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Australia's Immigration Law:

Our Australian fellow-colonists have brought their Immigration Act into force in a case that has roused no little indignation in Great Britain, to which the Canadian "Gazette" refers as follows:

"Six British workmen, who had arrived under a contract with a clothing manufacturer, had been refused permission to land at Sydney, New South Wales, under the Immigration Act. Sir Edmund Barton, the Prime Minister, held that the onus of proving that they possessed special skill which is not obtainable in the Commonwealth, rested with the six workmen, and they, having satisfied the Government on this point, have been admitted to the country."

Our contemporary says, "It will be interesting to see what line Canadian comment takes." Before taking any "line" it is wise to ascertain all the facts of a question. The law of Australia in regard to immigrants is intended to prevent the Commonwealth being over-run with mongolians from China and Japan and those of other Eastern semi-civilized races. The law effects this without any reference to such peoples which are calculated to give offence as does the alien labour law of the United States and of Canada. It is highly inconsistent of American journals to condemn Australia for its Immigration Act when the United States has an Alien Labour Law of the same nature. It is not many years since England had a much more stringent law, for it forbade the free transfer of labour from one part of England to another. Sydney Smith satirized this in the Edinburgh "Review" by referring to a cobbler in the north of England not being allowed to make a pair of boots in London. Mr. Robt. Peel afterwards Sir Robert, in a letter to the Duke of Wellington, speaks of a man having labour to sell not being free to transfer it from one part of the kingdom to another part. Australia's law is not designed to exclude British subjects, though it may do

so in some exceptional and very rare cases. We, therefore, regard the censures passed upon our fellow-colonists in Australia as uncalled for and unjust.

A Paper on Commission.

The monthly meeting of the Insurance and Actuarial Society of Glasgow was held on 8th December, the President, Mr. H. G. Andrews, Secretary in Glasgow of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Co., in the chair. Mr. C. E. Noverre, London Manager Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, delivered a paper on "Commission."

Mr. Noverre said this subject had been so abused in its too frequent handling that its original intention and meaning had been lost sight of. Commission was intended as another word for remuneration for services rendered—an act, something done. No one could reasonably contend that the proposer could under any circumstances be his own agent, for what act had he committed in submitting his own insurance for acceptance which should entitle him to remuneration for so doing. Had he sought himself? What had he done to deserve such consideration? If a shopkeeper be asked his idea of a mean man, he will probably say that he is one who deals at the Stores or one who always tries to get his goods at wholesale prices. He is a man whose one idea is discount. If his wife wants an umbrella, a mantle, or a pair of boots, she must wait until he can get round to the wholesale house. He never reckons the value of his time in all these transactions, and, perhaps, he is right, it may be worth nothing, and, possibly, his wife is glad to have him out of the house so long as he likes. He says,—“if my neighbour is ass enough to pay shop prices, well let him.” He forgets that if this system were to be applied all round net figures would represent his receipts into the bargain. Universal commission, which is the logical outcome