

and it is a reform that the public will soon demand from all the roads. In the northern parts of the province it would manifestly not be feasible.

Crime in the Dominion

NOTWITHSTANDING the great increase in foreign immigration during the last two years crime in Canada has been kept at a minimum, and even shows a slight numerical decrease. This makes an excellent showing compared with United States prison returns, which indicate a large rate of increase.

The report of the Minister of Justice says: "It is a subject of deep regret that one-eighth of the total number of convicts are mere youths who have already reached the grade of criminality that involves penitentiary treatment. The continuous contact with professional criminals obliterates any self-respect or sense of shame they may possess, and in a few years they are discharged—bereft of reputation or ambition—to swell the ranks of those who regard society as their enemy, and therefore their rightful prey. The environments and influences of a penal institution are not ennobling, and lads who are yet in the formative period of their character should not be subjected to its contaminating influence if other treatment be possible."

With regard to management and discipline, the prisons of Canada are perhaps second to none; but in efforts to reform and rehabilitate the criminal, we have been distanced by several countries, especially Switzerland.

An important improvement will be made when something is done to help the struggling ex-convict to regain his lost footing and become a good member of society.

Electrical Smelting in Canada

THE commission which went to Europe under the leadership of Dr. Haanel has returned, after investigating the various processes employed in the electrical smelting of iron.

The process which commended itself to the commissioners as the cheapest and most practicable for Canada, was that employed

by Ketter, Leleux & Co., at Livet, in south-eastern France. This firm has four electric furnaces in operation. Several weeks were spent here in observing the manufacture of pig iron. Information was also gathered regarding the amount of electrical energy required.

It is thought that pig iron can be manufactured by this process at a cost of not more than \$10.50 a ton, which is considerably less than the present cost in Canada. If the process can be successfully applied here, we may expect great things in the Canadian iron industry.

Saving the Past for the Future

IN the midst of new projects it comes as somewhat of a contrast to be reminded of an enterprise whose special field is the days that have been. Yet the Ontario Bureau of Archives, whose first report was made a short time ago, has a work to do, which, while it may not appeal to the busy man of affairs, is yet important.

Our great concern in this day of action is undoubtedly with the present and the future. We cannot afford to live in the past, and in the industrial sphere, particularly it is disastrous to study old methods to the neglect of new conditions and their demands. Men of vision, not retrospection, are the men we need to-day, and our nation is to be built by workers, not by students of history. At the same time there is a value in the past, bearing vitally upon the interests of the present day. If not so much to the business man, yet to the statesman, legislator, and social worker, the records of the past are of inestimable importance. While the mass of the people very rightly concern themselves with the problems and affairs that face them with each new day, there must always be a few whose special concern it is to study and preserve the records of local and national history, and put them in a form accessible and applicable. Neither an individual nor a nation ever attains to so high a standard, but profit may be had from a knowledge of past mistakes or an acquaintance with former methods.