

precious, it ties to the land a far greater population, who find their living on it, and keep alive other classes of society.

If our city and other congested centres have, for some years back, had to face a regular food crisis, the main cause of it is precisely in the rupture of that balance which should exist between the number of people tilling the soil and the other classes, the consumers.

There is a standing joke about a certain army whose every soldier was a colonel. The way things go in our country, there will soon be only consumers. Which goes to say that desertion of the land, by its depressing influence on the volume of production, has become a plague.

More dishes are set on the table than the land can fill, because cities are overcrowded and farms deserted.

Such is the situation we have to face.

CONGESTED CITIES

He would surely be wrong who would dwell exclusively on the bad effects of the influx of country people to the cities. One should always take good care not to have extreme opinions; they mostly lead to false conclusions. For instance, the affluence to Montreal of certain parts of the professional, commercial and industrial classes of the community is sometimes very useful and desirable. You can see at a glance able men who have lifted themselves from the rural classes, and who are to-day very prominent in various branches.

Our main industries must also be developed; and he would be blind who would not acknowledge to what an extent our great metropolis has expanded and what great future lies before her. 'Tis excess that makes a bad thing out of a good one; 'tis excess that should be feared and