

poverty in the midst of plenty, or at least one great cause of it is made manifest. The factor, interest, is a second cause. Money is non-productive, money produces no wealth, yet the holders of it absorb millions of the hard-earned dollars of the producing classes, leaving them without the means to buy the luxuries or even necessities of life. Money is merely a medium of exchange, and should not bear interest—"a breed of barren metal." As to rent, economic rent, or ground rent, the landlord, as such, is a non-producer, and constitutes only a small proportion of the consuming population, but he takes a vast amount of the wealth produced. Now, I have only merely indicated some of the disturbing factors in the economic world to-day, but they will have to be adjusted before we can have permanent improvement in the condition of the masses of the people, or before all can afford to have their dental organs kept in repair. He who does not know that the great economic problem to be solved is the more equable distribution of wealth, has not an education fit to be a citizen; and he who does know so, but puts forth no effort to solve it, is not fit for any profession, much less to be a dentist. It is of paramount importance to the dentist to have wealth more equally distributed among a wider number of people, for the reason that he is dependent upon the many for his patronage; the amount of work he can do for any one patient being quite limited. At the present time wealth in Canada is not so much concentrated as in the United States, or in older countries like England, but the same economic laws here will in time produce the same results, and the few will own most of the wealth. In the United States, according to Statistician Geo. K. Holmes, in 1891 9 per cent. of the population owned 71 per cent. of the wealth of the nation, while 91 per cent. owned only 29 per cent. of the wealth, and this state of affairs is steadily growing worse.

In 1860 the producers owned $43\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and the non-producers $56\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

1870		$32\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.		$67\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.
1880		24		76
1890		17		83
1900		10		90

This is according to the United States census, and shows the alarming rapidity with which wealth is being concentrated, and proves beyond question that "the rich are becoming richer and the poor poorer." What is the remedy for this state of things? The economic reconstruction of society, which can only come about by the education of the people, who, at present, almost unanimously support the very institutions which are the means of their subjection. It cannot be done suddenly or by a single enactment, not even the