

about right. But it struck me at the time that at this period in the history of the Dominion of Canada it was an odd thing that a steady, hard-working man could earn only barely enough to keep him alive.

If an inhabitant of another sphere, say the planet Mars, were to visit the earth, and, coming to Canada, observe conditions of life—an immense area of cultivated soil and a comparatively small population of economical and laborious habits with a high average of intelligence and education—he would probably say, “This country must be a very cheap land to live in. The resources being so great, the public debt small, no expensive army and navy to support and no heavy pension burden, living must be very easy for all classes.” And he would be very much surprised to learn that, instead of being one of the cheapest, Canada is one of the dearest countries in the world to live in. He would doubtless conclude that there must be something radically wrong here.

That there is something radically wrong is proved by the number of communications by correspondents, news items and editorial comments which have been appearing during the last winter in the press on this subject. I have been amusing myself the last year culling out of such journals as I take items bearing on this question. If published together they would make a large volume. Among the mass of such