

prevent any possible depreciation of their current value.

The Government, having obtained possession of the silver coin, should proceed to sell it, either in the United States or England, or wherever a market could be found for it at the best figures. The loss would not probably be more than 5¢ or at most 7 per cent. of the total amount, and would be more than saved to the country by enabling it to do without, say one-third or one-fourth, of the money required to complete the Intercolonial Railway; or, with finances in a favorable condition, the sum which the Government would receive might be used in the opening of the Ottawa and Lake Huron route. The large silver, on which least loss would naturally occur, would thus be got rid of. Dimes and half dimes might then be placed on a par with Canadian coins of the same denominations, and be made legal tender to the amount of ten dollars. The amount in circulation would not probably be found too great for the wants—rapidly increasing too—of the country. Three cent pieces might also be made legal tender at the rate of two for five cents, the rate at which they now commonly pass current.

The new Dominion Notes should be for the most part of low denominations, ones, twos, fives and tens, suitable for general circulation and the purposes of retail trade. There would be no more currency in circulation than there is now, but rather less, as much of it would immediately find its way into the various banks, increasing their current cash balances; and business would to some extent be facilitated by the greater use of checks in payment, instead of the handling and counting of much silver.

There may be objections, and serious ones, to this scheme which has suggested itself to us, but such as it is we submit it to the attention of Government and the consideration of our readers, thinking it at least as safe and practicable a mode as can be employed in putting an end to the "Silver Nuisance."

RATHER SLOW!

THE trade in produce throughout Western Canada is opening rather slowly. Very little of the new crop has yet been offered. The season is not, of course, far advanced as yet. We are only at the second week of September, but we have often known the circulation of the banks effected by the money required for purchasing, before this time. The fact is, the bread-stuffs markets of the world are very much unsettled at present. The great corn buyers of the world have not fully decided as to the character of the harvest of 1868, and in the meantime the real value of a bushel of wheat is difficult to determine. In the absence of any active demand abroad, the Western millers and produce dealers are almost at a loss what value to put upon grain. There has, however, been a considerable fall in the price of wheat, and this has doubtless had the effect of preventing sales, for many of the farmers will not sell until there is little hope of prices rising before the winter is over. Not a few millers got rather badly bitten last season. Burnt children are said to dread the fire, so they are acting more cautiously this fall—in fact, we know some who care little whether they buy any wheat at present or not. All these circumstances have caused the produce trade to commence with languor, but as soon as prices settle somewhat, there will doubtless be an improvement. We incline to the opinion that dealers are wise in operating cautiously, and we cannot blame the farmers in holding back if they think that delay will get them better prices. Parties are quite justified in being guided by what they conceive to be their own interests.

WORKERS vs. DRONES.

THAT man is a friend to his country who causes two blades of grass to grow where one grew before. So spoke an able writer, and who can deny the truth of his words? To multiply the blade of grass means industry—which is an absolute condition of national prosperity; the man who so acts deserves to be considered his country's friend, because he belongs to the producers of wealth, and not to the drones who only consume the reward of other people's labours.

We have been led to these reflections by the steadily increasing disposition throughout Canada, to avoid occupations requiring manual labour, and to find some "easy way" of making a living. It has often been remarked that Americans don't like hard work, but we fear from what we observe going on all around us, that our Canadian youth are not much better. What

are the facts? Plenty of room on our farms, in our manufactories and workshops, with good wages for all the labour performed; but all professions and occupations known as "light work" crowded from cellar to garret. It seems to be the height of some young men's ambition to be called "Doctaw," even though they starve all their lives. Lawyers are allowed in Canada to charge such large fees, that many suppose if they can only get "Barrister" tacked on to their name, they can live in idleness and ease for ever after. Then comes in that numerous class—many of them large, strong and healthy—who rush into the cities to "keep store," instead of using the manhood which God has given them in some many occupation. Then a step further on, are others who, from silly pride or incurable laziness, cannot be made to work at any honest labour, and who pick up a living nobody knows how.

What deserves to be said of this phase of Canadian Society of the present day? Simply this: it is contemptible, and should be frowned down. It arises generally from two causes, both of them dishonourable: one is a dislike to honest, manly toil, and a love of "inglorious ease," in other words, laziness; the second is the silly idea of the embryo snob that the light occupations are "more genteel," and a higher rung of society's slippery ladder. Every man of sense must pity both of these classes. The first, because it is only too well known that idleness is the parent of vice; the second, because of the mental imbecility of those who could believe it more honourable to sell hose or measure tape behind a shop counter, than with manly faith and honest heart to go out to sow and reap in the green fields which God has specially ordained for human labour.

To any who propose to enter these "genteel" businesses from better motives—and, of course, there are many such—we have a word or two to say. We suppose that you desire to be successful. Everybody who engages in any occupation must aim at that. Well, the professions and mercantile pursuits at present will not afford you a fair opportunity to be successful, for the very simple but satisfying reason, that they are already over-crowded. Our towns and cities are full of lawyers not one in ten are doing more than eking out an existence of genteel poverty; disciples of Æsculapius are being turned out from our colleges as if by steam, many of whom are unable to find places to wedge themselves in; and as to the dry goods and grocery trades, to which so many young men from the country seem to be attracted, they are notoriously overdone both in Ontario and Quebec. Instead of rushing into these walks of life, we cordially recommend employments in which there is more physical labour. The farm is infinitely better. The anvil, the loom, the carpenter's bench—each and all offer better opportunities for the industrious and enterprising to secure wealth, and, at the same time, they are far more manly, healthy, and independent.

