

bridge. Its completion which will be effected in a few weeks will mark a forward step in Canada's transportation system. It is the last link in the National Transcontinental Railway. Besides opening up direct railway communication between the city of Quebec and the country south of the St. Lawrence, it will shorten by one half day the trip between Halifax and Winnipeg.

### PARLIAMENT IS CLOSED

On Thursday last the long parliament of Canada was prorogued. On September 21, 1911, this parliament was elected, the big issue being the reciprocity question. The ordinary life of a Canadian parliament is five years, but by a unanimous vote last year the British parliament was asked to amend the B.N.A. Act and extend the life of the Canadian parliament by one year. A similar resolution was brought before parliament a few months ago, but the Liberal party voted solidly against it. The government therefore decided that it could not ask the British parliament to extend further the life of the Canadian parliament. The life of the present parliament consequently automatically expires on October 7, and no parliament can meet in Canada after that date until after a general election is held. The expiration of the life of parliament, however, does not affect the standing of the government. The present cabinet may carry on the business of the country in the ordinary way until the money voted by the present parliament has been exhausted. It is therefore not necessary for a new parliament to be called together until new supplies are to be voted. A general election in Canada must now be held. Under the new franchise bill it will require some time to get the lists in shape for the election and it is doubtful if the election can be held before the end of November, which

seems to be the time most frequently mentioned for the election.

Not only has the present parliament been the longest in the history of Canada, but the problems with which it has dealt have far overshadowed in importance and magnitude those of any other parliament. But the problem of the new parliament to be elected will be equally as important, and the people of Canada have a heavy obligation laid upon them to select candidates capable of meeting these problems of the future.

### GIVE THE COLLEGE A CHANCE

In a few weeks the agricultural colleges will be opening their courses to students for the ensuing college year. Every argument for increased agricultural production is an argument for a large attendance at these courses. During the war and the reconstruction period that will follow it the need for trained men on the land will continue to be imperative. To meet this need a continuous supply of trained men should be turned out by the agricultural colleges. It has been stated unofficially that in enforcing the military service act a liberal measure of exemption will be applied to those engaged in farming. Young men exempted could do no better service than to equip themselves for producing a better crop next year. There are also many young men who are below military age, but who are eligible for enrolment in the agricultural courses. These courses are arranged so as to not seriously affect production. The busiest part of the fall season is over before they open and the students are let out in time to help in with the following year's crop. The facilities that are provided for giving instruction in agriculture can be used to the fullest extent without entailing an extra burden on the country and the need for increased pro-

duction demands that they be fully utilized. Western agriculture lends itself particularly to freeing young men for several months each winter and there is no place where this comparatively slack time can be spent to better advantage than in an agricultural college or school. Give one of them a chance to help you increase the 1918 crop.

The full Board of Wesley College met in Winnipeg last week and settled finally the controversy connected with the discharge of the Rev. Dr. Bland from the faculty. It was with very great surprise that the announcement came that the full board of twenty-six members has unanimously decided not to reinstate Dr. Bland upon the teaching staff. The great body of Methodists throughout the West will be greatly disappointed at the manner in which Dr. Bland has been treated. But if he is not appreciated by the board it is safe to say that he stands higher in the esteem of the general public and the hearts of the people of Western Canada than ever he did before. Party politicians and the moneyed interests do not wait outspoken, democratic teachers in our educational institutions.

The fixed prices of wheat have put the wheat gambler out of business. After the wheat was out of the farmers' hands this summer, the speculator got busy and pushed the price up an extra dollar; the millers promptly put up the price of flour and the bakers boosted the price of bread. The little game is spoiled for the present year by the price-fixing plan. It would be a very fine thing for Canada if the price of wheat could be fixed each year to allow a reasonable profit to the wheat grower and fixed prices on flour and bread. Gambling in food should be made a crime.

