

And yet it is becoming the fashion with too many of the newspapers to include such works as this in the indiscriminate fulminations launched against unsuitable immigration. It was but a week or two ago that the case of a single lad who had displayed some strange perversity of nature was heralded abroad as a warning against the Barnardo importations. It afterwards appeared that the boy in question was not from one of Dr. Barnardo's Homes. But had it been otherwise, how illogical and uncharitable it would have been to base a condemnation of hundreds of ordinarily well-behaved boys and girls upon a single case of depravity. It is to be hoped that the editors of newspapers will carefully investigate the facts before lending their influence against what may be an enterprise for the benefit of the country as well as a work of mercy to the children. Of the 2,643 children sent out from the Stepney Homes to Canada Dr. Barnardo claims that not one has ever become a burden to the public, and that only nineteen of all those sent out during the last eight years have failed to be absolutely successful. If this can be proved his work needs no further justification.

THERE is certainly much reason for the strong ground taken by the Legislative Committee of the Trades Council, in their Report submitted to the Toronto meeting the other day, against the contract system for prison labour. If the facts be as stated in regard to the decline of the broom-making industry in Toronto, and the driving out of the city of scores of honest men, who might, but for the unequal competition of the convict labour product, be making a good living here, few will deny that the system which leads to such results must be wrong. It is so far satisfactory to find that the Trades' Committee is not uncompromisingly opposed to any and every system of convict labour, and does not demand its total abolition. Meanwhile the authorities and the general public are under obligation to look at the question from other than the purely economic standpoint to which that committee is necessarily confined. The paramount object to be kept in view by the State is not the payment or reduction of expenses, though that cannot be lost sight of, but the improvement, and, if possible, reformation of the character of the prisoners. In order to this regular labour and training, not only in habits of industry, but in the knowledge of some means which may be available for future self-support, are indispensable. But it requires no very profound reflection to show that the contract system, which the Government of Ontario has wisely determined to supersede, must be about the worst possible from the reformatory point of view. The question is much too broad to be treated here; but there are few better worth the attention of the thoughtful statesman than that of the best means of providing employment for prisoners without bringing them into unfair competition with honest workmen.

THE refusal of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to recommend the Fisheries Treaty for ratification probably foreshadows its rejection, or at least postponement, by that body. This result, should it take place, can scarcely be regarded as a criterion of the estimation in which the Treaty itself is held by unprejudiced Americans. In fact its rejection by the Republican senatorial majority under present circumstances might, with some plausibility, be construed to mean that the party leaders are unwilling that President Cleveland and his supporters should go to the country with the credit that would attach to a settlement of the fisheries dispute on terms so favourable to the claims of the United States. It is, however, but too obvious that some of the Senators, who, as representing the constituencies most interested, may be supposed to know most about the merits of the question, and to be entitled to take a leading part in the discussion, are so blinded by local and national prejudice as to be unable to take a reasonable attitude in regard to it. It is very likely that on sober second thought, the Senate, after the Presidential contest if not before, may take a different view of the matter, unless the bitterer opponents of the treaty should succeed in securing its immediate rejection.

MUCH regret was caused amongst riflemen by the announcement that after this year Wimbledon Common would be no longer available for their great annual competition, and much influence was brought to bear in the effort to prevent the threatened change. But, great as is the Duke of Cambridge's interest in the encouragement of rifle-shooting, his interest in making the most of his valuable estate has proved greater, and Wimbledon will see the volunteers from all parts of the wide empire striving for victory at the targets no more, after the present season. If, however, means can be found to carry out the ideas of Lord Wantage, President of the National Rifle Association, and others interested, the dreaded loss may yet be converted into gain. Lord Wantage urges that the new ground, wherever

chosen, shall, if possible, become the property of the Association, in order permanent instead of temporary buildings may be erected. It is also hoped that enlarged space may be secured, so as to afford accommodation close by for drilling practice, an arrangement which would be very helpful to volunteers from a distance. For instance, a few weeks', or even a few days' practice on the ground, and under the same conditions of light, atmosphere, etc., under which the contests will take place, would, we presume, be of great advantage to the Canadian contingent, and materially improve their chances of success. Amongst the places under consideration as the sites of the new Wimbledon are Epsom, Redhill, Harrow, and Brighton.

WHAT will become of the weaker as the struggle for existence becomes more severe? is a question much discussed just now in the papers and magazines. It cannot be said that very much light has yet been thrown upon the problem. The stern natural law which unpityingly decrees that the unfittest must perish in order to make room for those better fitted is being year by year more successfully counteracted by the great moral law which in its lower application enjoins the strong to respect the rights of the weak, and, in its higher, commands each to love his neighbour as himself. It is true that the operations of this moral law are not yet very marked, and, perhaps, are not likely soon to become so, in modifying the fierceness of competition for places of employment and profit. Still the combined agencies of sanitary science and Christian philanthropy are helping on the rapid increase of the race by the removal of the sources of disease, on the one hand, and the more merciful and skilful treatment of the diseased and helpless on the other. Wonderful as are the achievements of applied science and human inventiveness it is doubtful whether it can long be in the power of these or any other agencies to increase the means of subsistence in equal ratio with the multiplication of the race. If not, the world must be tending towards absolute overpopulation. In other words, a time must inevitably come when there will be large numbers for whom no profitable work can be found, and who will, therefore, be foredoomed either to be supported by the labours of others or to starve. This, however, may be regarded as, for some time to come, a speculative rather than an actual danger, since the state of things described cannot exist, save in special, overcrowded communities, so long as there are in other parts of the world large and fertile areas unoccupied. Thus the problem, for some generations to come, resolves itself into one of redistribution of populations by emigration from the congested to the sparsely settled localities, a process which is being carried on on a constantly increasing scale from year to year.

THERE is, however, one form of the difficulty which cannot be so easily met. Emigration is easy enough for unencumbered young men, or even, in most cases, for families. But what about the multiplying thousands of single women who cannot go abroad alone to fight the battle on a foreign soil? Take the case of Great Britain, for instance. Statistics show that there are at the present time 800,000 more women than men in the United Kingdom. That means, of course, as the *Spectator* points out, that there are 800,000 girls who can never have husbands, unless polygamy is resorted to. What is to become of these? But a limited number of them, we may assume, have parents or friends in a position to provide permanently for their support. Under the influence of the better notions which modern opinion, or perhaps modern necessity, is causing to spread, large numbers of these women are becoming educated and fitted to support themselves, provided suitable occupations can be found. But there's the rub! The scope of woman's opportunities for self-support has also been enlarged of late years, until the professions and pursuits which remain exclusively male preserves are very few indeed. But the trouble is that the number of workers increases more rapidly than the opportunities for work. There are now, the *Spectator* tells us, three applicants for every situation where there was a little ago only one, and the great London shopkeepers could fill their establishments with the daughters of clergymen, country solicitors, doctors, and superior clerks, and then leave a kind of worldful begging for admittance outside. What is to become of the constantly increasing number of these young women, to whom self-support is a necessity, and who are able and willing to work, but for whom no suitable work is forthcoming? It would seem as if the revolution in regard to woman's work and sphere were as yet only begun.

DEMOCRACIES, as a rule, do not take unfavourable criticism very kindly. The people of the United States were but just recovering from the resentment excited by the late Matthew Arnold's *Nineteenth Century* article, when their self-complacency was again ruthlessly disturbed by their own distinguished countryman, James Russell Lowell. Mr. Lowell's address,