

try," or to bolster up and extend an old one—to both his failure would bring more or less of loss and calamity. This statement is a striking commentary on the view taken by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, in the February number of the *North American Review*. The burden of Mr. Carnegie's contention is that the danger which is thought to threaten the public in the formation of Trusts and Combines is a mere "bugaboo." All these attempts at monopoly are, he maintains, foredoomed to failure by the inexorable laws of trade, or rather of human nature, which decree that the more successful any one of these attempts may seem, the more speedily will come the inevitable end towards which it is being hurried by the impetus of its own momentum. But the supporter of Mr. Wallace's bill will not find it hard to show that the plea of the merchant and banker and that of Mr. Carnegie really point in the same direction, and favour rather than condemn the proposed legislation. If, on the one hand, the influence of combination really tends, in proportion to its success, to stimulate competition to a point beyond the engorging capacity of the combine, and if, on the other, it induces merchants and bankers to give new enterprises, too feeble to stand by themselves, a support which would not be given them on their merits, and which hastens on the certain break-up, then it would evidently be better for all parties concerned that the practice which leads to such disastrous results should be forbidden. It cannot be really good for the strong firms in the combine to be assured of a transient prosperity, which contains in itself the germs of ultimate failure. It cannot be good for merchants and bankers to be deluded by the fancied security of a monopoly which is steadily working its own ruin. And it is too much to ask of the consuming public that it should submit to be fleeced for a few years because of a logical certainty that the high prices cannot be permanent, and a reaction must come.

THE statistics of immigration for 1888, as set forth in the report of the Minister of Agriculture, show that while the number of actual immigrants but slightly, if at all, exceeded that of the preceding year, there was an encouraging improvement in their character. The agents at the various local centres agree in representing the majority of the incomers as of an excellent class. This improvement is what was to be expected as a result of the discontinuance of assisted immigration of a promiscuous kind. There is reason to hope, too, that the improvement noted may be continued and increased if the new policy is persevered in. There can be little doubt that the wholesale shipment of paupers or semi-pauper passengers from the Old World ports would act as a deterrent, rather than otherwise, upon the better classes of those contemplating emigration. There is some danger, however, lest the swing of the pendulum should carry us to the opposite extreme. Many take too little care to discriminate. We notice, for instance, that not only the Trades and Labour Council, but a portion of the press seem disposed to include all child-immigration in a sweeping condemnation, although it is evident that if such establishments as the Barnardo Homes actually carry on their work on the principles stated, bringing out only picked children, and keeping those brought out under industrial training, or locating them in respectable families, until able to take care of themselves, they are doing a good work for the country as well as for the children. It would be well for us if we had many more such institutions as the Barnardo Training Farm in Manitoba is represented to be. Such philanthropic enterprises may or may not stand the test of close investigation, to which they should be subjected, but they should not be condemned without such investigation.

IT is much to be regretted that the Ontario Government should have rejected Mr. Meredith's motion for the appointment of a committee to inquire "as to the best means of disposing of the sewage of cities, towns, villages," etc., without substituting some better proposition. The question is one bearing a close relation to the physical welfare of the whole people. Mr. Mowat's doubt as to the possibility of good resulting from the labours of such a committee surely cannot mean that he regards the matter as one with which the Government and Legislature have nothing to do. Still less can it be conceived that he considers the present system, or rather want of system, incapable of improvement, or that his attitude is one of despair in the presence of the admitted and grave evils resulting and threatened from neglect of the most ordinary teachings of sanitary science, in the disposal of the refuse matter of our towns and villages. It is no doubt true that little

could be expected from an ordinary parliamentary committee under the time limitation imposed by the few weeks of the session. But no such objection could hold against the issue of a commission to such scientific experts as the Government might have selected for the purpose. Nor is the fact that all the information resulting from the science and experience of older communities is already available of much greater weight as an argument. The same might be said in reference to almost any conceivable public inquiry for practical purposes. The question for Ontario is concrete and practical. It is one of adaptation of means to ends; one in which regard must be had to local circumstances and conditions. The thing to be settled is not even what is absolutely the best method, but what is the best possible for Canadian cities and towns under existing circumstances. The Government of Ontario has surely a duty to discharge in the premises. It is matter of provincial and national concern that the people of the municipalities shall not be left, in their ignorance or negligence, to go on imbibing disease germs from polluted wells, poisoning the waters of streams, rivers and bays which it should be their especial care to keep pure, and generally, in easy-going disregard of the simplest laws of health, suffering the germs of disease to be sown and nurtured on every hand.

