go to their homes on Friday night and return Monday or Tuesday, thus

keeping in touch with their business. Members from Western Canada or the Maritime Provinces must be away from their homes and their business five or six months in the year attending Parliament. Whatever business they have suffers in their absence, and, unless they have independent wealth, they must get financial assistance from some other source or eke out a miserable existence on the salary they receive. To increase the salaries of the Members of Parliament to \$5,000 a year would cost the country over \$700,000 a year, which is only a flea bite compared with the great donations handed out every year to railway corporations and the special privileges granted to other big interests. A Member of Parliament should be paid for his services and should be paid enough that he would be independent of the party machines and the party campaign funds.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba is to be congratulated on his courage in insisting on the appointment of a royal commission to investigate the parliament buildings scandal. If the representative of the Crown refused to act in such circumstances there would be no justification for retaining the office. Given an impartial commission and a sufficiently wide scope, the honesty or otherwise of the Manitoba government in its dealings with contractors will be demonstrated beyond cavil.

In every war there are patriotic grafters who rob the people and the government in supplying war material. Already they are coming to the front in Canada. Probably many of them will get a title when the war is over.



#### CANADA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM

Special Privilege has dominated both parties for the past 20 years, by supplying the campaign funds. So long as the people blindly follow party leaders Special Privilege will ride triumphant. When the people do their own thinking Special Privilege will come to the ground.