

but when sifted and faced frankly, they are simply lies. Is even the public business of the country carried on in a manner which is beyond reproach? Have not charges of dishonesty been made again even members of the Government—of both parties—which have never been disproved? Such charges, if made against a man occupying such a position in England, would bring him at once to the bar of public opinion; and if proved, would cause his extrusion once and for ever from the public service, and almost from public life. I said, advisedly, that there does not exist in this country the same keen sense of honor and honesty and truthfulness among our leading politicians as exists in the Old Country. As for the rank and file of politicians in this country, they are mostly busy-bodies who have thrust themselves into that position because better men will not take the trouble to do so. Independent men will not enter public life merely to become the puppets of place-hunting wire-pullers.

(2) Farming is worse than in England. Farming certainly is not as profitable as it was. In fact, farming is, in very many cases, carried on, if not at a loss, at any rate with a very small margin of profit. Go to the banks, the money lenders, and the loan societies, and you will find out that mortgages are the rule.

(3) Canadian mistresses don't know how to treat a servant, because so many have themselves risen from that post. It very often does happen that the family of the domestic may have been, and may still to a certain extent be, on something not far from the same level as that of her mistress; and as the mistress may think it necessary to assert herself, a certain amount of jarring will result. That many mistresses do treat their domestics badly is certain, but then

this same class of mistresses are uncourteous even to assistants in the stores and, indeed, to all whom they think their inferiors in wealth. On the other hand, many servants are a trial even to the best mistresses. Carelessness, indifference, laziness, uppishness are frequently the characteristic of the Canadian handmaid. It is an old saying that "bad mistresses make bad servants"; and bad servants too often try the temper of the best mistress.

(4) The promiscuous mixture of boys and girls in the public schools is a bad thing. Anyone capable of using his eyes can observe how it makes the girls rough, and that it teaches them a great many things of which they would better be ignorant. As for the "system" of education, while it may be perfect on paper, it is distinctly unsatisfactory in practice. It has several drawbacks, among them being these two: It is of so superficial a nature that the mind of the pupil is not trained, but simply loaded with fact; and the teachers are very frequently unfit for the work. The writer of that letter says: "The teachers themselves speak ungrammatically." I don't make such a sweeping assertion, but I do say emphatically that "many" of the teachers do so; and they not only speak ungrammatically, but they write and compose badly. As for the so-called higher education, the result is simply the spoiling of many decent farmers, farm laborers, and mechanics, and the deluging of the already overcrowded professions, whose standards are being thus year by year lowered. As was said only a short time ago in one of your own leading articles:—

"The higher branches of the school course, instead of being bent towards practical ends, seem to the pupil to belong to another world than the work-a-day one he has been brought up to, and make him feel some con-