

should be thought necessary for international surrender of criminals; that, in fact, an extradition treaty is an obstruction rather than a help to reasonable and right action by either nation. Why, he asks, if we must have a treaty, should it be thought necessary to embody in it a list of offences? Why not agree with the United States that each country will hand over to the other any fugitive from criminal justice whose offence is technically a "crime" under the laws of the State from which he fled? Political crimes would need, of course, to be specifically excepted, and the right to decide whether an offence is "political" or not must in the last resort, rest with the Government of the country which is asked to surrender the fugitive. There is certainly much to be said in favour of such an arrangement, though its operation might be attended with considerable difficulty. But all conceivable difficulties are of little moment in comparison with the mutual advantages to be gained. Mr. Houston says: "The idea of the personal right of a criminal to a place of refuge seems a very absurd and mischievous one." But does not this use of the word "criminal" beg the question? No nation can afford to assume lightly, that the man who claims its protection is unworthy of it, or to hand him over, but for reasons satisfactory to itself, to the officers of a foreign State. Such an agreement or practice as Mr. Houston proposes must rest, as indeed he clearly admits, on the broad ground of international confidence. In other words, it must assume that the nation to which the surrender is made can be implicitly trusted to deal with the prisoner on principles of justice and humanity, co-extensive with those which underlie the jurisprudence of the surrendering State. This being assumed, Mr. Houston's argument that Canada should freely surrender United States malefactors, for her own good and in the interests of right and justice, without regard to the willingness or otherwise of the United States to reciprocate, is unanswerable.

ENGLAND as well as America has its pauper-labour problem. What the starving Chinese were to the labour marts of San Francisco or New York, the hordes of Russian and Galician Jews are to those of London. Lord Dunraven presented to the House of Lords, a few weeks since, an array of facts and figures, which, as the *St. James's Gazette* observes, "is enough to strike the optimists of progress with despair." In spite of Factory Acts, Sanitary Acts and so forth, the "sweating" system still flourishes, or rather festers in the great Metropolis. The half-civilized pauper from Eastern and Central Europe needs no books, no recreation, none of the little luxuries, or even comforts of life which are necessary to an Englishman. "His ideal of health and cleanliness is that of the Middle Ages. He clothes himself contentedly in filthy rags, he hatches himself in any dog-hole, his food is what we call in this country garbage." No matter how successfully English philanthropy may strive to raise him or his children from this degradation, the full inflowing stream keeps up the supply, and his competition on a pittance which is simple starvation to an Englishman takes the bread out of the mouths of the English toiler and his family. A strong feeling is growing up in the east end of London in favour of stringent restriction of the Jewish immigration. This is one of the questions which are now forcing themselves to the front, and although, as the *Gazette* observes, the proposal to exclude them appears "un-English," and contrary to all the traditions of national hospitality, the terrible evils resulting from the present state of things must, at an early date, compel active Parliamentary interference in some shape.

THE London Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is bringing to light evidence of the lack of natural affection, and of the most revolting parental cruelty, to a horrifying extent. In a recent number of the *Sunday Magazine* Mrs. Mary Harrison sums up the work of the Society during the last three years, in London. "There have been dealt with 762 cases of injuries caused by blows with fist, boot, strap, and poker; immersing a dying child in a tub of cold water 'to get its dying done'; breaking arms, legs, shoulder-bones; thrusting a poker down a throat eighty-one cases of slow murder by deliberate starvation," and other crimes too harrowing to recount. "It's my own child—mind your own business," was the substance of the usual rejoinder where remonstrance or interference was attempted. It is worthy of serious consideration whether the theory of exclusive parental right has not been carried to an extreme both heartless and hurtful to society in our modern social systems. Efforts to rescue children from haunts of vice and crime, and to train them up for honesty and usefulness, are constantly liable to be thwarted by the interference of worthless or brutalized parents. Is it not time for society everywhere, for its own protection as well as in obedience to the claims of humanity, to interpose its authority more fully in the interests of the abused and neglected children, seeing, as we must see, that it is from their ranks our vicious and criminal orders are continually replenished?

