

and transportation systems, have so reduced the death rate in India that it is alleged there are fifty millions more in that country now than at the time of the Mutiny. But so low is the earning power of the Ryots that many millions are living continually on the verge of starvation, and when the crop fails they face its sternest reality.

#### WHY NOT RATIFY ?

It is a disappointment to two nations that the United States Senate has failed to promptly ratify the arbitration treaty. It is evident that the Senate does not represent the better sentiment of the American people. The senators seem to resent the moral pressure brought to bear by the pulpit, the press, the universities, and the thoughtful intelligence of the country.

The *Independent* in a strong article says: "The eyes of the country are on the Senate, and as it deals with the treaty so will the public be pleased or displeased, for the American people are very much in earnest in this matter."

*Harper's Weekly* expresses similar sentiment. "It is no exaggeration to say that the eyes of the world are on the United States Senate at this moment. With the treaty the Senate is also on trial." "It is obvious," it continues, "that unless popular interest forces the Senate to do its duty, malice and ignorance are likely to score one more success against civilization."

Speaking of the insistence on the Venezuela arbitration, the *Independent* asks, "Is arbitration something that is good for other nations and bad for us? Such reasoning is childish."

The peace-loving people of the United States strongly desire that a Higher Power should "teach their senators wisdom." One ground of the reluctance to ratify is alleged to be some Jingo hangers-on of the American navy, known at Washington as the War Syndicate, who seem to fear that their occupation would be gone were the reign of peace assured. An American humourist inquires:

"What will become of those who make  
Plate armour, proof against all shot,  
And then project a projectile  
To send that armour straight to pot?"

"What will become, likewise, of that  
Most valiant and courageous corps  
Who, safe in peaceful paths, do pen  
Dispatches from the seat of war?"

British opinion seems universally in favour of the treaty. The *Daily Chronicle* describes the treaty as "the greatest effort ever made, since the world began, to inaugurate the reign of universal peace."

The *Methodist Times* says: "The great fact which will remain conspicuous forever is the fact that at last two of the greatest powers on earth have agreed to substitute reason and justice for brute force and bloodshed. That is the beginning of the end foretold so long ago by the prophets of God. It is by far the most glorious event in the long reign of Queen Victoria."

This very cordial reception of the treaty is alleged by some sapient senators as a good reason for refusing to ratify it. One would think that the lesson of the panic in Wall Street after the President's war message, and the fall of stocks created by the Jingo action of the Senate in the Cuban affair, would show the money value of having some permanent relief from war scares. It would be worth uncounted millions to American securities. English gold would flow in in a Pactolian stream to American investments, and greatly enrich the nation.

The allegation of Senator Stewart, of Nevada, that Britain uniformly got the better in arbitration with the United States is certainly disproved by the fact that for half the Alabama award of \$15,000,000 claimants could not be found. The absurd manner in which the State of Maine juts into Canadian territory shows that Canada failed of justice in the Ashburton Treaty. Yet, in the interest of civilization and Christianity, Great Britain is willing to appeal to the sense of justice of mankind? Why should not the United States?

The recent *emette* in Crete may precipitate the crisis which seems imminent in Europe. The Turkish Empire seems to be going to pieces, and little Greece is eager to claim her share. Crete is too accessible to the warships of the Powers to permit Turkey to repeat her policy of slaughter as practised in the inaccessible mountains of Armenia.

#### PRISON REFORM.

Dr. Lathern's excellent article in our last number, like the Hon. S. H. Blake's in the November number, touches a subject of great importance to our Dominion. The Prisoners' Aid Association of Toronto, of which Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh is