

ing iron there. Some day, let us hope, capital may be found willing to take the risk of trying to develop this industry in Eastern Ontario. The greater part of the sawdust and small chips and blocks, too small to be worked up into any thing, is used to make steam, but a considerable portion of the sawdust is sifted, mixed with an equal quantity of clay and made into a building material now coming into very general use, known as Percous Terra Cotta brick. This brick possesses some remarkable qualities and is fast growing in favour with the building trade. It is said to be absolutely fire and frost proof, is a good deadening material for partition walls in houses, is very warm and dry, will stand a very heavy crushing strain and is very light in weight. It can be sawn and nails can be driven into it as into wood. When heated to white heat, sudden immersion in water will not make it crack. It is a new use for a by-product of the forests and it is likely to become very general.

We make no apology for the length of this extract. But we call our readers' attention specially to the words in italics. Well may Mr. Southworth wonder as he does at the national slowness! Is there not a field here for our men of science also? Can they show no improved methods for charcoal treatment of ore? Every newspaper in Canada should copy and call attention to this report of Mr. Southworth. Now that capital is deserting the United States, here is a field for its employment at our very doors.

There are other valuable contributions in this report. Mr. Kirkwood's paper on the planting and management of woods is most instructive. We consider that every teacher in the Dominion should be furnished with a copy of this report and be required to teach his senior class the information it contains. The Trades and Labour Council, whose primary duty it ought to be to seek new modes of employment for their fellow-workmen, should agitate for the adoption of a policy which will give work for their hands and bread for their families. To every Canadian agency in England and the Continent should also be sent sufficient copies for appropriate distribution, and the Government should specially take steps to bring the suggestions made by Mr. Southworth to the notice of capitalists. Mr. Laurier and Mr. Hardy, Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Marter can do more for Canada by a policy of this kind than they can by trying to jockey one another out of power.

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Condition of Society in Canada When it Passed to the English in 1763.

TO understand fully how affairs were in Canada at the time of the death of Montcalm, it is necessary to go to France for the condition of men there. For Canada was but a reflection of France thrown on the continent of North America. There were gentlemen of the sword and gentlemen of the robe in France, and they did not change their character when they came to Canada. In France, they belonged to two distinct classes or races in the state. Gentlemen of the sword (*gens d'épée*) were descendants of the old military classes of France. They were derived from soldiers of the Age of Chivalry (1000-1400). They were taught to estimate honour above all things. Their children inherited the right of wearing a sword and generally entered the military profession. In the history of this class, in Canada, there is no mark of dishonour. Every member did his duty to the best of his ability and often to the danger of his life. They most frequently married in their own ranks and associated apart from the other branch of the aristocracy, who consisted of gentlemen of the robe (*gens de robe*). Not only did they associate apart from them, but there was a constant hostility issuing from their nearness to each other in affairs of state.

The gentlemen of the robe were those who, in France, arose to eminence by filling offices in the civil service of the country. They occupy, relatively, the same place in Can-

adian history. They were politicians, lawyers, financiers, state bankers who had loaned the state money, or who had bought up the right to collect the revenue of a certain district.

When a man had arisen to a certain position in this civil service he was made a "noble" by the king. But the honourable military officers of France, and of Canada, considered the civil nobility to be without honour, as it almost always proved itself to be. For rank in the civil nobility, or among the gentlemen of the robe could be bought, but rank among the military aristocracy of France could be purchased only by honourable and distinguished service in the army. D'Argenson, a Minister of War in France, proclaimed this before the king, on one occasion, when he thought it was the intention of the king to override this ancient and honourable requisite of the military order.

It was this civil service nobility not only that ruined France at a later day, but at this very period was one cause of the loss of Canada to France. The chief officer, in Canada, of this civil service was François Bigot, third and last intendant. He was a prince among thieves. Elevated, like all creatures of the court, to esteem rank and wealth above honour, he became intendant of Canada during the time that Montcalm, Bourgainville and Lévis were struggling to free the country from the tightening grasp of the English. His stealings at Louisbourg, in the last siege of 1745, had already provoked a mutiny in the garrison that hastened the capitulation. Instead of being punished he was sent to an advanced position in Canada. He there created an administration after his own image. He was the giant of the fable with an hundred hands, and every hand was a thievish one. It was said that "every official stole from the intendant and the comptroller down to the smallest cadet."

Now in the ancient administration the intendants were officers of the highest civil rank. They had control of the administration, the courts and the treasury. In the provinces of old France, as well as in the Colonies, they held command over every service. The governors-general exercised but a nominal authority when compared with the intendants.

The people employed by Bigot were the most flourishing in the colony. "Honest men starved while rogues made fortunes," as Montcalm said. They made fortunes by getting control of the right to provision places. From money devoted to public works they stole again; again in furnishing the material of war and naval equipment; again in merchandize to be delivered to the Indians. Through this dishonesty the "Colony rests disarmed in the face of the enemy," wrote Montcalm; "dishonesty has become treason. They have given to the soldiers guns whose stocks break like glass. They have made ditches in the place of forts,—that of Carillon, full of defects, costs as much to the king as Brisach, and serves but to enrich the engineers of the country."

Montcalm made repeated complaints to the king against this class of men and the society they formed in Canada. His complaints were seconded by all the military commanders under him; by Bourgainville, Lévis, and Doreil, the military intendant. But his complaints produced little effect in France, because they were counteracted on by the civil aristocracy that had possession of the court and parliament and clung with both hands to the skirts of Madame de Pompadour, the king's mistress.

This corrupt society in Canada, feasting while the General and soldiers were fighting, and living on poor rations, was the same as that that continued at the head of affairs in France down to the time of the French Revolution. It was their dishonourable and dishonest as well as extravagant lives—their wives' and children's also—that afterwards ruined France as they destroyed the French power in Canada.

It shows to what a low degree a nobility without a good name behind it can bring a country; for a bad example is fashionable only when it is offered by those in the highest position. Then all follow it and call it gallantry. No one in a lowly position can possibly become a standard by being corrupt. His corruption is easily admissible, while his goodness is a surprise that sometimes enables one of lowly origin to reach the highest place and adorn it with the virtues that bless his career from beginning to end.

This gives a sketch of the two branches of the ruling