

# THE TRIP HAMMER.

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## The Trip Hammer.

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#### ASSISTED PASSAGES.

The wage-workers of Canada have, for some time past, without regard to party, been unusually emphatic in their protests against the continuance of the system of assisted immigra-

tion to this country. They assert that the various departments of skilled labor are already so full that thousands of competent mechanics are out of employment altogether, while many are working short hours; and that the payment by the Canadian authorities, Dominion or Provincial, of a premium or a further importation of this class is a monstrous injustice, not only to the working men of Canada, but to those, who, through such inducements, are led to abandon their homes in the old country with the hope of bettering their condition.

There can be no doubt that many departments of skilled labor in this country are overcrowded, and it is also true that ordinary laborers, picked up from the streets of old country cities, who know nothing of farming, and who hope to gain a livelihood in occupations similar to those they have been accustomed to will, on coming here, find themselves in most instances grievously disappointed. In Canadian cities and towns there are always numbers of eager applicants for vacant places, and it is only in exceptional cases that the stranger, unaccustomed to the duties required, and unacquainted with the ways of the country, is preferred to those who are native and to the manor born.

The country—the farm, therefore, would seem to be the only opening for people who come here to earn their living with their hands. But even in the country and on the farm, we fear the demand for hired labor is not so great as it once was. Not many years since this demand was larger than the supply. In harvest time particularly the offices of the Immigration Department were besieged by farmers requiring help in their fast ripening fields. But all this has been materially changed since the advent of the almost perfect harvesting machinery now at the command of the farmer. The self-binding reaper has made him much less dependent on human thews and sinews than he was three years ago. The fact is, that in the coming har-