

time hitherto devoted to it exclusively is given to the training of the hand and the eye, and all the perceptive and active powers. Under the old system, the system that is still in vogue in most of our public schools, the waste of time and nervous energy is prodigious. There can be little doubt the new system, when wisely wrought out and administered, will give the country which adopts it virtually a new race of men and women. Not only will the young people of both sexes go forth from the schools better prepared to take part in the struggle for existence, but they will also be better prepared for all the higher uses and enjoyments of life. With every faculty trained to activity and on the alert, the world will be found to abound in objects of interest and beauty which now appeal in vain to the dormant faculties of the great majority. The multitudes will no longer be of those who, having eyes, see not. Such is at least the dream of the enthusiasts of the new education. Those who are at the head of the systems of public education in the Provinces will do well to enquire into it, as some of them, we observe, are doing.

THE great increase in the number of Italian children promenading the streets of our cities with their harps and violins, has given rise to well-grounded suspicion that the "padrone" system is now in vogue in Canada. These poor little wretches are probably sent out by heartless task-masters who make a profit out of the proceeds of their begging expeditions. Save on the grounds of humanity it makes little difference whether they are in the employ of masters who have hired or purchased them, or are sent out by their own parents. In the latter case natural affection may, perhaps, be relied on to some extent to save them from the worse cruelties inflicted by those who have no other than a sordid interest in them. Be that as it may, the social and moral results of such systematized begging are sure to be of the worst description, and a rigid enquiry should be instituted by the civic authorities, or the Government. In fact the question of the influx of pauper immigrants is fast becoming one of the most perplexing, and should be carefully investigated. In the United States the evil has become so great and threatening that a Congressional Committee has been appointed to consider it, and is now pursuing its investigations in New York City. The geographical relations of the two countries make it highly desirable that the States and Canada should have a common policy in regard to such matters, and it is surprising that no attempt has hitherto been made by the statesmen of the two countries to reach a mutual understanding and agreement. Friendly diplomacy should be equal to the task. It is true that all legislation looking to the restriction of immigration should be viewed with suspicion and carefully scrutinized, nevertheless the time is probably near when stringent legislation will be a matter of necessity. In some respects the pauper problem is more serious than the Chinese problem, for the Mongolians, however objectionable in their modes of life, do not often become a tax upon public charity.

FROM semi-official sources comes a statement which seems to admit that, as we suspected, the trouble with the Skeena River Indians had its origin in the neglect or failure of the proper authorities to come to an agreement for the transfer of the Indian title. This omission is wrong in principle and may prove dangerous. It should be remedied at the earliest possible moment. From every point of view it is desirable and right that treaties should, if possible, be made, and no rankling sense of injury left to inflame even the feeblest tribes. Few will, at this day, care seriously to dispute the abstract right of the aboriginal tribes to ownership of the soil in their respective localities. Their claim is based upon substantially the same ground as that of any first settlers whose prior occupancy is generally regarded amongst civilized peoples as giving them an indefeasible claim to the land occupied. Were it not so, as a mere matter of policy it would be vastly wiser and better to purchase the Indian claims in every instance where it is possible to do so; rather than incur the hostility of a race whose tribes may always be reckoned on as faithful allies, but vindictive and deadly enemies.

THE people of Manitoba and the North-West are no doubt watching with interest, not unmingled with anxiety, for developments in connection with the railway policy of the Greenway Cabinet. If, as seems widely believed, negotiations are really in progress for the transfer of the Red River Valley Road and the connecting links yet to be built to the Northern Pacific, there is ground for apprehension as to the result. To many it will be a relief should the denial, alleged to have been authorized on behalf of the Northern Pacific, that it has any intention of extending its operations beyond the boundary, prove well-founded. Experience has shown that competition between two great corporations affords a poor safeguard against excessive charges for railway service. In view of the peculiar and

unequivocal character of the agitation which carried the present Manitoba Government into power it is hard to believe that they will put the interests of the farmers of the Province again in jeopardy by handing the grain carrying trade over to the tender mercies of any railway company whatever. The immense importance of the business to the farmers of the prairies could not be more strikingly set forth than in the calculations of Mr. Greenway, Lieutenant-Governor Royal, and others who should be well-informed, that the surplus of wheat for export from the Province and Territories will this year reach the magnificent total of 20,000,000 or 22,000,000 bushels. A difference of a few cents a bushel on such an output would amount in the single season to no insignificant sum.

THE *Forum* for August has an article by Judge Love, of Iowa, designed to prove that the United States Republic provides a much better system of checks against the evils of party prejudice and popular whim than the English. Has not Judge Love chosen an unfortunate moment to promulgate his views, and suggest the application of experimental tests? What was the influence, one is constrained to ask, which caused the United States Senate to delay nearly three months before confirming the appointment of Mr. Fuller to the office of Chief Justice of the United States? His qualifications in respect to both character and ability are generally admitted to be of the highest, and that high judicial office should, if any, surely be above the reach of party prejudice or jealousy. Why is it that Dakota is unable to obtain admission into the Union as a State, though in population, intelligence, means of communication, and general resources the Territory is unquestionably above the minimum that has hitherto been insisted on? Can Judge Love maintain that party fears and machinations have nothing to do with inflicting this injustice upon a Territory? What one would like to have Judge Love's candid opinion on—is the real animating motive of most of the "buncombe" speeches that have recently been delivered in the United States Senate against the ratification of the Fisheries Treaty. Have party prejudice and popular whim had absolutely nothing to do with these? And, not to multiply illustrations, what does Judge Love, as an impartial judicial authority, think has caused the long delay of the United States Government to submit to impartial arbitration the questions raised by the high-handed seizure of Canadian fishing craft by her revenue cutters on the high waters of Behring's Sea? Has the pressure of party exigencies nothing to do with the denial of international justice in this case? There are many excellent features in the American political system which we are glad to admire, but when we are asked to concede it the palm in the particular respects indicated, we must beg to be permitted to select some other ground of praise.

A SOMEWHAT remarkable strike has recently been brought to a happy ending in England. The girls employed in Bryant and May's great match factory in East London, struck for redress of certain grievances and, strange to say, though they were wholly unorganized and weak, belonging to no Union and without funds for maintenance, they succeeded in getting the dispute settled on terms with which they appear to be perfectly content, if they do not even surpass their hopes and expectations. Thus, as the *Spectator* says: The first serious effort of the women of East London to better their condition has ended in victory. This satisfactory result seems to have been due in the first instance to the efficient and most creditable intervention and aid of the London Trades Council, though, as before said, the striking girls were altogether outside the Trades organization. Much also was no doubt due to the reasonable and conciliatory spirit shown by the directors of the Company. Amongst the conditions embodied in the terms of settlement, in addition to the removal of the grievances complained of, are an undertaking on the part of the Company that no girl is to be discharged or singled out in any way for the part she has taken in the strike, and its consent to encourage the formation of a Trade Union among the girls, "in order that any just grievances they may have in future shall be represented directly to the heads of the firm, and not, as in the past, through the foreman." The circumstance is, in some of its aspects, encouraging in relation to the possibility of good relations between capital and labour. It shows that as two parties are required, proverbially, to make a quarrel, so when both parties are disposed to do the right, serious quarrels may soon be brought to a happy ending. In describing the circumstances the *Spectator* significantly remarks that "the action of the Directors seems to have been entirely free from the common fault of those who are involved in trade disputes—the determination to stand by what they first said."

THE Session of the National Prison Association recently held in Boston seems to have been well attended by those most competent to discuss the im-