

stationed in the larger European ports so that the number of undesirables heading for this country would be reduced to a minimum.

With less than one-tenth of our land under cultivation, it is impossible and it would be unwise to limit the immigration. Yet it would be equally unwise to allow the scum of Europe to float this way. Close inspection might mean fewer immigrants, but it would mean better immigrants, and quality is just as important as quantity.

SASKATCHEWAN AS IT IS

WE have received two letters from Saskatchewan which are worthy of some attention. Mr. F. W. Tobey, of Meota, writes to protest against the Dominion Government's action in buying seed grain in Prince Edward Island and sending it west. He declares that there was plenty of first-class seed grain in Saskatchewan for all local needs and that the farmers would have been glad to sell it at 90 cents while the Prince Edward Island grain cost \$1.15 laid down at Western stations. The farmers of various districts sent representatives to Regina to see the Government agent there and to ask him to buy local grain. The answer was that under the regulations the grain could be bought only in car-load lots and that it must be inspected and cleaned in Winnipeg. This condition prevented grain being collected from one set of farmers and sold to another set in the same province. Mr. Tobey characterises the handling of the seed grain problem as a "supreme blunder" because it gave the West a bad reputation and because it put the Westerner's money in circulation in other provinces when it was badly needed at home. It was a case of sending coals to Newcastle. Mr. Tobey ought to know of what he speaks as he is secretary-treasurer of his Local Improvement District. He advocates more farmer-members in both provincial and Dominion Houses in order to prevent a repetition of these unfortunate circumstances.

Mr. Wesley D. Watson, of Daneville, writes to protest against an over-enthusiastic editorial which appeared in our issue of March 21st which stated: "Already the sun is warming up the soil in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and seeding will commence in a few days." He says that on March 31st, the country was still covered with one and a half feet of snow and that the spring thaw had not commenced. He also states that the winter has been most delightful all through, with one blizzard in February and none in March. He believes, moreover, that the spring will be early and that the prospects for the harvest of 1908 are excellent.

It is only fair to ourselves to say that in certain districts "disking" was done during the last few days in March. In some of these, further falls of snow occurred.

We have pleasure in distributing this information received from such reliable sources. The farmers of the West are usually considered to be excellent "boomsters," but these gentlemen desire only that the truth shall be known. We regret exceedingly that we have not found space to print their excellent letters at length. The spirit of these and other communications received from the West is that in spite of the slightly reduced harvest of last year, those who have lived there for some time are more confident than ever that the prairie provinces will continue to afford agriculturists a greater return for the same investment of capital and labour than any other part of North America.

A PRACTICAL PREMIER

THE First Minister of the Dominion has seldom showed greater adroitness than he displayed last week in his treatment of the Anti-Cigarette Bill. Sir Wilfrid was in a position to speak disinterestedly on the question, since he avoids the use of tobacco and knows nothing of the joy of blowing "rings" in his few idle moments. Many estimable Canadian women were interested in the anti-cigarette legislation and it is always far from our courteous Premier's intentions to offend the voteless section of the community. But, with a neatness which no mere Anglo-Saxon could emulate, Sir Wilfrid declared that it is the small boy who is harmed by the cigarette, while to the mature man it is comfort and solace. Wherefore, the cigarette is a matter for domestic, not for parliamentary legislation, and it is the duty of the mothers to see that their small sons abstain from the "sly cigarette." Mothers, not M. P.'s should cope with this evil, said the Head of the Government, with, of course, the graceful insinuation that maternal influence is unbounded. The tables were thus most effectually turned, the Premier showing the feminine petitioners in favour of this bill that the responsibility lies upon their fair shoulders.

The Premier also gave advice which would shock the tender heart of Inspector James L. Hughes, who is averse to corporal punishment and believes in the dear little ones developing their selfhood—whatever that may be. Sir Wilfrid expressed himself as decidedly in

favour of a sound thrashing being administered to the small boy who toys with the dusky charms of My Lady Nicotine. In this age of allowing the servant and the child to rule, it is cheerfully wholesome to have the Premier of the country place himself on the side of old-fashioned discipline and refuse to make a matter of legislation what should be a feature of home training.

THE TEMPERANCE WAVE EXTENDING

MANITOBA and Ontario have held the centre of the Prohibition Stage for some time. While the United States is still struggling with its saloons, these Canadian provinces which had no saloons to fight have gone farther than any other portion of the continent and are trying to extinguish the hotel bar. It is an advanced stage of the temperance fight which has spread northward from the Gulf of Mexico. In this movement, Manitoba and Ontario are now joined by Quebec.

One hundred thousand names have been signed to petitions in favour of Dr. Lemieux's temperance measure now before the Quebec Legislature. These include the signatures of all the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, leading Protestant ministers, and many prominent social reformers. This same bill is causing much trouble in government circles in the city of Champlain. The Gouin Cabinet must soon appeal to the country and it finds it difficult to estimate the force which this temperance wave may exercise.

Mr. Lawrence A. Wilson, who has spoken for the wholesale liquor trade of Montreal, says that legislation should not be hasty and pleads for delay. A system of credit has grown up which in these dull times could not be suddenly overturned without disastrous consequences. He advocates, as a preliminary step, that the present laws should be more strictly enforced and that the objectionable men in the business should be gradually eliminated. He would follow the Ontario precedent and make people "keep hotel."

There is hardly any doubt that Montreal is over-stocked with drinking places. Toronto has 146 licenses and Montreal 400, while there is no such proportional difference in their populations.

THE PAYMENT OF TEACHERS

THE Senate at Albany, New York, passed a bill last month providing for the equal pay of men and women school teachers in New York City. This measure is in accordance with the most enlightened thought on the subject of women's work and remuneration and it is to be hoped that such liberal thinking will spread to Canada, where unfair discrimination is yet made in favour of men teachers. The question as to whether there are too many women teachers in the schools of the continent is not pertinent to the matter of payment. When a woman is doing the same amount of work as a man, in as capable a fashion, the scale of payment should be as high. In the rural districts of Canada there still exists a kind of belief that the ravens should contribute to a teacher's or a pastor's bodily needs. There are many country districts where a teacher's work is grudgingly regarded, as if it were something to which the community had a natural right. There is no narrow-sighted policy which more surely and swiftly brings its own punishment than parsimony in educational affairs. In Western Canada, the new provinces have begun well and are showing a determination to have the best school equipment available. In Quebec province, the payment of teachers is not up to the modern standard. There are two countries which, above all others in modern days, have honoured the school-teacher's calling. Germany and Scotland have taken pains to encourage "the scholar of the Glen" and the faithful teacher and their reward is found in the dominance of the Scottish "boss" and the wide market for "made-in-Germany" goods. Make the qualifications for teaching more exacting, if desirable, but make the salary such that ambitious and buoyant natures will not be discouraged from entering the profession.

AMATEUR vs. PROFESSIONAL

PROFESSIONAL lacrosse and hockey have not yet proved their fitness in this country. Mr. J. D. Pratt of the Winnipeg Rowing Club went so far in a speech the other evening as to state that some of the professional hockey matches in Winnipeg during the past season were decided before they were played. The same accusation has been made in most places where professionalism has found a lodging-place.

The Victoria Hockey Club of Montreal, an amateur organisation, has shown an entirely different spirit and one which puts professionalism in a class by itself. This club has had a most successful and profitable season, and has donated \$1,700 to the hospitals of the city. This is an example which might be kept in mind by all ambitious amateur sporting organisations. It is almost ideal in its conception and reflects great credit on the executive officers of the Victoria Hockey Club.