

# The Brain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, October 10, 1917.

## POLITICIANS AND PROFITEERS

The party politicians of Canada received some rough handling at the hands of Rev. Dr. Worrell, Archbishop of Nova Scotia, at the annual meeting of the Anglican Synod at Montreal last week. His remarks as reported in the press were as follows:—

"It is grotesquely absurd, in the face of the realities of the terrible war in which we are engaged, and from which we cannot withdraw until we have won a victory for the cause of right and justice and freedom, to assert that a Conservative or Liberal as such is the better qualified to carry on that war, in the midst of a war which demands prompt and fearless action. The country is handicapped by the indecent struggle of politicians seeking for personal advantage.

There has been profiteering of which Canadians are ashamed, but I can see very little difference between the men who take advantage of the war conditions to line their pockets and the man who uses the same conditions to advance his party interests. All honor to those who have fearlessly and patriotically cast their party allegiance to the wind, and have sought to give the country a national government composed of patriotic men who put the war first and unite in working out the best plans for the winning of the war. We have made great sacrifices and many of our best and noblest sons are lying in graves in foreign lands. It is now our task to see that these sacrifices have not been in vain. We must back up those who are so splendidly doing their part in the face of fearful odds and we must aid in any measure that may be devised for that purpose."

Most people who read the remarks of Dr. Worrell will be inclined to agree with him. There are a great number of party politicians in Canada, some of them in the Conservative camp and quite as many in the Liberal camp who are endeavoring to make party capital out of the war and war conditions. They are far more interested in winning the election for their own party and securing the honors and the plums of office, than they are in bringing the war to a successful conclusion. Any person who spent a few days around the House of Commons during the last session of parliament would undoubtedly arrive at this conclusion. When the House of Commons is in session the chief subject uppermost in the minds of the majority of the members is how they are going to get some advantage over their opponents in the House. It is all part of a great game which each side is playing for a personal advantage. The welfare of the country is not given anything like the consideration which it deserves. Dr. Worrell has handed out a sober and a solemn truth when he puts self-seeking party politicians in the same class with the selfish profiteers who are lining their pockets out of the war and war conditions. The selfish war politicians and the war profiteers are two of the most dangerous and most undesirable elements in this country today.

## FIXING FOOD PRICES

In the cities and towns throughout Canada the increased cost of living is being felt very severely. Many people expected when the food controller was appointed, that he would immediately begin fixing the prices on all kinds of food products and reducing them somewhat near the level prevailing before the war. Already the price of wheat for the present year has been fixed and there seems to be a good deal of talk about fixing the price of other kinds of farm products. It is not on record anywhere that in the days when farm products brought such a low price, that there was no profit in them for the farmer, that action was taken either by the government or by the people living in the cities and towns to help out the farmer. In those days, the farmer was supposed to keep on producing and when the price went below the cost of production, he was supposed to lower his standard of living in order to meet it. The only help

that was forthcoming for the farmer in those days was the widespread suggestion from those who never did any farming, but who made a very handsome profit out of the farmer, that he should go into "mixed farming." Since the war broke out the farmer has been getting better prices for his products. In fact, the only thing that has saved Western Canada from a very severe financial reverse, has been the war prices for all kinds of farm products. The government and the business interests of Canada have received for the first time an ample demonstration of the fact that prosperity for the farmers means prosperity for all Canada. This fact should not be forgotten.

If we are to have an epidemic of price fixing it should not begin and end with the farmer. Everything the farmer has to buy enters into the cost of production of his grain and his livestock and other farm produce. The price of all of these things has increased enormously. The protected interests of Canada, the financial interests and the transportation interests are all making huge profits out of the business of the farmer today. If the food controller is going to fix the price at which the farmer must sell his products, then some other government official should fix the price at which the farmer may buy his necessities. If all of these other interests are going to be allowed to put their heads together and get the highest price the traffic will bear, then there is no justification for the government stepping in and refusing permission to the farmer to get the highest price that the law of supply and demand will provide. The farmers will have no objection to having prices fixed if those prices are to be fixed on everything, but there will be a very strong protest against fixing the prices on all the farmer has to sell and permitting the exploitation to continue in the price of everything the farmer has to buy.

