

consequently our capacity to buy and pay for the productions of other countries, and still we have borne, and can bear, that misfortune without general suffering. Even though our mainstay, the products of the soil, or some of them, should fail in any year, we are not altogether prostrate. The reason is, that with the variety of our industries, there are always some, generally the greater part, which succeed, and these can share the burthen which would paralyse a single industry, if it fell entirely upon it. We are in this respect favored beyond countries with a single resource.

I spent two years administering the affairs of one of the best agricultural Provinces in the world. There the vast prairie stretches out in every direction as far as the eye can reach. A soil of the richest mould, deposited, during a long series of ages, in the bottoms of lakes from which the waters have receded, contains the elements of fertility in unbounded profusion. There the immigrant, the moment he sets foot on the ground, finds a farm prepared for him such as no amount of toil, no exercise of skill, no expenditure of money, could enable him to create here, even on a limited scale. I do not stay to detail the drawbacks of this splendid possession; I do not dwell on the difficulties with which the settler in that country has to contend, and which are dark shades on the picture of which I give you only the bright colors. It is enough to say that the Great God who controls the universe never showers all His blessings on one country, and never exempts even the most favored portions of His creation from the difficulties and troubles with which the lot of humanity is beset. I allude to the Prairie Province now only to show the disadvantage incident to a country whose resources, however great, are such as create but a single industry.

Some two months ago the newspapers reported the invasion of that Province by a plague of grasshoppers; happily they passed over without doing much harm, but I can well recall the time when a similar invasion took place, while I was there. A thick cloud, darkish gray, half transparent, overshadowed the land. It could be seen moving steadily in one direction, and, from its lower strata myriads of these tiny insects descended to the ground, clothing it with a moving mass of chirruping, ravenous vermin, which devoured every green thing before them. When I looked at the desolation which followed in their wake, I was able to appreciate the perils to which a people of one industry are exposed, who might see the fruits of the labor of a year disappear in a day. They had no seas to supply them with fish, no forests to be shaped into ships, no coals to be exchanged for bread, no commerce; no manufactures. Looking at this picture how thankful we ought to be that we live in a country blessed by a varied industry. Truly the "lines have fallen to us in pleasant places." We should never forget that it is to the diversity of her industrial occupations that Nova Scotia is largely indebted for the steadiness and permanence of her progress.

It is not long since that the idea prevailed—that whatever else