

and cities when the same class could lead more contented and prosperous lives were they to settle on the public lands or obtain employment on the farms. The happiest class in Canada ought certainly to be the farmers, especially in Ontario. You may travel for days through that province and admire the well cultivated fields, and comfortable homesteads in every direction; many of these latter being built of brick or stone in the place of the rude log cabin in which the pioneer toiled for years in the early times of the country settlement. With the increase in the population of the towns and cities, the demand from abroad for grain and cattle, and the construction of railways, the agriculturists of Canada have abundant opportunities for becoming wealthy.

The monetary institutions of Canada are generally conducted on a sound basis, and the failures have been few during the past forty years compared with those in the United States. At the present time the chartered Banks of the Dominion have a paid up capital of twelve million pounds sterling, and the latest returns show that they have on deposit £20,000,000, one half of which amount is payable only after a fixed day or after notice. The rate of interest has been very low in the banks for some time, and it is only in the Government Savings-banks — which do not receive deposits beyond £ 200 — that the people can get four percent, for their savings. They have now to their credit in these institutions at least ten million pounds sterling, which represent, for the most part, the accumulations of the relatively poor and industrial classes.

The mental outfit of the people is now quite worthy of a country enjoying a fair measure of wealth and prosperity, and exhibiting such laudable energy in all matters of commercial and national enterprise. Although it is to the premier province of Ontario that we must look for the most perfect school system, yet in all the provinces the children of rich and poor can obtain a good education which will fit them for the ordinary occupations of life. The labourer may pay little or nothing towards the support of education, and yet his child is on as good a footing in the public schools as the child of the merchant or lawyer or doctor who contributes largely towards this object. The State long ago recognized its obligations to take the initiative in the establishment of a thorough system of free education for the people, and consequently a large sum of money is annually expended by the governments of all the provinces to supplement the taxes raised by the municipalities. At present there are in all Canada some twenty Colleges, many of them having university powers, and offering a