

the Independent vote, which is a large one, and we believe they will receive also very strong support from farmers who in the past have been allied with the old political parties. It is quite probable also that the women will have the vote at the next federal election, and if so, we believe they will stand for independence of thought and action in the candidates for whom they vote.

### DR. BLAND'S DISCHARGE

There will be widespread regret throughout the Western rural community at the action of the Board of Wesley College, Winnipeg, in discharging Rev. Dr. S. G. Bland from the teaching faculty. There is more than a suspicion that the political and capitalistic viewpoint of some members of the board was responsible for their action. There has never been any question as to Dr. Bland's efficiency as an instructor, his sincerity, probity and devotion to his cause. But Dr. Bland is a democrat to the hilt. More than that, he has a habit of expressing his views plainly and fearlessly on political, economic, social and religious questions. By so doing he has endeared himself to the great mass of the people, but at the same time he has incurred the hostility of crooked politicians and aroused considerable antagonism among the privileged rich and the "let-well-enough-alone" members of the clergy. The combination was too strong for him and after fourteen years of faithful service he was summarily dismissed without expression of regret or appreciation. Whether or not he is reinstated in Wesley College, we may be sure that his freedom of speech will not be curbed and that he will remain a fearless and outspoken champion of democracy. Our great institutions of learning have too long been muzzled. They are not keeping up with the spirit of the times.

The nationalization of all our railways will

remove from public life one of our chief sources of political corruption.

### CONTROL OF FOOD PRICES

With flour at sixteen dollars a barrel, bread at twelve cents a loaf, potatoes at four dollars a bag, wheat around three dollars a bushel and prices of other food in Ontario proportionately high, it was to be expected that considerable agitation would spring up among consumers for some effective means of keeping food prices within bounds. This agitation has been stimulated by the fact that the original producer of food products is not benefitting to the degree to which the final consumer is suffering. The abnormal rise in prices, especially for wheat and its products, has taken place for the most part while they were in the speculators' hands. The result is a strong demand for government action in the control of food prices. Consumers' leagues are crying out for relief, and now comes a resolution by an association of bakers, Dominion wide in its membership, for a food controller, not one of the rubber-stamp brand, but a member of the government with cabinet rank. A similar agitation prevails in the United States, and a bill is before congress to give the president power to take what steps he deems advisable to keep the situation in hand. For precedents attention is drawn to Germany, where a full measure of food control has greatly conserved food resources and staved off the final day of defeat, and also to Great Britain, where active measures for keeping the price of wheat and other food products under control have been taken. Farmers are of one mind with the consumer that speculative values should be squeezed out of food prices. They are as willing as any class in the community to have prices fixed as low as is consistent with the cost of production. All they ask is that this cost be kept down by restraining the hand of the war profiteers who are

taking advantage of existing conditions to boost the prices of many things that go into the production of the wheat crop.

The present tariff proposals before the United States Congress would place a 10 per cent. duty on all food stuffs coming from Canada, including wheat. It is expected, however, that the senate will eliminate this clause and leave wheat still on the free list.

The banks have always declared their willingness to lend money to farmers for productive purposes. Now is their time to show it. Greater production is the outstanding need of the world today. Credit is required. The banks have a duty to perform.

The holders of vacant land do not pay one cent towards the cost of maintaining our federal government or the cost of prosecuting the war. On what grounds should they be exempted from a fair share of these costs?

What experience are you having in borrowing money from the banks? The Guide would be pleased to hear from farmers on this question. Are you getting what you should have at a reasonable rate of interest or not?

The spirit of Canada demands that the practical party politician should go to the scrap heap. He has already cursed our country beyond the limit of endurance.

Apparently the King believes that only those Canadians who have accumulated a pot of money should receive a tin pot title.

Conscription of wealth and conscription of man power should go together.

The utmost possible wheat in 1918 should be our determined purpose.



"I feel it my duty to emphasize that the food situation is one of the utmost gravity which, unless it is averted, may possibly result in the collapse of everything we hold dear in civilization."—H. C. Hoover, U. S. Food Commissioner.