

service in one great public franchise. A like union has been frequently advocated in Canada, though there is not as yet the slightest likelihood of a movement in that direction. Meanwhile the post-office is sharing in the country's business development.

There are now 10,150 post-offices in the Dominion, of which 6,184 are money-order offices, materially aiding in money circulation to the extent of nearly \$30,000,000 last year. There are also in this number 934 postal savings banks, with total deposits of \$44,255,326, thus ranking as a great factor in public economy. The actual proportions of the postal service may be gathered from the fact that 235,000,000 letters were carried last year, an average of over 48 letters per head of population.

The most tangible proof of the department's prosperity is the surplus with which the last fiscal year was closed. The establishment of a service in the Yukon entailed a deficit, but, including this, there is still a surplus of \$292,702. It has been suggested that this surplus might very justly be applied in an increase of pay to country postmasters, many of whom are at present receiving mere pittance.

Crime in Canada

IT is encouraging to learn that the statistics of the past year show a proportionate decrease of crime in Canada as compared with the two previous years. Notwithstanding the increase of population by the immigration of sometimes questionable foreigners, the average tone has improved. In the Yukon, where if anywhere in Canada lawlessness might be looked for, the proportion of crime to the rest of the Dominion is only 2.29. There has been a very slight increase of criminal offences in rural districts and a slight decrease in the cities, but the relative standing of city and country is 29.80 criminals per ten thousand of population in the one, as against only 2.46 in the other. The cities are therefore still the chief seats of evil-doing.

An interesting and important table of comparative figures shows to what extent

the use of liquors is responsible for the crime committed in Canada. For the five years, ending with 1902, there were 2,286 convictions of non-drinkers, 6,794 immoderate drinkers, and 13,699 moderate drinkers. From these figures it is to be concluded that non-drinkers constitute a very small proportion of the criminal class, and that instead of the immoderate drinkers being the chief offenders it is the moderate drinkers who are responsible for three-fifths of all the serious crime in the country.

Another interesting feature is the restraining influence of the married state; but education does not appear to have a similar effect. The percentage of more or less educated criminals is considerably larger than it was twenty-five years ago, and the records would seem to show that although ignorance encourages crime, education does not materially check it. The breakers of the law are to-day chiefly persons of at least elementary education.

Canada has no room for the criminal, and it is a matter of national gratulation that the average of lawlessness is small, and becoming smaller.

Settlement of the Alaska Dispute

BESIDES her natural desire to retain control of her own market, Canada has another reason for not granting additional privileges to Britain in the adverse decision recently given in the Alaska boundary case. The dispute, which had existed for over thirty years, was finally referred to a Commission made up of three American members on the one side, and two Canadians and one British member on the other. The finding of this commission was that the American contentions were substantially correct, Canada gaining merely the Portland canal and two of the four islands at the entrance to Port Simpson. The United States has thus been given not only control of the coast, but holds a strategic position opposite Canada's new Pacific port.

This verdict, although an unfavorable one, would have been accepted by Canadians without complaint, but for the fact that the