

large number of people have been withdrawn, unnecessarily, from the productive classes, and transferred to classes which are not directly productive, thus lessening the total income of the people. Secondly, since competition in these occupations has no effect in lowering the prices of work done, the persons engaged in them have actually and greatly raised their prices, so as to give a living to the greater number employed in this way. Therefore, the community is forced to pay more than it should for these services, and even then, the great numbers employed in this way can scarcely manage to make ends meet. A concrete example of the state of affairs in this regard, may not be out of place here. In the County of Simcoe, with a population of ninety thousand, there are, according to the statement of their representative, who was sent to Toronto last year to protest against the proposed scheme of law reform, between fifty and sixty lawyers, whose earnings averaged about eight hundred dollars per year. Now, no one can say that these men, as a class, are receiving very large incomes, but, even at this moderate rate, the expenditure of the county upon them is at least forty thousand dollars, and, allowing an equal amount for the maintenance of offices, payment of clerks, etc., the total amount spent in the county for the services of its lawyers amounts to about eighty thousand dollars, and this amount, nearly one dollar per head for each of the population, is annually withdrawn from the productive classes, and transferred to the non-productive. It seems quite certain that the legal business of the county could be trans-

acted by one-fourth of the men, and for one-half of the money, and both the profession, and the community at large, be the better for the reduction. The medical profession too, is in no better state. I know of one town of five thousand inhabitants, where there are more than twenty medical doctors, and, in the largest centres, the state of things is perhaps even worse. A prominent member of the profession has asserted that, of the hundreds of doctors in Toronto, the average income does not greatly exceed five hundred dollars per annum, and that many of them are led to eke out an existence by keeping boarders in their houses,—a wise shift truly, since the culinary arts of the landlady may be directed to increasing the professional practice of the landlord. But we need give no further examples. It is generally admitted that these professions are terribly over-crowded. Then, if to these, and others of a similar kind, we add the army of agents,—insurance agents, implement agents, real estate agents, book agents, fruit-tree agents, etc., etc., etc., *ad infinitum*,—which like an army of locusts, infests the land, we have a number of non-producers truly alarming. These all have to draw their subsistence from the general wealth of the community, and, since there is full employment for only about one-third of their number, the remaining two-thirds is a direct loss.

It is customary, of late, to blame our educational system for this state of affairs, and to say that our public and high-school course directs the minds of our youth more to the non-productive than to the productive occupations. This, we think, is not