

doubt that if the connection between habitual cruelty to animals and those fiendish atrocities committed upon the persons of wives and children or other defenceless human beings which so often shock communities, could be traced, we should discover that the practice of the one often paved the way to the other. Again, cruelty, by universal consent, tends to cowardice. It is well-nigh impossible to conceive of the habitually cruel man as brave or generous, or as in fact possessed of any really noble trait. For these and other reasons which will readily suggest themselves, it is evident that those who succeed in lessening the facilities for the development of those tendencies to cruelty which seem so often to be inbred if not inborn, are really benefactors to society and the nation.

Probably no better method for promoting Canadian immigration of the right kind could be found than that whose first results we have before us in the shape of a bundle of pamphlets containing the reports of fifteen English, Scotch, Irish, and Welsh tenant-farmers, who visited the Dominion in 1893. Canada's greatest need is population of the right kind. By general if not universal consent, the very best kind of immigration for the development of our resources is that of skilled, industrious farmers, with sufficient capital to enable them to work and wait until they have had time to reap the rewards of industry from the fine farming lands of the older provinces, or the rich virgin soil of the great prairies. It is in the nature of things that no other information will have so much weight with such farmers as that derived from the personal observations of men of their own class, in whose honesty and practical knowledge they have implicit confidence. The testimony of such witnesses will be accepted, where the flaming advertisements and lectures of paid agents will be received with distrust or dismissed without consideration. Reasoning in this way, we reach the conclusion that the reports now before us can hardly fail to be productive of substantial and permanent results. They are written in a sober, straight-forward style, evidently with a pre-determination to naught extenuate and naught exaggerate. Testimony of this kind, generally but not uniformly or extravagantly favourable, will have much more effect with staid and sensible men than any amount of patriotic gush or interested enthusiasm. We do not know how far any immediate effects are discernible, but we shall be disappointed if year by year the outcome of these temperate and able pamphlets from unprejudiced and disinterested sources is not realized in a considerable and very desirable addition to our farming population.

It is not a little remarkable that while other educational questions are somewhat

prominent in the political discussion which is just now so rife in the Province, that of religious instruction in the schools has not, so far as we have observed, been even mooted. It is well known that very many of our best citizens are very far from satisfied with the virtually negative solution of the problem which is all that has as yet been reached. In the abstract, it seems marvelously inconsistent that, in a country in which a large majority of the population believe that they are in possession not merely of the best, but of the only divinely revealed system of religion, and that on practical and personal obedience to its precepts depend the most vital interests of their children and their fellow-citizens, through all the future, no effective means are employed to have the youth of the country instructed in the principles and laws of this religion. The silence of the leaders of both political parties upon the subject may fairly be taken, we suppose, to indicate that they, and the people to whom they look for support, are agreed as to the impracticability of having such instruction given in the state schools. This impracticability is, we must fain admit, capable of demonstration on various grounds, above all from the impossibility of authorizing any Government either to define the essentials of religious instruction, or to apply the requisite tests to determine the fitness of teachers to impart those essentials. But that the impracticability of doing a thing deemed so vitally necessary, in a certain way, should be accepted as conclusive against attempting to do it at all, on any comprehensive scale, seems to indicate an easy-going despair by no means in keeping with the conviction that this particular branch of instruction is really far more important to the well-being of the nation than any other, or all others combined. It cannot be that the subject will be allowed to rest in its present condition, and it is well that thoughtful men should continue to discuss it.

The miners' strike in the United States bids fair, at the time of this writing, to develop into something approaching the dimensions of a civil war. Any armed resistance to State or National authorities will no doubt be speedily put down with a strong hand. But apart from any such criminal folly as is said to be threatened on the part of the strikers, there is surely enough in the disastrous effects which are being wrought by the strike to call the attention of all intelligent citizens to the very unsatisfactory nature of the existing arrangements for extracting the buried treasures of the earth for the use of the people, whose industries, business enterprises, means of transportation, and, in thousands of cases, their very means of subsistence, depend upon their ability to procure these buried treasures when wanted. As the *Outlook* puts it, "Our economic methods have suffered these coal treasures to pass into the hands of a small number of men,

who have not created them, and whose chief, if not sole, social right of ownership lies in the fact that they have proved themselves possessed of the skill and power to make them available for the community. They have now proved themselves unwilling or unable to do this—unable because they cannot come to terms with their men, or unwilling because limiting the production raises the price." How long ought the country to wait patiently or impatiently, while factories are stopped, railroad trains cease to run, and workmen by thousands are thrown out of employment, to allow the coal lords to go on dickering with their employees? Is it any wonder that not only socialists and other theorists, but many of the most thoughtful and practical men in all countries are beginning to question seriously whether it is not a confession of astounding national imbecility or folly to suffer these great natural sources of wealth, now become necessities of life, to pass so exclusively into the hands of a few individuals, that the whole nation must wait and suffer while they are quarrelling with their workmen over a question of wages.

The treaty just announced between Great Britain and the King of the Belgians, by which the former, in return for certain concessions on the left bank of the Nile, between Lakes Albert Edward and Tanganyika, receives a strip of territory which, it is said, makes possible a British highway through the interior of Africa from end to end, cannot fail to have an important bearing upon the future of the Dark Continent. What with the British protectorate of Zanzibar and East Africa, the recent determination to hold and rule the Uganda country, the almost simultaneous extension of the "sphere of influence" by the somewhat high-handed proceedings of Mr. Cecil Rhodes and the South African Company, and this fresh acquisition of territory which connects these different sections of the Empire in Africa, one is enabled to get a new and almost startling conception of the steadiness and persistence with which the colonization policy of the successive Governments is being followed up. Lord Rosebery is well known as a staunch Imperialist. The negotiations with King Leopold, of which this treaty is the culmination, must, no doubt, antedate Lord Rosebery's accession to the Premiership, and probably his entrance into the Foreign Office under Mr. Gladstone's administration. It is not unlikely, however, that his position at the head of the Government may have given him a freer hand to push forward negotiations to the successful completion now announced—a completion which can hardly be without some effect upon the fortunes of the Government in the coming contest. The arrangement is certain to be very distasteful to France, and it is hotly denounced by some of the German papers. But the talk of the French newspapers about its being "impossible to permit it," is, of course, mere bluster,