

American community will not permit itself to be strangled by its own garters. It may be that the remedy for the abuse of wealth may take the form of death duties, which have already been materialized in many countries.

The Government of Quebec, with the view of compelling the fabrication of pulp from provincial wood, in preference to the exportation of the raw material, has put an export duty on pulp wood of \$1.90 per cord. There are doubtless ways of attaining practically this end, but not by an export duty, pure and simple, since the power to impose such duty rests with the Dominion. When the wood is exported to a foreign country, export duty may be reasonable; but when the wood is sent to another province, the hindrance to inter-provincial trade becomes a serious national restriction. Accordingly, we find one Ontario paper maker, whose place of cutting is in Quebec, near the boundary, asking release from the restriction, with, it would seem, a chance of success.

GOOD ROADS.

Ontario is setting apart \$1,000,000 for common roads, in the language of the day, "good roads." But as the expenditure is to extend over ten years, the process is rather in the nature of a resolution to set apart that sum for the purpose named than a specific appropriation of that amount, in detail. It may be likened to the resolution, which the late Mr. Hamilton-Merritt after hammering the subject for years, succeeded in getting passed to establish a Common School Fund. In that case, lands were made to do duty, and to make the parallel complete, the money should be touchable somewhere, whenever during the ten years it will be required. The French Government extends its budget to three years; in this country, appropriations are ordinarily confined to one year. The analogy to the present setting apart of \$1,000,000 for good roads is also in line with the setting apart, in 1791, of millions of acres of lands as clergy reserves, with no other specific appropriation than that their purpose was in aid of a Protestant clergy. Before ten years pass over, roads will require to be made good in places now inhabited by wild animals and untutored men. There need be no fear that claimants enough will not be found, from time to time, for some of the good roads' money to improve a thousand localities. It would be impossible now, with any regard to justice, to appropriate in detail the whole amount, or even any considerable part of it; the development of the country, in ten years, will point the way more unerringly than would now be possible, except to a comparatively small extent. The plan contemplates cooperation with the municipalities, from which two-thirds of the cost is reckoned on.

A DESIRABLE THING FOR CANADIANS.

Mr. F. H. Clergue has now lived for some years in Canada, and during that period he has observed, and has tried to see things as they actually are. He has travelled throughout its length and breadth and, to some extent, its depth; and his opinion now is that no country in the world possesses such undeveloped wealth, and that a rich reward awaits enterprise and energy. He has come into contact

with all sorts and conditions of men, from the day laborer up to the Premier and his colleagues, and the conclusion he arrives at is that nowhere can there be found a people more industrious, more intelligent, or better fitted for a high civilization. They seem, says Mr. Clergue, to possess all the desirable attributes which have made Americans renowned throughout the world. Can higher compliment be conceived?

But—and here comes in the point of these few remarks—another declaration is made by Mr. Clergue in explanation why Canada's undoubtedly great resources have not been better developed, and this is, that Canadians do not believe in their own country. The parents of young men, he says, "begin to correspond for positions in the United States before they are out of school, and the Canadian laborer is constantly seeking protection to his life, liberty and property under the Stars and Stripes. The inhabitants of Canada apparently have come to the conclusion that the imaginary line drawn between the two countries by treaty left everything desirable to the south and everything intolerable to the north." Without going so far with Mr. Clergue as to say that this is absolutely true of the present day, we must confess that it seems to us that an important desideratum with Canadians is Faith—faith in themselves and in their own country. On more than one occasion it has been our lot to witness attempts to enlist Canadian capital, in developing the country's resources, with the result that, after long waiting, the local capitalist, while acknowledging the value of the proposition, has concluded to "wait awhile,"—like Mr. Micawber, we suppose. Finally the idea has been laid before some other party, probably an American, and he has not only listened with avidity but, after investigation, seized hold of it with energy. Then—but not till then—have Canadian investors been ready to lay down their money and to share in the profits. As we understand it, this procrastination, which is sometimes to our cost, is not because of any lack of perspicuity at the beginning, but is due to a native lack of self-reliance or to over-caution. We are not among those who object to the coming of American or any other foreign capital into this country; such objection is foolish in the extreme. But it does seem to us a pity that, in so many cases, it should be given the first opportunity, when with just a little more confidence of Canadians in themselves and in their country's future, it might be *their* capital which would reap the benefit.

Foreigners, of what the English newspapers style the intelligent sort, those who fully sympathize with Canadian methods and ideals, have more than once brought this attribute to our notice, namely, the fact that many Canadian business men, in their cautiousness, have carried their slowness to decide upon a matter too far for their own good, and have in their desire to be absolutely safe, let pass many a good opportunity. Caution is a good thing, but it can be carried too far, especially when, by cause of it, the best resources of the country are falling into the hands of outsiders.

TORONTO GENERAL TRUSTS CORPORATION.

The report of this company, submitted at the annual meeting on Wednesday of last week, is unusually interesting. Although this is only the second annual report of the corporation under its present name, the gathering at which it was submitted was the nineteenth annual meeting of the Toronto General Trusts Company. The business of this important concern has shown steady growth. At the time of the amalgamation with the Trusts Corporation of Ontario, the business under control of the two a mounted