

Divine command. The business and professional man, in fact when nearly everyone, except the millionaires and officials, more or less, feel the pinch of poverty, all with one accord begin to inquire into the causes. There are few so unintelligent as not to know that there is just as much capital in the country now as at any former period. Is it not, therefore, our duty to enquire where that capital is, and how, and why, it has been taken from proper legitimate, industrial and commercial pursuits; in other words, why it has been taken from the people and given to the few without any equivalent in return to the people. Certainly we ourselves must have been derelict in our duties in not making a stronger protest before; for it is well known that for many years the whole trend of legislation both in the United States and Canada has been in the interest of the wealthy and official classes. Representatives or deputations waiting upon the governments either at Washington, Toronto or Ottawa, in the interests of railways, loaning, banking or other corporate wealthy institutions and millionaires have always found a willing ear, yes, sometimes quite suspiciously willing, though in the majority of cases the subventions asked for by these institutions are diametrically opposed to the interests of the masses. Subsidies given to these institutions and millionaires must come from the people in the long run. I have never yet known, either at Toronto or Ottawa, a subsidy granted to a railway company unless in the directorate of the company, there were personal and political friends of the government granting the subsidy; thus it is that millions of dollars have been granted to railway companies upon personal and political, not upon broad public grounds and in the interest of the people as a whole.

Whilst public men, the public purse, the masses, some millionaires and corporations, stand in this relation to each other in Canada and the United States, be it said to the credit of British statesmen that they have very notably and wisely been legislating, for the last fifty years and more, for the poor and those in moderate circumstances. In Britain the load is being gradually shifted from the shoulders of the weak to the shoulders of the strong, whilst in the United States and Canada the very reverse has been taking place. The British statesman accepts without question the theory that capitalists are quite able to take care of themselves without the intervention or assistance of governments or corporations or any special legislation; hence it is that the well informed Briton and British statesmen look upon the majority of Canadian politicians with little less than disgust and aversion. In the days of Robin Hood the English highwaymen robbed the rich and gave a portion to the poor, but every reading intelligent man on either side of the Atlantic knows that our poor perfidious