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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

TIMES change, and men and nations change with them. Some of the English papers are calling attention to the marked change which is coming over the feelings of the people in the newer and younger countries of the world in regard to immigration. Time was when immigrants from all quarters were welcomed, and every new comer was regarded as an acquisition, a direct addition to the strength of the country. But now there is everywhere a disposition to look askance at the new arrivals, and to exercise a power of selection and of veto in regard to them. For this change the old countries are themselves in a great measure responsible. Their selfish instincts have led them to strive to retain the useful and send off the useless members of their communities. Precisely the same instinct it is which prompts the people of the Colonies to refuse the useless, and welcome only the useful. This change in the attitude of America and Australia towards Europe and Asia is a sure sign of the times. To what extent it will check the streams of immigration which have been for years pouring forth from the cities and harbours of the old world, remains to be seen. If it were simply the pauperized and physically and morally worthless who were being rejected, the problem would be simplified. But the movement for exclusion is likely to become even stronger as directed against the able-bodied and industrious. They are those whose competition is likely to be felt by the labouring classes, and against whom the influence of those classes, now so powerful, will be more and more directed. The opposition to such immigration is real, and it is becoming serious. Two distinct and important questions are raised by it. First, Have the occupiers of a new country the moral right to forbid entrance to others, and if so, when, and at what stage of occupancy do they acquire that right? Second, Is such a policy of exclusion economically sound and wise? Both questions demand fuller and more dispassionate consideration than they have yet received.

A good deal of surprise has been not unnaturally excited by the remarkably light sentence imposed by Judge Wurtele at the Aylmer Assizes upon Messrs. John Casgrove and James McCall for embezzlement of public funds under the former Quebec Government. There was, it appears, no doubt whatever that the offence was committed, the parties having plead guilty to the indictment. Nor was the character of the

transaction, so far as appears, questioned, the judge having taken occasion to remark from the Bench that the crime of stealing from the public funds is just as heinous as that of stealing from private individuals. The statement seems, indeed, so like a truism that it is no compliment to the morals of public officials that the learned judge should have thought it necessary to make it. But the principle thus gravely laid down seemed strangely inconsistent, to say the least, with the merely nominal punishment awarded for so grave an offence. Surely some important mitigating circumstances must have been in the mind of the judge, or he could not have found it consistent with his sense of public duty to let off those convicted of embezzling, appropriating under false pretences, \$500 apiece from the public treasury, with a sentence of six hours' imprisonment. If the custom of dealing loosely or dishonestly with public funds is becoming so alarmingly common, as Judge Wurtele's words seem to imply, it is clearly the more necessary that exemplary punishment should be inflicted in every case where such a charge is clearly established. We are reluctant to comment upon a judicial decision thus rendered after full investigation of facts and circumstances, but it does seem that, in the interests of public morality, the palliating considerations which were sufficiently powerful with the court to warrant so light a sentence for so grave an offence should be made known, in order that the judgment of the court may be seen to be consistent with the sound maxim enunciated by it.

THERE has been for some time past a growing dissatisfaction in the minds of the more thoughtful with the subjects and methods of our vaunted Public School education. In this, as in so many other matters having relation to civic and social life, the period of complacency is passing away, and that of close and logical scrutiny beginning. Especially is it coming to be seen and felt on all hands that common school education, as ordinarily understood, has "too much to do with books and too little to do with things." The report which Inspector Hughes has recently submitted to the Toronto School Board, as well as the evidence submitted a few weeks since before the Labour Commission, give some reason to hope that Ontario may not be behind in considering and adopting the improved methods. The important thing to be considered in connection with the Public School system is that the training of the hand and eye, which has hitherto been almost wholly neglected, is a most important factor in all good education. It is, to say the least, doubtful whether it will ever be advisable for the State to undertake anything of the nature of technical training as a preparation for particular trades or industries. But, as Professor Huxley observes, in the April *Popular Science Monthly*, "If there were no such things as industrial pursuits, a system of education which does nothing for the faculties of observation, which trains neither the eye nor the hand, and is compatible with utter grievance of the commonest natural truths, might still be reasonably regarded as strangely imperfect." It is to be hoped that the Toronto School Board will take the lead in introducing the most important reform suggested into the Public Schools of Ontario.

THE overcrowding of the learned professions has for some time past been a serious problem in Germany, in which the facilities for higher education are probably greater than those offered in any other country. But the same question is beginning to force itself upon public attention even in America. At a recent meeting of the American Medical Association, in Cincinnati, a plan was proposed and received with great applause for limiting both the number of medical graduates and of medical schools in the United States, by securing concerted action on the part of the different States. Even in Canada the competition for positions as teachers in the public schools, though unfortunately public school teaching can hardly as yet be considered a learned profession, is becoming so keen as to lead to serious discussion of methods for keeping down the supply. To an onlooker it would seem as if the natural and legitimate method of reducing supply in all such cases should be found, not in any system of arbitrary restriction in numbers of students or of schools, but in steadily raising the standard of qualification higher and higher. Another correction of a still more salutary kind would be found if courses and methods of instruction in the higher institutions could be so changed as to give to pursuits such as agriculture and horticulture the same attractiveness and popularity which now