THE agitation in regard to the Jesuits' Estates Bill still goes on, and is probably widening, but, so far as we have seen, no definite aim or line of action has yet been decided on. It has been suggested that public meetings should be called to discuss the question, and it seems somewhat strange that this very natural and proper course has not hitherto been taken. The reason probably is that no person of influence cares to take the responsibility of calling such a meeting until he can see his way clear to put before it some practical proposition. In the absence of such proposal public denunciation of the Jesuits and the Quebec Government would be but beating the air. The more thoughtful of those who foresee danger to our liberties from the increased aggressive power of the obnoxious Order cannot but feel that in demanding the disallowance by the Dominion Government of a local bill which is on its face but a mere bestowal of provincial funds for educational purposes, and by way of settling an alleged claim, they would be taking a very doubtful position, and exposing themselves to serious danger of defeat in the court of last resort. It is needless to say that such a defeat would make matters vastly worse than they now are. Two suggestions, which have at least a practical aspect, have, however, been made by some of the many who have dealt with the subject. The first is that when the Province of Quebec next appeals, as it is believed she may be expected to do very soon, for aid from the Dominion exchequer, a determined, organized and uncompromising resistance be made to her demands. This would be but reasonable and just, and we do not see why all the other Provinces should not unite in compelling Government and Parliament to regard the protest. The other suggestion is equally logical, and goes nearer the root of the matter. Whether its premises are sound or not, we are not prepared to say. It is that the Act by which the Quebec Government and Legislature undertook two years ago to incorporate the Jesuit Order is null and void inasmuch as no Act of a Province could either do away with the effect of the terms of capitulation, or give to a society a legal standing of which it has been deprived by an unrepealed statute of the British Parliament, effective throughout the Empire. The point is at least worthy of being taken into consideration by some competent legal authority.

A RESOLUTION passed unanimously by the Montreal Board of Trade at a recent meeting draws a sad picture of the state of the harbour of that city, in respect to accommodations for shipping and facilities for trade. Though the gods often, as in the case of Montreal, are very generous in the bestowal of natural advantages, yet it remains true in a wide sense of cities, as of individuals, that they "help those who help themselves." The striking allegory set before the meeting of the Board in Mr. Van Horne's "Tale of Two Cities," (Chicago and St. Louis) conveys a lesson that, will, it may be hoped, be laid to heart by the business men of that city. If Montreal, with a harbour which offers to vessels such accommodations as wooden jetties "covered by water during summer floods, and under water during the whole winter," which is "entirely destitute of permanent sheds or warehouses to protect goods, and cranes to assist in the loading or discharge of ships," with no adequate provision for the accommodation of railway traffic, with harbour dues of such

magnitude as to cause it to be shunned as a most expensive harbour, etc., has made such wonderful progress, what might not be expected during the next quarter-century, were all these disabilities removed, and every modern facility for commerce afforded at reasonable rates? The question is one of more than local significance, as all Western Canada will be more or less interested in seeing the metropolitan city making the enormous strides which are predicted for it by the more enthusiastic of its business men, provided the sagacity and enterprise of its citizens prove equal to the occasion. The members of the Board, representing no doubt the business and enterprise of the city, seem at last to be thoroughly awake to the necessity for vigorous action. It may, therefore, be hoped that a new departure of great promise is about to be made.

IT is satisfactory to learn from the tenor of the correspondence submitted by President Cleveland to the Senate, that the United States have virtually receded from the claim implied, if not definitely asserted, in the seizure of Canadian vessels on the high seas, to exclusive jurisdiction in Behring's Sea. The invitation to the Governments of the maritime nations to take part in a correspondence, having in view the protection of fur-bearing seals in those Northern waters, is a tacit admission that no claim to exclusive authority can be maintained, and is a step in the right direction. There seems no reason to doubt that a satisfactory conclusion may be eventually reached, though a year has already elapsed since Secretary Bayard submitted his proposed regulations to prevent, between April 15th and November 1st, the killing of seals north of the 50th degree of latitude, and between 160° and 170° longitude. It may be assumed that compensation will ultimately be made to the proprietors of the seized vessels, though the movements of diplomacy are tantalizingly slow and its ways tantalizingly circuitous.

THE object of the Canadian Pacific Railway in its latest efforts to obstruct the railway policy of Manitoba is, it is claimed, not to maintain the monopoly it has been paid to surrender, but to establish the constitutional principle that railroads of a certain class can be chartered only by the Dominion Government. It is, perhaps, as well that the point should have been definitely raised, and that a clear and final decision should, if possible, be reached, however invidious may appear the action of the Railway which has not only secured its own charter and enormous privileges from Ottawa, but has actually agreed to give up its monopoly advantages in return for an important consideration, in raising it against its provincial rival. The *Winnipeg Sun* predicts that Mr. VanHorne's appeal to the courts in the matter will prove to have been a mistake, both because the question between the Dominion and the Provinces is one in which his company could not afford to take a side, as it has done, against the Province; and because the decision promises to establish the very doctrine of Provincial jurisdiction against which the Company is contending. Whether the latter prophecy will be fulfilled remains to be seen.

INTREPID assertions, perhaps, become brave men. If so, the proposition recently laid down by Lord Wolseley, on a Birmingham platform, to the effect that a system of conscription provides "the very highest order of mental and physical education that has ever been devised by man," is quite in keeping with the gallant General's record. None the less it was to be expected that the civilian mind should recoil from so astounding a doctrine. Granting the superiority of the education on the physical side—though even that is fairly open to question—it must require a keenness of vision beyond the ordinary to discover wherein is to be found the supreme excellence of the military training on its mental side. It is scarcely matter of common observation that discharged soldiers of the rank and file stand head and shoulders above the average citizen in intellectual acumen. It may be that the tendency in modern modes of military training is moving in the direction of developing individual capacity, but, unless we greatly mistake, it has always been, and still is, to a considerable extent, the military theory, that the more completely the soldier can sink his individuality and act as a mechanical part of a great machine the better will he subserve the purpose for which he is in the army. If it be indeed true that the highest ideal of the soldier is that exemplified in the famous Balaclava charge, where the heroes of the Light Brigade immortalized themselves by their loyalty, even to death, to the principle that it was

Their's not to make reply,
Their's not to reason why,