

themselves, for a prison is no fit place for persons of feeble minds, but it has been unfair to the jailers, whose guardianship can hardly be expected to apply to the insane as well as to the vicious. Therefore, a recent order looking to the prevention of this condition is to be received as an important reform.

This order provides that careful reports are to be made each month as to the persons under each jailer's charge who have given evidences of insanity. These reports are then passed on to the medical superintendents of the asylums, who will be expected to see that the unfortunates are removed as soon as possible to the asylums, where they can be better treated, at the same time relieving the jails.

Another reform that more directly concerns the industrial interests of Ontario is the ruling that prison labor shall not in future be employed in broom-making. It seems that this has been one of the chief occupations of convicts, and it has seriously interfered with the regular industry throughout the province. It is now promised that their labor shall be turned in other directions that will not compete with ordinary channels of industry. What applies to broom-making applies quite as truly, in principle, to any other industry in which prison labor is largely employed.

A Question of Climate

SHOULD Canada be shy about her winter climate? The native-born, who appreciate the spirit of the Canadian winter, know also the delights of the season and have no reason for apology in its behalf. The question was raised in another form, however, a few months ago, when the proposition to hold a winter carnival in Montreal was killed for the sake of the country's reputation.

Some years ago very successful winter carnivals were held both in Montreal and Quebec, the leading features of which were truly imposing ice palaces. Such an event it was proposed to repeat this winter, the citizens generally favoring it. Strong opposition, however, was encountered from the

railway and other interests, on the ground that to thus advertise the Canadian winter would tend to create wrong impressions outside. The attempt has been made in recent years to popularize Canada as a summer land, and the good work already done in this direction would, it was urged, be given a serious set-back by such emphasis upon its cold-weather features. We have suffered from climatic misrepresentation before, and even yet there is an idea abroad that Canada is a land of ice and snow. It would be a mistake to bear this out by our own example.

There is a degree of reason in this. Winter carnivals would be appreciated at their real value by our own people, but we cannot afford to ignore the stupidity of the people who form their opinions from the merest and hastiest impressions.

For People of Broken Fortune

AMONG the newest immigration schemes is one which it is claimed will provide Canada with a constant stream of young citizens of the kind that the country stands most in need of. At the same time it is something of a philanthropical scheme, aiming as well at improving the lot of the immigrants as furnishing Canada with new material for citizens. There are in England a great number of people, of good families, who have fallen upon evil days, and who usually are unable to recover themselves before death overtakes them. Their children are left helpless, and are at once passed on to the none too gentle care of the work-houses. At three years of age these children are placed by the Government in training schools and maintained at the public cost until they are sixteen, when they are farmed out. These young wards of the Government are not, however, to be confounded with the offspring of the English slums; they are usually children of good parentage, and have in most cases proved to be very desirable stock.

It is now proposed to bring some of these youths to Canada, and train them here in special schools, so that when they have reached their sixteen years they will be at