

## IS THIS SORT OF THING GOING ON?

To the Editor of the Free Press.

Sir,—I believe it would not be out of place to call the attention of the provincial government and the people at large to the custom of transferring property to one's wife for the purpose of defrauding poor people of their hard-earned money.

I would like to give my own case. I am a man with a wife and two children, who since the war broke out have had an income in cash, for work performed, of \$400, to live on during almost 20 months, of which nine months were winter.

I performed work for a resident of Manitoba avenue, plastering for him a block on Corydon avenue, and two houses on Lansdowne avenue, work amounting to \$1,520, for which I have received \$250, having to pay out of my own savings over \$700, to laborers and plasterers who were working on the properties.

When I tried to collect the \$1,295 owing to me I was informed by my employer that all the property was transferred to his wife, and when I appealed to him to give me at least a part of the payment so as to enable me to keep my family fed and warm, this man, who lives in a very nicely-appointed home of his wife's, of course, told me to try to get the money through the courts, as he has not got any money or property.

I, a poor tradesman who came from Poland to better my and my family's lot, have paid every cent earned by the laborers whom I hired to work with me for this well-fixed resident.

In the same period I performed some work on a house for a resident of Norwood, who, when I tried to collect the \$100 coming to me, advised me that he had no property, even his automobile being transferred to his sister's name. Another gentleman, for whom I worked plastering houses in Happyland owed me \$225, but I was only able to collect \$150, and now it is impossible to find out to whom those houses belong and by whom they were built.

Four hundred dollars earned by day labor and \$375 collected on account of \$2,071, put in cash, and own hard work for speculators in houses and blocks, is my record since the war broke out.

Can such injustice not be stopped by legislation, prohibiting a man to hide the money stolen from poor workmen behind the women's skirts? I am sure that if anyone were to make a canvass of the foreign tradesmen and laborers in the city of Winnipeg, to inquire how many are being robbed of their hard-earned money and work, how many children are being underfed, cold and not clothed, on account of hold-ups similar to my own, it would be a revelation to many a citizen believing that we foreigners find a paradise coming here.