

every interest in the country,' he declared, 'and gives rise to big damaging deductions from insufficient premises.'

The debate was an easy one to sustain or prolong on either side; all four men from various points of view were personally interested in it, and Liston made the utmost of his case since one of them, Allan, was a journalist, and if even the most watered down version of the Hospital's cause might creep into anything like widespread print, it would save preposterously roseate headlines anywhere near the Finlay paragraphs.

Perhaps Hickman's conclusions were the most comprehensive as became a statesman who in viewing these lights and shadows saw no more fundamental contradiction than that involved in the simple obverse and reverse of his subject. He gave a good many moments careful thought to the bearings of the agrarian revolution Liston outlined as the best future the district might promise itself. No one more than the Minister held it as part of his creed for the West that the farmers or ranchers should stay on the land they had won, rather than gravitate to the cities once their money was all made, or lost as the case might be.

'Well,' he returned at length, after a few reflective gnawings, 'it seems to me the whole thing is bound up to a merely temporary solution. That is your idea—what is your idea of tidying over the interval?