## FREE PRESS LECTURES CANDIDATES

Last week when the candidates who are standing on the Farmers' Platform put out their public statement, which appears in this issue, the Winnipeg Free Press took the opportunity to read those candidates a very savage lecture. Standing upon lofty moral ground, the Free Press reprimanded most severely the Farmers' Platform candidates because they dared to suggest that everything was not as it should be in the present political situation. The Free Press says that these Farmers' Platform candidates have assumed a monopoly of honesty and placed everybody else in the class of corrupt politicians or those who are weakly supporting such politicians. At the conclusion of its lecture the Free Press says that this is a time for trust instead of suspicion and for co-operation instead of criticism.

For many years past the Free Press used its best endeavors to educate the people of Western Canada to believe that the Conservative party consisted largely of a gang of scheming and self-seeking politicians with a pretty large admixture of political crooks. During the last year or two, the Free Press has admitted that the Liberal party is very little, if any, better than the Conservative party. The new policy which the Free Press has adopted lately is that by bringing these two parties together and forming a coalition government, both of them will become pure and spotless. The Free Press admits, or has admitted in the past, that both these parties have betrayed the best interests of the country and have robbed the public treasury through the patronage system. They have both permitted wholesale exploitation of the public. But now when they get together by some

remarkable magic they are to become broad minded, patriotic, public spirited, highly honest and absolutely clean and spotless protectors of the public welfare. It certainly sounds good.

There is another factor that the Free Press does not take into consideration in boosting for fusionist candidates. Where will the progressive members of the cabinet be if they have no support in the House? If the government is composed of a coalition of the two parties and the members of the House are either party or fusionist candidates, of what use will it be to the country to have in the cabinet outstanding progressives or radicals selected to represent that spirit of the electorate? If there are to be progressive members in the cabinet, it is just as essential and in fact more so that there should be a strong support for them in the House itself.

Why is the Free Press advocating "win-the-war" candidates only? Of what use will such candidates be if they have only one plank in their platform and that is to support the winning of the war in whatever way the government may decide is best? Surely there is something besides conscription of men necessary to bring the war to a successful conclusion. Why does the Free Press put its head into the sand like the ostrich on the desert and talk about trust and co-operation? The country has been full of graft, corruption and exploitation ever since the war began. The Free Press knows this and has stated it openly in its columns many times. The Free Press knows that the Liberal party if it were in power and had charge of the conduct of the war, would have been little or no improvement whatever upon the Conservative party. Now, if these two parties get together and are animated by such a spirit as has been shown in their efforts during the past, what hope is there that they will make very much improvement in present conditions? It is time the Free Press took its head out of the sand and looked around as it used to do and recognized the evils that are abroad in the country and took steps to try to correct them. It is no time to be belittling and discouraging the efforts of the people of Western Canada to elect candidates who will stand on a truly national platform. These candidates the Free Press knows are real "win-the-war" candidates and may be relied upon to support the government in any legitimate "win-the-war" policy just as thoroughly and honestly and conscientiously (and even more so) than any fusionist candidates that could possibly be elected.

## FOOD CONTROLLER'S STATEMENT

Hon. W. J. Hanna, food controller for Canada, issued a public statement which appeared in The Guide last week. The conclusion of his statement was to the effect that it would be impossible to fix the prices on a large number of manufactured articles of food without bringing ruin to a large number of industries and stagnation to a large number of cities and towns. He pointed out that there were altogether too many middlemen in Canada and the big problem was how to reduce that number. There is no doubt a great deal of truth in the statement put out by the food controller. The organized farmers of Western Canada have been well aware for a number of years and have made it very plain that the army of middlemen who stand between the producer and the consumer is entirely too large. It is one of the weaknesses of the commercial development of Canada. Mr. Hanna offers no suggestions for the remedy. The policy of the organized farmers offers two suggestions, which will both help to meet the situation.