

have raised them into the ranks of millionaires, and unlike that country and Britain we have as yet very few who have risen to such a position by business pursuits. Canadian trade affairs have not developed to that point, which will admit of a long list of money kings, and it may be assumed, that it would not take the fingers of both hands on which to count the men who have amassed a million of dollars in such pursuits. Still we have our score or so of Canadian millionaires, and we have probably twice that number at present budding into that state of wealth, and the majority of them have risen from comparative poverty within the past ten or twelve years. If we have to search for them we will not find them with their head-quarters and source of wealth in the commercial centres of the Dominion. We must go to Ottawa for them. It is safe to say that two-thirds of the Canadians who have reached this position of wealth, and quite as large a proportion of those who are fast making their way to it, have found their main source of wealth came from what was in the power of our rulers to give away or distribute. If we commence with our lumber kings, we find, that with scarcely an exception, their wealth from rich timber lands granted by politicians to their truculent followers on terms which in no way enriched the country, or relieved the regular taxpayer. In like manner every great undertaking of the country, (the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in particular) has opened the gateway for a few to make great wealth at the expense of the masses of the taxpayers. There is every reason to believe that the Canadian Pacific Railway before completed, and supplemented by sufficient feeding branches to make it of real practical value for the developing of the untouched resources of the Dominion, will make over a score of millionaires, not one in five of whom would ever reach such wealth in open trade competition. In this respect it is no exception to other Canadian undertakings, but being the greatest, naturally is most prolific in its results. There is scarcely a contract of the Government of \$5,000 magnitude, but has its parasites watching to tap it and draw their sustenance therefrom, before the country gets value for value, and the principle extends upwards, until we are forced to the admission, that we have few if any millionaires, who have not been raised to that position directly or indirectly from the public purse.

We may conclude, that there will always be such sacrifices made by any Government like our own and the resources as a country can well stand the strain. That ours cannot stand it however, is painfully apparent to us at present. While our natural resources are being brought rapidly into use, and passing from the grasp of our Government to that of individuals, we are not as a Dominion growing wealthier. On the other hand our debt is steadily on the increase and promises soon to be burdensome to the country, if it is not really so at present. The vast resources of the United States were comparatively unworked until after the outbreak of civil war, and necessity demanded their development. But with the work of development, that of paying off a huge war debt was undertaken, and both have progressed with equal rapidity. The work of developing Canadian resources only commenced with the opening up of the vast Northwest, but as these resources are being used up or squandered the debt of the Dominion is piling up. It may be that the possession of a score or two more millionaires is in the opinion of some people a sufficient return for the burden of a heavy and increasing debt. But we believe that Canada is yet a young country, starting out as it were on a new business enterprise with nothing but its own resources to fall back upon, and like a young business man starting out in a new and wide field for his labors, the fewer and lighter the loads started with the better the chances of ultimate success.

### THE EXEMPTION LAW.

While the first cry of indignation over the new Manitoba exemption law is subsiding, the work of trying to free the province from the libel cast upon its people is steadily going on, and already thousands of signatures have been attached to the petition calling for its disallowance by the Governor-General in council. As the petitions came in signed from different outlying towns of the province, an examination of them discloses the fact, that a very large share of the signers are farmers, and parties who have taken charge of these petitions state, that among no class is there more indignation against the exemption law, than the agriculturists. This is rather a staggering statement for the politicians, who have argued the necessity of a broad and liberal exemption law as a means of protection to our pioneer

farmers, and have added the town and city exemption sparsely from a desire not to make fish of one class and flesh of another. True there is much stronger argument in favor of exempting the homestead of the farmer than any property of the city or town resident. The farmer's homestead is the gift of the Government on conditions of settlement and cultivation, and a Government professing anxiety for rapid settlement, could not be accused of inconsistency for exempting or making some special protection for what was purely its gift for a special purpose. But even this consideration has not brought over our farmers in favor of the robbery bill, passed at last session of our Legislature under the guise of exemption. Farmers are about as ready to discern dishonest legislation as any other class, and have seen clearly through the rascality of the law now sought to be enforced. Nor have they any necessity in their avocations for dishonesty more than any other class. Indeed their field for its exercise is much more limited, than it is with business and professional men. Seeing and knowing all this, they naturally feel exasperated at their alleged necessities being made a basis, upon which to frame and enact a law, the provisions of which are so framed as to enable the dishonest to plunder the honest, and the loafer to live in opulence at the expense of the industrious. A law which proclaims ninety per cent. of the debts due in this province, beyond the possibility of collection by any process of law, is too heavy a load of rascality to be hung upon the delicate peg of the farmer's necessity for exemption, and none are able to see the absurdity of the pretext than the farmers themselves; and the fact, that not one in twenty of them, who have been asked to sign the petition for the disallowance of the act have refused, shows how firmly they resent their being made the stock argument of bankrupt and dead beat politicians, who passed an act to legalize their own dishonesty, and swindle their honest creditors.

From time immemorial we have been accustomed to hear the politician address the agriculturist as the honest farmer, and have come to look upon the term as a standard one. There is no doubt but the farmer feels more or less pride in the application of the term to him, for we suppose he is as susceptible to flattery as other people. But in stating that the robbery act of last session was passed specially for his benefit, he loses his honesty, and is made the foundation for legislative rascality. We cannot wonder therefore, that he kicks with determination and persistency against being placed in such a position.