

shaking the security of property in every direction. By taxing vacant lands exceptionally we shall alarm investors, whose money we so much need, and a depreciation of mortgage securities must necessarily ensue. And if in throwing such a burden on the land we force a sale anywhere we shall also lower its price everywhere. An injury to property rights like this, however beneficial in purpose, would in its permanent ill-effects more than offset any temporary advantage to the State to be gained by forcing its vacant lands into use.

It would be better to proceed more considerately to bring these vacant lands into cultivation. The stimulus of higher prices to be obtained likely for a year or two to come for agricultural produce may be depended on soon to begin this. Already many in the West are looking for homesteads, while non-resident landowners themselves here and there are said to be preparing to cultivate. We should naturally turn to general Immigration here, but American settlers are the only likely immigrants now in sight: any effort to attract them in order to turn our prairies into farms is to be encouraged in every reasonable way.

The want we have felt recently of sufficient employment for all our city populations is an evident economic fault in these three western provinces, where but one-tenth of the available farm land is yet in use. Here are many millions of acres capable of sustaining a vast population, all vacant for want of men to cultivate them; while many thousands of men stand idly by, pinched with poverty, because, having had no suitable vocational training in that way they are unable to turn to with this source of supply at hand, and produce from it even the food they need. But the monetary obligations we are under—our adverse balance of trade—the vast sums lent us to develop the resources of the country, make it our paramount duty to find some means of putting this land to immediate productive use.

Apart from the consequences of the war, we are in a state of stagnant trade, with its resultant unemployment—a condition which from causes dealt with by the writer in a former paper—will abide with us until we amend. It was there shown that the crops we have produced were at the prevailing price, insufficient in quantity as well as value for our needs and obligations, and it was shown, in addition to the lack of any adequate