THE Inter-State Railroad Commission in the United States has been enquiring into a complaint against the Emigration Pool of the trunk line railroads. The investigation has brought out the surprising fact that while during the last thirty years the freight rates on American roads have been reduced enormously the passenger rates have scarcely been lowered at all. The Emigration Pool has an agent at Castle Garden, who has the sole right to sell emigrant tickets at that place. As a consequence there is no competition, and the emigration rate to Chicago is actually higher than it was thirty years ago. On the other hand freight rates on the New York Central have fallen from 2.77 cents per ton for the cheapest class of freights in 1856, to 0.69 cents per ton as the average on all freights in 1886. "If," says an exchange, "the railroads can carry freight for one-fourth of their rates thirty years ago, why can they not carry passengers cheaper, and why should they charge emigrants more?" The fact is certainly curious, and the inquiry worth prosecuting. Probably the emigrants have not so powerful influences interested in securing them cheap rates as are at work behind the freights.

THE Committee on Commerce of the United States House of Representatives has, by a vote of seven to six, reported favourably on the Bill to provide a system of postal telegraphy similar to that in operation in England. The Bill appropriates \$8,000,000 for the purpose. The report accompanying the Bill claims that the service will be self-sustaining. It also maintains that the Government has a right to build and operate telegraph lines, and that neither public opinion, good faith, nor justice requires the Government to purchase the property and franchises of the Western Union Telegraph Company at a higher cost than that at which it would be able to parallel the lines of that company. The rates proposed by the Bill are, for twenty-word telegrams, 10 cents for five hundred miles or less, 20 cents for five hundred to a thousand miles, and so on. The Bill also provides for telegraph postal money orders at existing mail rates, plus the telegraph tolls. Canadians will be interested in watching the progress and results of the proposed innovation.

THE great storm which visited New York and vicinity on Monday of last week was probably the worst on record in that locality, certainly without parallel in the experience of those now living in the city and State. The terrible blizzard that devastated some of the western territories a few weeks since, leaving devastation and death in its terrible track, seems to have been fully matched in violence by the New York cyclone. All business was suspended, the street cars blocked, the elevated trains compelled to stop running, snow piled to the depth of five, six, even seven feet in the public streets. All communication with the country was absolutely cut off, and business men living out of town found it utterly impossible to make their way in. Men and women were actually frozen to death or smothered in the streets. The following graphic picture from the New York *Tribune* will help our readers in Canada, where such storms are happily hitherto unknown, to a vivid conception of the situation: "And what a spectacle the city was! Traffic and transportation stopped, business at a standstill, the exchanges suspended, court sessions postponed, banks letting their loans stand, horse cars, meat waggons, and milk carts stranded and solitary, telegraph wires dangling and winding through the air, padlocks on doors that haven't been closed save on a holiday for no one knows how many years, files of pedestrians struggling through the streets or flying all abroad on the wind, and pavements, walls, roofs, and spires hidden within a mist of whirling, blinding, suffocating snow."

THE adoption of the New Procedure rules in the British Commons marks a quiet but very real revolution in that august body. It is hard for us, at this distance, to get an adequate conception of what is involved in the mere change in the hours of sitting. Probably the English people, and even the members themselves, scarcely realize as yet its full import. There can be little doubt that it will not only greatly facilitate the despatch of business, but will do more than almost any other innovation that can be imagined, to tone down the asperities of debate, and check the tendency to strife of tongues which the feverish small hours, and other less seemingly influences, which out of respect to so illustrious an assemblage we may not hint at, were pretty sure to bring. If past records were carefully consulted it would be found, we fancy, that nearly all the bear-garden scenes which have from time to time impaired the dignity of Parliament and tarnished the lustre of its eloquence have occurred after the hour at which the House is now forced by its own rules to adjourn. It was, as a Liberal M.P. admits, "that good family man, Mr. Smith, who did it all," and the leader of the Tory majority will go down to fame as the author of one of