

success every member of a local should make it a point to see that The Guide crop report is discussed and filled in at the next meeting so that it will cover the condition of the crop up to July 10. All reports should be mailed on and not before this date so that the second Guide crop report can be published in the July 21 issue of The Guide.

THE ELECTION SAW-OFFS

The evidence given before the new Royal Commission in Manitoba by Hon. Valentine Winkler, explains a good deal of the corruption in our political life thruout Canada. The Liberal organization had protested four Conservative elections and the Conservative organization had protested four Liberal elections. These protests were entered because it was alleged that there had been bribery and corruption in the election campaign and that the members of the legislature thus elected were not entitled to hold their seats. Instead of the law being allowed to take its course, however, Mr. Winkler and Sir Rodmond Roblin got together and agreed to "saw off" the protest or in other words, if the Tories would drop their protests the Grits would do likewise. The only excuse whatever for the "saw-off" principle is that it has been customary thruout Canada for many years—which is no excuse at all. It is almost an unheard of thing in Canada for a member to be unseated for corruption during the election campaign, tho it is taken for granted that there is all kinds of crooked work in the election campaigns conducted by both parties. As soon as any election is over there are always a number of protests filed against certain members, but the opposite party always files an equal number of protests. The cases are then adjourned from time to time in the courts and finally allowed to die by mutual arrangement between the two parties. There is no hope for having clean elections in this country until the "saw-

off" crime is made punishable and provision is also made by which dishonesty in election campaigns can be handled thru the courts more quickly than at the present time. Under the "saw-off" scheme it is possible to go out and spend all kinds of money buying votes, directly and indirectly, and get away with it. After every election the newspaper organs of both political parties are simply alive with charges of corruption. These are of course only made for effect, but the public have learned that even if the charges are true they will never be prosecuted. The "saw-off" principle puts a premium on crooked work and educates the growing generation to believe that honest election campaigns are not expected nor desired. If the Norris government remains in office and expects to win the confidence of the people, there must be very drastic amendments to the controverted Elections Act by which swift and certain punishment may be meted out to wrong doers. If this is not to be done then an election does not mean the votes of the people, but merely the votes of a few who have the most money.

