

of cash and land subsidies to railway corporations, and upon close investigation it is found that, in nearly every instance, some of the most prominent government officials connected with these transactions have been largely recouped for their assistance and manipulations.

In proportion to the population, wealth and developed resources of Canada, history, either ancient or modern, affords no precedent in any country in the world to compare with the magnitude of the transaction when the government of Canada, with the assistance of a venal majority in parliament and without a mandate from the people; voted to a syndicate composed of some six or seven of their personal and political friends an area of as fertile land as there is in America and larger by thirty per cent than the whole arable lands of the Province of Ontario, with sixty-three millions of dollars, several hundred miles of completed railway, and many special subventions, amounting altogether to not less than one hundred and fifty millions of dollars. Quite correctly speaking the government of Sir John Macdonald taxed the people of Canada to build the Canadian Pacific Railway and made a present of it to some six or seven of their personal and political friends. In return for the twenty-five millions of the people's heritage, and many millions of the people's money, thus given away to government favorites, what have we in return—prosperity—no, but the very opposite, poverty and distress and the natural sequence, suicide, crime and murder multiplying. Many farmers and business-men all over the Dominion becoming alarmed at the boldness and audacity of the governments, giving away the people's possessions with apparent impunity, have left the country, and so great has been the haste to fly from such conditions that thousands of farms have been placed upon the market, and the supply has been so much greater than the demand, that farm lands have shrunk in value to the amount of not less than four hundred millions of dollars. In Ontario the shrinkage has been two hundred and fifty millions.

As the Province of Ontario is essentially an agricultural province, and as its prosperity and the prosperity of the villages, towns and cities depends upon the prosperity of the farmers, let me ask what can be the condition of many of the denizens of the villages, towns and cities. Is it not well known that in the once prosperous city of Toronto there are very many hundreds of laborers, artisans, merchants and professional men living in a manner that a few years ago would have been characterized as poverty stricken. How many thousands in Canada in nearly all walks of life, able and willing to work, who can find nothing to do—and why? Because a large proportion of the capital of the country, by the most dishonest and venal legislation and methods