

greater wealth, with all the advantages which advancing civilization brings with it, bring also in their train many evils unknown before. We have not many professional tramps, but there are numbers of men traversing the country in all directions, ostensibly looking for work, but often failing to find it, begging their way from one farm house to another, sleeping in barns and hay-lofts, and causing apprehension not altogether groundless. Cases of robbery and of criminal assault have become frequent, while convictions are rare from the fact that there is no one at hand to pursue or detect the criminal. Minor cases of theft for a similar reason are not dealt with, and many offences of various kinds go unpunished.

From this state of things one very serious result follows. There is among the young people a growing disregard for laws which they do not see enforced, and contempt for authority which cannot make itself respected, and of which no symbol appears. Rowdiness, with all its evil effects, becomes rampant even in little country places where such conduct would never be suspected. It is mere hypocrisy to deny this, or to claim for our rural population a degree of virtue which they do not possess, or to charge the evil upon foreign influences which have never been felt. Want of home influence and of religious training are as potent in country districts as in towns and cities to produce their natural results, but to see offences committed and no punishment to follow is a cause of demoralization most powerful in the country.

We are glad to see that this subject has been taken up by the Press, and still more so to know that it is under consideration by the Provincial Government. Admitting the need for the establishment of an effective rural police we have many examples for our guidance. The Irish constabulary, perhaps the finest police force in the world, has too much of a military character to be altogether suited to us, and the same objection may apply, though in a less degree, to our own North-West police, an equally efficient body of men. Then there is the English system of county constabulary, a rural force much such as we require. The difficulty of establishing a county constabulary would not only