

employers, it is said, threaten to import men from Belgium, to supply the place of the strikers.

A shocking tale of disaster and woe comes from China. It is nothing less than that 750,000 lives have been lost, and three millions of people made homeless, by the recent floods. The "Garden of China" is under water, and resembles an inland sea. The disaster is of enormous proportions; but the first estimates of loss must be largely conjectural.

### IMMIGRATION.

Emigration to the United States is no longer viewed in the same way that it once was. Formerly it was the fashion to count the value to the country of each immigrant at a round sum, the figure being generally put at \$1,000. There was no precise data on which the additional wealth produced by each immigrant could be calculated. But that every productive worker adds to the wealth of the country is unquestionable. It is no longer the practice to welcome all comers; the boast that the United States furnished a home for the destitute of all nations was, in the nature of things, bound to cease at some time. Jefferson's democracy did not blind him to this fact; he distinctly anticipated the day when a redundant population, in the States, would, in his own figurative language, eat one another. But he did not foresee that long before there was actual crowding, certain classes of immigrants would cease to be made welcome. This happened, however, when the Chinese were barred out. Other nationalities are already threatened with exclusion: Italians and Hungarians.

A rule of exclusion, which aims at keeping up wages, is capable of extension, so long as emigrants seek the shores of the United States. The real objection to the Chinese was that they worked at low wages; but for this they would never have been excluded, though the pretence which was used to justify the exclusion was different. Italians and Hungarians are now objected to, solely because they work for less wages than American laborers are willing to take. Exclusion for another reason, which can scarcely be called political, is probably not far off. But it will not be easy to identify an anarchist by the color of his eyes or the cut of his hair. The anarchist might properly be excluded; and in the case of noted anarchists, there would be no great difficulty in carrying out the law; but anarchists whose conduct has not become notorious, would be difficult to detect. The police of foreign nations could scarcely be relied upon to send a description of all known anarchists to the United States.

In Canada, we too have excluded Chinese laborers on pretexts which, it is to be feared, are not quite true. There would have been no agitation against the Chinese, in British Columbia, if they had not offered their labour below the market rate. There are mines there, which can only be worked by cheap labour; and it is difficult to see what harm the Chinaman did to anybody by searching for gold on "claims" which no white man would work. The Trades

and Labour Council, in Toronto, deprecates immigration to Canada, under present circumstances. When they say that it is unfair for the Government to assist mechanics to come here, to compete with resident artisans, it is impossible not to recognise the justice of their complaint. But are they sure of the facts? Is it true that artisans come here through assisted passages? Is not assistance confined to laborers and domestic servants? That there is an over supply of domestic servants no one pretends. And there are sections of country in which farm labourers are reported to be scarce. That there are plenty in a majority of places, does not alter the fact, that there are other places where there is not a sufficient number. Out of farm labourers farmers are eventually made. The whole country was originally settled by people who had only the minimum of means on which to start; who were not much richer than the ordinary labourer is to-day. The conversion of the labourer into the farmer is the direct road to independence; and it is one which ought at all times to be kept clear. The aim should be to aid the conversion. To prevent a full supply of labourers coming into the country, by objecting to an expenditure for bringing them out, is the worst possible policy. Manitoba, the North-west and British Columbia, wants nothing so much as labourers and capital to set their labour in motion. The Crofter movement to British Columbia, if it takes place, will be an experiment, from which something will be learned. The best of all immigrants are those who come of their own accord, at their own expense. The Crofters will have to get assistance on the other side of the Atlantic. It remains to be seen, how far advances made to immigrants can be recovered. If the money were only advanced as labour was performed on the land, the security might be good: but the passage money must be advanced before the emigrant starts on his journey. We may expect some failures; but if careful selections are made, a fair degree of success may be attained. Many of the immigrants ought in time to achieve independence.

The existence of poverty, in Canadian cities, is adduced as proof that immigration ought to cease. We do not think that the conclusion fairly follows from the fact. Poverty there is, and always will be, in large cities. Competition in the labor market is by no means the sole cause of it, if it be a cause. Intemperance, idleness, disease, contribute their quota. Local congestion does not argue a superabundant population. People will flock to towns, in excessive numbers; at all times and everywhere this has been true; in Europe, in Asia, in America, this tendency has been remarked. There can be no over population in a country like Canada, with vast areas of unbroken soil, awaiting the labour of the husbandman. One trouble is, that there is an increasing indisposition to cultivate the soil. Of all the people that rush into a new country, in times of excitement, how many go with the honest intention of cultivating the soil? What proportion hope to live by the labour of others? If there be an access of artisans, some of them would better find their way to independence

by applying their labour to the land, in a new country, than in any other way.

The notion that a wage-earner must always remain a wage-earner is fatal to the progress that leads to independence. If there be congestion of population, at one point, the true remedy is for the surplus to remove elsewhere; and if the money spent on strikes and displays were lent in aid of the removal, the result would be most beneficial to all concerned. If there be more artisans than can get employment, that is no reason why they should stand idle, in a country which can furnish homes for millions, on the soil, and where free grants are offered to all comers. The objection is made that a man cannot start without money. How did the original settlers of this part of Ontario start? How much money had the majority of them? There are useful lessons in this past experience which the present generation has not learnt, and which it cannot disdain without paying the penalty.

### OUR DAIRYING INDUSTRY.

Some advice of a practical character on the subject of dairying, is tendered to the farmers and factorymen of the province of Quebec in a recent issue of the *Montreal Gazette*. While great progress has been made by Canadians in the manufacture and export of cheese, our foreign shipments of butter have declined, and its quality does not seem to improve. Great Britain is our butter market, but she wants a good article. To her, Denmark, Holland, Normandy and the United States, have steadily increased their exports, while those of Canada, though she once had a good start, have kept as steadily declining. And what is the reason? According to a report to the House of Commons, made by Mr. E. A. Barnard, upon Commercial Dairying, "we must, however painful the avowal, admit that the true cause was the poor quality of Canadian butter." The *Gazette* reminds its readers that it was just to remedy the defect to which in those words Mr. Barnard called attention, that the Quebec Dairymen's Association (*La Societe d'Industrie Laitiere*) was organized, and during the few years of its existence, it has had a good influence on the industries in which it is specially interested. "As yet the results of that influence are comparatively meagre, but there are undoubtedly signs of improvement." Now, adds our contemporary, long, learned essays are well in their way, literary charm in discussions and letters upon dairying is good, but the Society should adopt more practical methods to teach Quebec farmers the need of improvement in butter-making and the mode of attaining that improvement. The government of the Dominion did a practical thing when they ordered a large edition of Mr. W. H. Lynch's *Manual of Dairying*, the Ontario government did the like, and we are not sure that the Quebec authorities were not also his patrons. It was high time, when our exports of butter, which in the year 1871-2 were nineteen million pounds, had fallen to in 1885 seven and a third millions, at an average price of 19½ cents, and in 1886 ran down to four and a third millions, average per pound, 17½ cents.