

that he might settle down at his own deliberate ease to deliver himself of facts, so incontrovertible because so passionless, the Real Estate man would run some risk of a fit. He looked the other steadily in the face, and delivered his broadside.

'Our business men down there,' with a glance towards the hamlet, 'tell me that money was never so scarce in the district before. This, Mr Henslow, after a very fair harvest indeed. The Bank will tell you that never since the branch was opened have deposits been so low. I myself find money very scarce; in fact my practice is reduced one half since thrashing, because people remain at home and suffer rather than pay the price of consultation and drugs. They can't come to Hospital even on an insurance ticket: they can't use the Hospital now it has come to them. I heard only to-day of a case lying in bed two weeks, suffering, rather than afford to send for me!'

Walter Hickman made a forceful gesture, and Liston's face flashed with animation.

'Sir! Have the good folk in the big cities of this West of ours, or in those more prosperous districts we all know exist, any conception of how close we are to famine right here in Finlay—? Right here in this homesteading district where the first of the settler's Hospitals has been built for the comfort and care, first, of the settlers' wives—those women, who, in raising the first Alberta-born generation in this province are