

may be self-righteous and afflicted with spiritual pride; but they feel, and have reason to feel, that they have been, and are now being, treated without regard to justice by their neighbours, and through their influence, by the Government.

These proceedings have nothing in common with a policy of "reconstruction," on the contrary they amount to deliberate destruction. If the Government expropriated the fruit farms in the Niagara District, turned the farmers adrift, and bestowed the land in grants to returned soldiers with liberty to sell to speculators, the case would be precisely similar. Care for our returned men is a national duty; it cannot with justice be made a special burden upon a few. Disregard of civil rights is an infectious disease. When a Government breaks the fundamental laws of a country and of society, it is little wonder that law in general should be held in light esteem.

If Canada is ever to be emancipated from slavery to the petty politician whose eye is bent exclusively on the main chance, this can only be done by a wider and less self-interested public opinion making its influence felt upon the Government. This seems to be an occasion when such influence ought somehow to be made manifest.

If there is anything to be done, there is no time to be lost. Appraisers sent by the Dominion Government are already on the spot estimating the value of the land which is intended to be confiscated. The whole matter has been rushed with indecent haste.

I would suggest that the Dominion Government institute without delay a serious inquiry conducted by competent persons into the whole circumstances of the case. Canada cannot afford to have its public character compromised by a transaction which will not bear the light of day. The fact that the people who have been and are being again plundered, are innocent, inoffensive, industrious people unacquainted with political guile, ought to make every high-minded citizen of this country insist upon justice being done them and upon their being left in the enjoyment of their peaceful and productive life.

Yours truly,

JAMES MAVOR.