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Someone ought to be in jail.
The revelations in connection with the building of the Curran bridge at Montreal are simply scandalous. Roguery, jobbery, perjury, robbery seem to be the main constituents of a structure that was supposed to be of stone and iron.

Montreal is not a model city. Boodling contractors and hoodling aldermen run the municipal works; hoodling contractors and the corrupt politicians of the Mercier crowd long had control of the provincial works and offices in Montreal, and by the recent revelations some of the federal works carried on that city have been in the hands of corrupt officials and corrupt contractors. It would appear as if it were almost impossible to do public work in the city, whether municipal, provincial or federal, without the vultures being around and gorging themselves with public plunder.

From the evidence so far elicited it is evident that as soon as Hon. Mr. Haggart's attention was directed to the matter he discharged the dishonest officials and instituted an investigation. But he and the Government must go further. They must prosecute those guilty of the gross crimes and swindling perpetrated, whether officials or contractors. Besides the corrupt officials and the corrupt contractors it appears to be that a gang of corrupt politicians having headquarters at Montreal have taken advantage of their connection with the Conservative party to perpetrate the swindle in question. The Conservative party had better disown these men also.

Can the Farmer-Mechanic be Evicted?
The coming man will be a farmer. As society is at present constituted the man is foolish who relies upon his skill in cutting cloth or in making rivets to furnish him with the material necessities and comforts of life. Such a man is subject to future possibilities and complications that are liable at any moment to upset all his calculations and to turn himself and his family out in the streets. The market for rivets may become glutted and the rivetmaker is temporarily laid aside, just as we lay aside the lawn mower during the winter season. Neither rivetmaker nor lawn mower is supposed to ask any questions. They are not wanted. They are simply laid aside. Or a new machine may be invented for making rivets and the rivetmaker finds himself displaced by a thing of steel and brass, possessing neither brains nor stomach, but endowed with a wonderful capacity for turning out rivets as fast as an attendant can take care of them. The boss pretends the machine to be his. He assigns it an honored place in his factory. He has a machine doctor look after its health. The steel is kept free from rust, and the brass is polished with the expenditure of much elbow-grease. But the man who is walking the streets disconsolately, looking in vain for the work that has been usurped by the machine. Nor are these the only unfavorable contingencies that the rivet-maker may expect to encounter. The boss will come to him one day and say, "You have been getting \$10 a week, hereafter I can only give you \$7." The rivet-maker protests that he can't keep his family on \$7 a week. But he protests in vain. He strikes he hits the boss. He must accept the \$7 or walk the streets. Not unfrequently in his desperation he decides upon walking the streets. The workman of the city enjoys no independence. He has no grip on the future and very little on the actual present. His destiny rests in the keeping of a "boss" whose only object is to make money, not to interest himself in the well-being of his workmen. The workman of the city is the sport of cranks, who spend silent hours evolving new inventions which are supposed to benefit the workman along with the rest of humanity. We will forgive these cranks if they will but invent a scheme for extracting the artisan from the shackles that bind him hand and foot and make of him a very slave. But this is just what the cranks won't do. They are busy on machines that only bind the artisan's fetters the stranger. The city workman is the sport of all sorts of caprices, of fashions, of the so-called "new supply and demand," and of other economic principles about which he personally knows nothing. The coming man in our opinion will not be an artisan with his home in the city. He will be a farmer. Not exactly the farmer who visits us so ubiquitously in September, but a modified type of the same. It is in troublesome times like these that the farmer has his innings. Strikes do not bother him. Honestly, we believe the lord of the quarter section rather relishes the idea of a strike. Political economists have been in progress for a couple of weeks back. The farmer is a party who consults no boss, and who lives in dread of no crank. The peculiarity of the farmer is this, that he is boss and workman combined, he is capital and labor united in the same individual. If the working half of the combination goes out on strike the boss element takes his place. Thus happily constituted, the farmer takes a rational view of things and keeps himself employed all the year round, except what time in early spring he is laid up with the dumb ague. The farmer has a grip on things that are certain. His land does not strike at the summer of a Dobe. If the mob is burning and pillaging property in the city it affects him not at all, for his wealth is indestructible. He never walks the street looking for a job. No possible commination of events is ever likely to deprive him of food and shelter. The soil from which he draws his wages is not subject to the caprices of a Pullman. It will always return wages equivalent to the labor and intelligence expended on it.

If the workman of the city desires independence let him work for a master that he can control, not for one who controls him. Political economists have so far been unable to adjust affairs so that the artisan can enjoy a reasonable degree of independence and a reasonable competence for his declining years. Having failed to equalize things through the medium of strikes, arbitrations, co-operation, profit-sharing and such like, let them try a new idea. Let them, for instance, begin with the farmer. With the farmer idea as a central pivot let them evolve a farmer-mechanic, a man who always has a grip on the soil, and is therefore to a certain degree independent, and who at the same time has special training as a mechanic. A man does not require 100 acres to support a family. In France half a dozen people can find employment on ten acres or less, and live on the fruits of their industry on this limited area. Science will yet accomplish wonders in agriculture. The farmer-mechanic of the future will subsist on three acres. By means of reservoirs and a complete system of irrigation the will practically be independent of the weather. There is a fearful waste of energy to-day in the assembly of the water, soil and fertilization necessary in the production of crops. The sciences will soon find a means of checking

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