

suppress the evil and if possible reform the criminal, but at any rate suppress the evil. In dealing with vagrants or women of ill-repute, was a scandalous thing the custom is, if we will only think about it a moment, to drive these people away to prey upon or become a nuisance in some other community. The only excuse civil authorities can give for perpetrating this evil is that other cities do the same thing. The custom should be prohibited by law, except possibly in the case of foreign criminals, and it should be made so warm for the latter that they would never think of visiting the country again.

The tramp is not a native of Manitoba. Most of them come across our southern border every summer and migrate south again in the fall. This being the case, it should not be a difficult matter to deal with them. A simple provincial enactment if enforced a few times, would soon rid Manitoba of this evil. The remedy is the cat. There is not the least doubt but that it would prove thoroughly efficacious. The horde of lazy, vicious wanderers who annually sweep over the states along our southern border, committing all sorts of crime from petty larceny to murder, would quickly decide not to come north of the boundary line if it were known that they would meet with that kind of a reception here.

The tramp nuisance is one of the most difficult social problems which the people of the United States have to deal with. The evil is not so acute here, but it is bad enough. The application of the cat would quickly stop the nuisance here, and no maudlin sentiment should be allowed to stand in the way of the speedy adoption of the only sure remedy for the evil.

THE PREFERENTIAL CLAUSE.

It has been decided by the imperial authorities that the preference clause of the new Canadian tariff must apply to those countries having "the most favored nation" treaties with Great Britain. The Commercial said last week that the denunciation of the German and Belgian treaties indicated that the imperial government had taken the view that the preference must apply to the "favored nation" countries. This has quickly proved to be the case. As the matter stands now, countries having the "most favored nation" arrangement with Great Britain will come in for the same reduction upon their exports to Canada as has been accorded to British goods. This will mean that a rebate will have to be made in the duties collected upon imports from such countries since the new tariff went into effect. France will also, it is understood, come in for the re-

duction, owing to the "favored nation" treaty between that country and Canada, as by the treaty we are bound to extend as favorable treatment to France as is accorded to any other foreign country. The preference which it was intended should be extended only to Great Britain and the free trade colony of New South Wales, will therefore have to be very greatly extended, but we do not consider that this will work any great hardship to Canada—at least to the Canadian consumer. Aside from this, the "preference" provision in our tariff has accomplished the great work of freeing the colonies and the empire at large from those very obnoxious "most favored nation" treaties with certain foreign countries. At the end of another year, when those treaties expire, the preference will no longer be given to these countries. Any disadvantage which may be suffered in the meantime will therefore be amply repaid by the good which has been accomplished.

OPTION DEALINGS.

While there are well recognized features of a decidedly objectionable nature in connection with margin speculations in grain and other speculative commodities, it seems practically impossible to deal with option gambling without in some way injuring legitimate business. In Germany laws designed to prohibit speculative dealings of this nature were put into effect, through the efforts of the agricultural element, who believed that this class of business exerted a depressing influence upon the prices of agricultural commodities. A short experience has proved that the enforcement of these laws is working an injury to legitimate business. It is said that the farmers no longer know what prices they should receive for their grain, as no market quotations are now published. The small farmers are accordingly powerless in the hands of unscrupulous speculators. Cereal prices have not risen, as was promised by the operation of the laws. It is easy to talk about the evils of option gambling, but it is a very difficult thing to separate illegitimate from legitimate speculation, when it comes to attempting to suppress the former by law.

REDUCING THE POLICE.

The recent developments in the far Northwest will perhaps induce the government to re-consider the decision to reduce the Northwest Mounted Police force. Not long ago it was decided to reduce the force. Many people who were familiar with the requirements of the vast territory throughout which the police assist in maintaining order, considered this a

mistake. Recent developments would indicate that instead of a reduction in the force, it will be necessary to increase the strength of the body. A vast territory over which there has heretofore been no civil or military control, will have to be added to the police patrol territory, through the development of mining in the far north. Law and order will have to be maintained in that northern region, and a considerable force will be necessary to back up the majesty of the law in these remote regions. Next summer there will undoubtedly be a vast influx of people to the far Northwest, amongst whom there is certain to be a considerable sprinkling of a very rough element. It will never do to allow our mining camps to run wild after the fashion of the western states. Life and property must be made as secure in the far Northwest as in any other portion of this vast Dominion. This has always been the case in the new regions of Western Canada and there must be no departure from the rule. Some papers in the United States have already hinted that if the Canadian laws do not suit their people who are going in swarms to the northern gold regions, they would take the law in their own hands. There is little fear of anything of the kind happening but should there be any disposition to introduce western states methods in our northern mining camps we must show our friends that Canadian law must be respected.

The region over which it will be necessary to maintain police control may be expected to greatly increase during the next few years. In addition to the new mining territories throughout which law and order will have to be maintained, there is also the question of protecting the fur-bearing animals of the north country. The fur trade is one of the great natural resources of the great north country, and the trade should be protected. The difficulty heretofore has been the absence of any sort of civil authority throughout the north country. There is also the question of protecting the timber resources from the destructive fires which have done so much damage during recent years. These are matters which could only be undertaken by extending police control over the territory, all of which goes to show that it will be many years before the Northwest Mounted Police force can be decreased without injury to the country.

EXPERIMENTAL FARM REPORTS.

The annual report for 1896 of the Dominion government experimental farms, has been received. The report makes a volume of nearly 500 pages, with numerous illustrations, forming a most useful work on practical agri-