The statistics of Canada as well as other countries show how few, comparatively speaking, make money in these so-called "easy" occupations. We hear often of Cheatem, the wealthy barrister; Bleedim, the successful physician; and Cotton, the merchant millionaire: but did the reader ever reflect how few are the prizes to the blanks in these callings? For one who succeeds, there are large numbers who pass about as poor and miserable an existence as can well be conceived. What could be a more humiliating position than a lawyer without a brief, a doctor without a patient, or dawdling one's life away behind a counter without customers?

Nothing is more honorable to a man than honest labour. It is true it may soil the hands more than those so-called "easier ways" of making a living, but it may preserve a clearer conscience. The daily toil may bring more sweat from the brow, but there is little of that carking care and everlasting worry which in cities bring so many to untimely graves. Brown may be the face and brown the hands of him who labours in the open air, but he feels a dignity which such labour only gives, and he has health and strength to enjoy and make the most of life. An industrious farmer or mechanic is certain of doing at least moderately well, because success depends almost entirely upon himself. How much better such a prospect than that of the great mass of the so called "genteel" classes in Canada whose occupations frequently contain fifty blanks to one prize?

It is necessary that we have professionals and merchants, and as Canada grows older we will require more of them. But these are callings now over-crowded, and our young men will only manifest com-

mon sense in not crowding them still further. Above all, no youth of any talent or force of character, should choose a business simply because it is said to be "easy." Success cannot be attained by indolence in any pursuit. It is energy, industry and enterprise, which alone can carry a man forward to wealth and position. The "drones" never amount to much, and don't deserve to. Earnest and persevering work seems to be an absolute condition of success in any department of life, and those mean-spirited specimens of humanity who seek to shun it, almost invariably find good fortune shun them.

We hope, then, soon to see less anxiety throughout Canada to crowd the overdone occupations, and to avoid the more laborious but more manly and independent means of obtaining a livelihood. The latter, at the present time at least, offer better inducements to young men of energy and push, and so far as health and happiness are concerned, they are infinitely to be preferred.

DESTITUTION IN RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

FAMINE! STARVATION!!

THESE are the prospects that threaten the very existence of the people who inhabit the not barren regions at the head waters of the Red River. Until recently the crops were of fine promise, all were hopeful of plenty and to spare, with no thought of the calamity which has so unexpectedly overtaken the settlement. In the early part of August the grasshoppers, in immense numbers, overspread the country, and destroyed every blade of grain in the fields—literally none being left. Again, another source of subsistence has failed. A certain portion of supplies are usually brought in by the hunters of the settlement, and this year they have returned almost empty handed. We do not know what provisions may now be on hand, or for what precise number of days or weeks they may hold out, but we do know that there is urgent necessity of assistance being sent at once to prevent starvation and death; and we now appeal to our readers everywhere to give what they individually feel able to afford to prevent the consummation of the great misfortune that is now threatening the very lives of these our fellow-colonists. We have stated the bare facts of the case, but any one can fill in for himself the finished picture of the horrors that are in store for the unfortunate people who have thus lost everything they had to depend upon, unless aid be given, and given freely. It must also be remembered that it takes a long time to communicate with Red River, and that, in the words of the proverb, "he gives twice who gives quickly;" and we trust there will be a hearty response to the cry that has come to us from our brethren for help.

The *Nor' Wester* publishes the following call for relief sent to the Mayors of Toronto, Hamilton, London, Brantford, Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec:—

THE CALL FOR RELIEF.

"NOR'-WESTER" OFFICE,
WINNIPEG, Aug 12th, 1868.

WORTHFUL SIR.—This isolated settlement has been visited with a heavy calamity, the full particulars of which you will please read in the enclosed editorial articles cut from the columns of the *Nor'-Wester* of August 4th inst. You will also be able to see the united testimony of the leading clergymen of the various denominations among us. These gentlemen are Canadians, and well known throughout the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Their letters appeared in the columns of my paper of the last issue, yesterday, Aug. 11th. I send you the cuttings enclosed, through fear of delay in mails, should the papers be sent separate from this communication. Six weeks are generally consumed in getting a reply from Canada to this place, and as some little time will necessarily be occupied before any of the bounty of Canada can be transmitted to us, it will be necessary for our kind friends in Ontario and Quebec to take into consideration several facts bearing upon our peculiar circumstances.

Your response will reach us in, say about the middle of October.

We are 450 miles from the nearest market in Minnesota, and the supplies for our then to be suffering poor, will have to be brought by carts sent from here; and those carts will have to traverse a distance of 900 miles before relief can avail us.

I feel that it is unnecessary to dwell further upon our necessities. The Canadian public are noted for their warm response to all who are in want and suffering.

I know that our fellow-countrymen in Canada will also be actuated by a strong desire to win the regard and good will of this people, soon, we trust, to be united to them in the common bond of political union. A movement is already on foot for the calling of a meeting of our leading citizens for the purpose of appointing an efficient "Committee of Management for relief of the suffering and distressed in Red River Settlement." Our Sheriff has been absent, or doubt-