

towns. The town is the servant of the country, and finds the warrant for its existence in the necessity for the distribution of country products, and the advantages to be derived from the further manufacture of these. Therefore, in a community where agriculture may expand without restriction, the growth of the towns will be, approximately, in proportion to that of the country. In those communities, indeed, where land is scarce, and where agriculture has reached its highest degree of perfection, the natural increase of the population will tend to collect in the cities, increasing their population, while that of the country remains stationary. This latter case, however, most certainly does not apply to Ontario, for here there is still an almost unlimited amount of good land to be had almost for the asking, and, of that which is already occupied, scarcely any is producing its maximum yield, or would not yield more as the result of a further application of labor and capital. Therefore, we should expect to find, here, the growth of the towns following that of the country. But the actual facts show, that while the whole population of Ontario is increasing, that of its rural sections is steadily diminishing. This would show that here, causes are operating to disturb the natural order of development, and to produce an unnatural growth in our towns, at the expense of the country.

There are two general causes which have led to this regrettable result. The first is the undeniable fact, that here, town occupations really yield greater returns than agriculture, in proportion to the labor and capital

invested. The second, arising in fact out of this, is the attitude of our people towards agriculture, an attitude which, by discounting agriculture, has driven many of our young men from the farm to the city. Both these causes have worked together in Ontario, but the former applies more particularly to commerce and the manufactures, and the latter more particularly to the professions and other occupations not directly productive. In the present paper I shall touch only the latter, leaving the consideration of the case of our manufactures, perhaps, for some future article.

It has long been customary among our people, hard-worked pioneers as many of them were and are, to regard city life, with its attractions of ease, gaiety and society, as far preferable to the simple, quiet life of the farm. Thus, they have constantly tried to send their best away from the farm, and, in very many families, the brightest boys have been sent to school and college, that they might be fitted for professional life of some sort, and escape from the country to the town. Indeed, it is no unusual case for all the boys of a family to leave the paternal homestead in this way, leaving the old man with the farm which no son will occupy after him. In this way, the professions have been hopelessly over-crowded, and grave evils have resulted, not only to agriculture, in that the education of the boy who was to farm was neglected in order that his brother might have greater advantages, but economically, to the community at large.

This economical evil has manifested itself in two ways. First, a very

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