

dismissed professors should be considered as under the financial care of the board until provided for by their respective conferences. This stinging rebuke to the Wesley College Board will probably be followed by a re-opening of the case before the western conferences next summer. It begins to look as if Dr. Bland will receive justice before the case is finished. Much depends on the action of the conferences. Their action will be awaited with anticipation by the progressive and democratic elements in Canada.

More Peace Offers

Though torn with dissension and not organized for fighting, Russia has rejected Germany's humiliating peace proposals. German money has been poured out and German intrigue almost exhausted in an effort to get Russia out of the war. With Russia at peace Germany will have nearly 2,000,000 soldiers additional to throw against the Allies on the western front. But so far Germany has failed in her great object. It is to be hoped that Russia will stand firm with the other Allies and her fighting spirit scenes roused again. Despite the great advantage under which Germany fights and the large territory which she has conquered, there are signs of internal trouble for the Kaiser. He is talking peace more frequently than in the past. If the enemy countries remain firm and present a united front it will be a long time before they are conquered. But if revolution breaks out at home victory will not then be long delayed. The world is war weary and any reasonable peace offer should command the serious attention of the Allies. But so long as there is any person left to fight, the Kaiser cannot expect to impose the terms of a conqueror. The American army is moving fast towards the trenches and the fighting equipment of the Allies is now superior to that of the enemy. While peace is desirable and everybody is praying for it, it must be an honorable one and must afford protection to civilization.

Highway Engineer

The building of expensive modern country roads requires expert supervision. There are few easier ways of throwing money away than in building country roads on the haphazard plan. If the labor that has been expended in the building and maintenance of roads in the older parts of Canada had been properly applied, they would now have been equal to any in the world. The waste effort in road work alone is appalling to say nothing of the still greater waste of effort in travelling over them. Western Canada can profit by the bad example set. Good roads are being extended rapidly. These can only be properly built and maintained, under expert supervision. The idea prevalent in some places that the Highway Engineer is a supernumerary is but evidence of a lack of appreciation of the merits of the case and the strongest argu-

ment in favor of the engaging of an engineer. Laying out roads, taking the levels and grades, putting in the road bed, drainage, culvert and bridge construction, and afterward the maintenance of the road calls for the specialized knowledge that only the well-trained engineer possesses. It is the farmer who shells out the money with which roads are built. It is for him to provide that the money is not thrown away. The only way to do this where large amounts of money are being spent is to secure the services of a competent engineer. The rapid extension of good road systems is an encouraging sign. Farmers are coming to realize that they cannot afford the luxury of bad roads. But bad roads they will continue to have in spite of large outlays unless they are laid down and maintained under the supervision of the men who make such work a specialty.

Take Away Handicaps

The spectre of starvation is today staring the nations in the face. How long it will hover over the greater part of the world none can tell. It cannot be dispelled in 1918, it may not be for years. If the problem of food shortage is not solved, if the armies at the front cannot be properly maintained, all our stupendous war preparation will count for naught. Every day the situation is growing in startling seriousness. United States has now no more wheat for export, except such as she may be able to save by reducing her consumption. Recently some wheat has been imported to Britain from Argentina but the haul is too great to expect much relief from that quarter. Lord Rhondda, the British Food Controller announced a few days ago that the British people will very shortly be put on rations. We ought to be prepared

for much more drastic food conservation in Canada in the near future. This all means that Canadian farmers must produce to the utmost limit of their powers next year. The season is short, the farms have been literally stripped of labor, everything possible should be done to help the farmer produce more. Certainly some of the now glaringly obvious handicaps should be swept away. Such is the handicap on the importation of farm tractors, a duty of 27½ per cent. The maintenance of this duty in the face of the present crisis is not only a reflection on legislative wisdom but a positive danger to the physical welfare of thousands of the world's citizens. If this duty were abolished immediately, there are hundreds of farmers in Western Canada, we believe, who would immediately take steps to import farm tractors from the United States and would have them ready for work this spring. These tractors would form our one greatest hope for increasing production during 1918 and following years. How to supply the world with food is not only a farmer's problem but it is just as much a problem for the manufacturer, the merchant, the railroad man and the heads of Governments. The farmers of this country are being asked to produce a greater quantity of everything, to put forth during the coming season the greatest effort ever made by any farmers in the world. Furthermore they have no absolute government guarantee in regard to prices. Under such conditions help not handicaps should be put in his way. Let one preparation be the immediate removal of the duty on tractors and other agricultural implements and machinery.

The demand for food across the water points to the likelihood of drastic regulation in Canada before many months have passed. We in Canada cannot continue to enjoy our beef, ham and bacon and wheat bread while our soldiers at the front and our Allies are suffering for the lack of them. Many families in Canada are voluntarily reducing the consumption of these articles while others are paying no attention whatever to the demand of the times. We must for our soldiers and we must supply food for our Allies. The people of Canada are ready and willing for drastic food regulation. The food controller will find hearty co-operation when he is prepared to issue orders that will help conserve food to help win the war.

In the election more people than ever before, both Grits and Tories, at last discovered that their interests were in common. It is to be hoped that this lesson will be driven home and that when other issues come up to be settled at election time after the war the Western people will forget that they have ever been Grits and Tories and will send a solid representation as they have done this time. If the West in the future will act as unitedly as it has in the recent election there will never be any difficulty in securing justice for this country.



MISPLACED CONFIDENCE

It is estimated that the Railway Commission's Order for Freight Rate Increases would mean an additional \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000 annually for the C.P.R.