

By A. McLeod

There the common people rule; the government is as open as day to the citizens and newspapers. Everything that the government says and does and receives and pays is published openly. Agriculture tends to public virtue, enlightened agriculture tends to civic capacity. If there ever has been a time to try the mettle of a government it has been during the last three years, but the government of Denmark, composed of farmers, workers and other common men, has stood this acid test as well as any government in the world. Government by special interests has been scotched. The typewriter is in general use in Denmark but there is no such thing as a few men putting their heads together, running off on a typewriter the legislation they want in their own selfish interests and having it put through the legislature by the government. That is the way seven-tenths of our Canadian legislation is prepared and put through our various legislatures. The Danish government is democratic in spirit, not merely in form, and legislation is directed not to the

Do we, the dwellers on the plains, find any lesson to learn in all this? Whether we find it or not the lesson is there and we need to learn it. We have a most fertile soil, we are a young and vigorous people, agriculture is our chief basic industry, and yet at the end of the first generation of farming on the prairies, agriculture is languishing, not from natural causes but from artificial conditions, made for the farmers by privileged interests, which rule the country economically and politically. The farmers are relatively helpless because we are not educated for open-country life. We are clay in the hands of the class potter. We writhe and squirm and groan but that is all. We cannot assert ourselves, we have not learned how. There is just one way out, by the highway of education. We are schooling our children today as the

The results with us as with the Danes will be a transformation of our life. There will come, through spiritual schools, new ideals, renewed economic conditions, and a complete reversal of our existing governmental traditions and practices. We shall think for ourselves, the appeal of life, like that of the school, will be to reason not to memory, to service not to selfishness. The common people will learn to trust them-

We cannot transplant Danish schools or Danish agriculture or Danish economic or Danish government to Canada. We can and must adopt the democratic educational principles underlying their people's schools, and we will then develop the democratic spirit that is characteristic of their agriculture, their economic and their government.

(Phadia)

A. STANLEY JONES,

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