THE WAR GRAFT INVESTIGATION

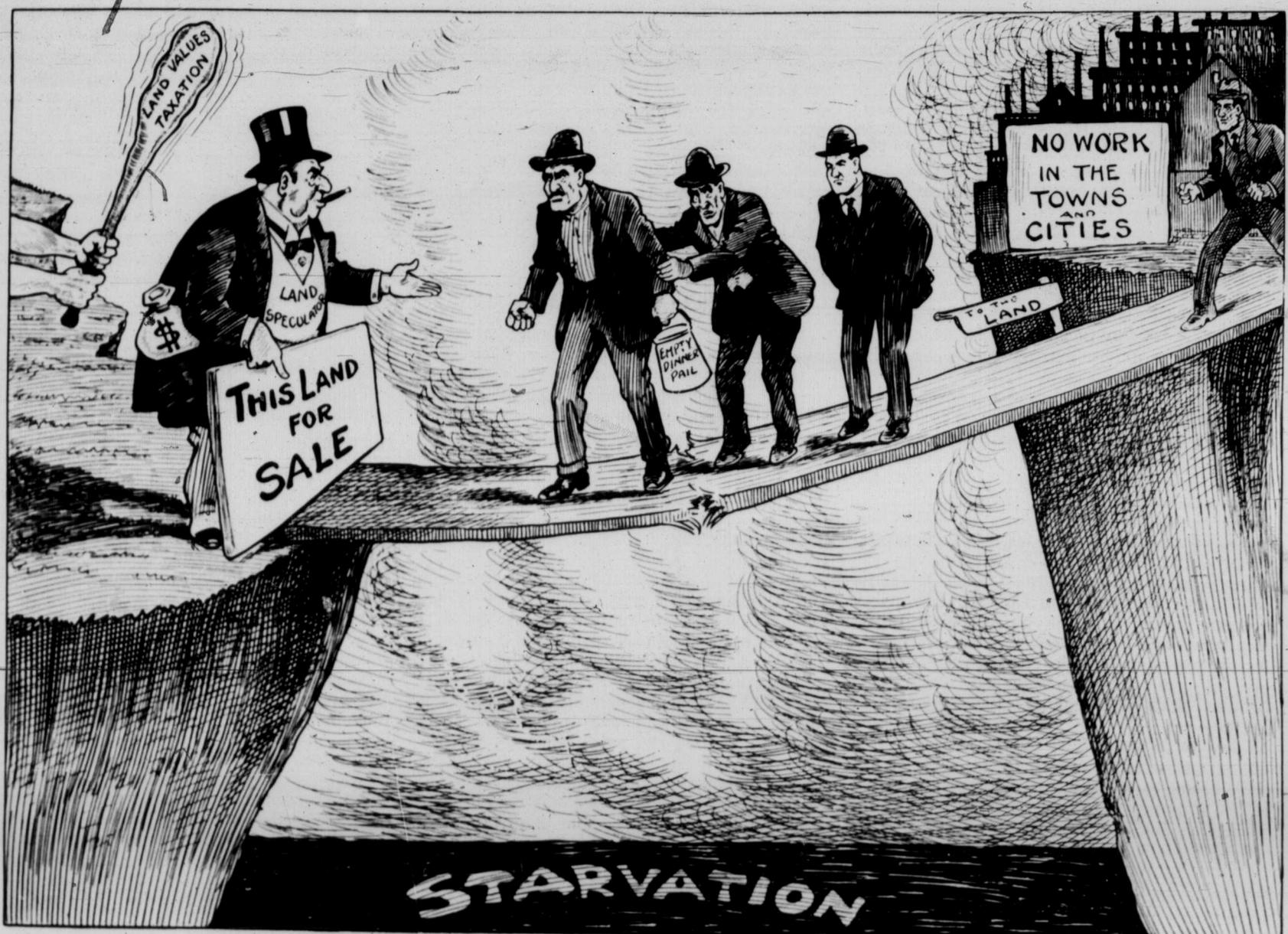
The Royal Commission at Ottawa investigating the graft in connection with the purchase of war supplies is already getting down to bed rock. One member of parliament, W. F. Garland, M.P., has already admitted that he robbed the public treasury of a large amount of money by charging exorbitant prices for field dressings and medical supplies for which he got a contract. The probe has also shown that there has been excessive profits paid on other war supplies. The boot and horse grafts still remain to be investigated and the public is eagerly awaiting the truth in connection with these charges. The graft that has already been unearthed at Ottawa is simply the natural result of our political system. All of our governments, Grit and

Tory have maintained the patronage list, and in the expenditure of public monies have endeavored as far as possible to line the pockets of their political friends. Quite a number of prominent politicians in Canada in the past generation have become very wealthy in the most mysterious manner and the process still continues. No one seems to know how these politicians acquire their wealth, but it is commonly believed that they use their positions for their own private gain. Whenever an investigation is attempted it is always voted down by a subservient majority in parliament or is committed to the care of a parliamentary committee which is appointed especially for white-washing purposes. Premier Borden has an opportunity to put the business of Canada upon a business-like basis and send his name down into history as the first Canadian statesman. There have been no others yet big enough to eliminate the spoils system in federal politics. Borden can do it if he has the backbone and if he will do it he will have the support of the Canadian people.

THE FREE LIBRARY SCHEME

We hope that the local Associations and unions thruout the three provinces will take hold of the free library proposition which The Guide has announced, and which is fully described on other pages in this issue. By this plan The Guide intends to return to each local Association a part of the subscription price of The Guide in the form of a circulating library free to every member of the Association. The competition is open until August 31 and there is plenty of time for every local Association to earn a library during the next seven weeks.

The people will go "back to the land" when the special interests cease to make the farmers their chief prey with the consent of parliament.



UNEMPLOYMENT—A CAUSE AND A CURE