

At first sight, the impression made upon the observer is a most brilliant and a most pleasing one, which cannot fail to fill the mind with admiration.

The magnificence of the public buildings; the immensity of the mills and factories; the enormous development of the railway systems; the rapid growth of the cities; the great increase in population; the immensity of the exports of the country; all these suggest the idea of enormous wealth; of fortunes easily made and rapidly accumulated.

As far as they go, these impressions are correct. But let us look a little below the surface. Let us consider how this great wealth is distributed. What is the condition of the vast majority of the people? How they as individuals, and as families prosper. Then perhaps the face of the observer, which at first indicated only the highest admiration at the brilliant scene before him, will give place to an expression of pain, as he comes into closer contact with the realities of the situation.

Do Canadians generally, know, that among the storekeepers and tradesmen who during the past twenty years have gone into business for themselves, no less than ninety-five out of every one hundred have failed in business? Are you aware that the vast majority of those who ten years ago managed their own business, are now working for small wages in the employ of others? Do you know, that in many districts where ten retail shopkeepers made a comfortable living, reared their families in prosperity, and laid up money for their old age and for their children, that now only one of these shops is in existence, and that the proprietors of the other nine are either in the employ of the one survivor at wages so small that in spite of their best efforts they cannot keep out of debt, and that in many cases they lose their homes,

or are entirely without steady employment?

Do you know that of the immense amounts received for exports from the country, the farmers and other producers usually receive so small a portion of the profits that they cannot pay the interest on their mortgages; and many a poor hard working fellow sinks deeper and deeper in the mire of debt, until in many cases his hopes are gone and he entirely loses heart and courage?"

The author then goes into statistics of much interest, but too long to quote, and follows them by an allusion to the land hunger, for which the Public Domains of the United States, outside of their great central desert, has now only scraps wrested from Indian Reservations to satisfy:

"Many more quotations could be made from statistics and other sources, but the facts are well known to all who have taken the pains to study the question for themselves.

The increase in the United States of an unsettled and dangerous element, consisting of the unemployed, is going on at an alarming rate. When the Indian lands in the Oklahoma country were thrown open to white settlement, the number of people who went there to seek homes, has been estimated as high as 200,000, and similar scenes have since then been witnessed several times. This is an appalling fact, 200,000 restless adventurers of poor home seekers.

It was a formidable army. If that number of men had been, under trained leaders, hurled upon the country with hostile intent, they could have inaugurated a terrible civil war. Why such a state of affairs should exist in so rich a country as the United States, I will consider more fully a little further on, and the causes can be easily found. That this condition of things does exist is