

ill-health. In these cases adulteration ceases to be merely tricky and becomes properly criminal, and the effort to secure a national food law is important enough to deserve success. And not only foods are adulterated. What is still worse, the drugs which are used in medicines and prescriptions are tampered with. Out of 139 druggists in Chicago to whom test prescriptions were sent, only 31 furnished pure drugs, the others either adulterating or substituting. Preying thus upon the public health is deserving of penitentiary punishment.

Both as regards foods and medicines, there is no evidence of such wholesale adulteration in Canada, but if this kind of thing is being regularly practised across the line, Canadians have need to be wary of buying American food and drug preparations, unless from reputable firms. It is a fit case for higher tariff.

England Falls Short

TIMES are bad in England. Despite the optimistic reports that have been made whenever the industrial supremacy of Britain was called in question, the country is now in the midst of a depression which is making itself widely felt and causing actual suffering. Whatever may be the first cause, the fact remains that about thirteen millions of men, women and children throughout England are this winter in want. In London the situation has assumed the seriousness of a famine, and a number of relief agencies are at work, fighting the grim prospect of actual starvation. That is strange for rich and mighty London, but it indicates that something is wrong with industrial England.

The army of unemployed is not made up of tramps and incompetents. It is of course quite natural that when times slacken the first to be discharged are the least skilful ones, but there are thousands of capable mechanics and artisans now out of work, partly because of the cessation of building operations during the winter months and partly because of depression in the general industrial market. If, in turn, the reason for this depression be sought, it will be found to consist, in part at least, in the sharp com-

petition of German and American industries, in England's slowness in adapting herself to changed conditions, and in her mistaken ideal of "plenty to eat rather than power to earn."

At the same time, there are vast tracts of empty land in England waiting for workers. Agriculture is decadent, as Rider Haggard has pointed out in his book on Rural England, for the working people persist in crowding together in the cities, where just now they are starving, rather than taking up the vacant farms where they might at least make a living. It is to be expected, therefore, that among the schemes proposed for the relief of the hungering multitudes should be some looking to the settlement of labor colonies in the country, away from the grinding conditions of industrial depression. There is a chance on the farms, but industrially England has fallen short.

The Municipal Ownership Cure

AMERICA'S greatest peril, according to John Burns, a prominent British M.P., is in the growing power of the monopolist. This is the opinion of an outsider, but there are good grounds for it, and Mr. Burns is a man whose views on any subject are sure to be sane. In a recent article he points out how paramount the influence of the Trust and the Boss is becoming in America, and raises the question whether a sufficient number of patriotic citizens will unite to avert the conflict which must otherwise come before many years. The cure for the trust evil, as he sees it, is municipal ownership, and while his remarks chiefly concerned the United States, they are of interest to Canadians also, because we have already made a beginning in public ownership, and may, therefore, be said to have applied the trust cure in advance.

Municipal enterprise has made great progress in England, however behind that country may be in certain other respects. Over one thousand towns and cities own their gas works, electric lighting systems, water works, street car services, and other enterprises, and to exactly that extent the