

these propositions are true, but this is just what the *Advertiser* would like to have its readers believe. The restlessness of nature in the young men and women of all countries induces them to roam. No matter how pleasant and advantageous their surroundings may be at home, they do not always appreciate them, and are led by a hope to better their condition to seek their fortune in other lands. It is this spirit of restlessness that has dispersed the human race over the whole world, and Canadians are none the less imbued with it than other people.

It is to be regretted that so able a journal as the *Advertiser* finds it impossible to discuss so important a question as that of immigration into Canada without introducing innuendos and flings at the Government, who are doing their best, according to the lights before them, and at a trade policy that has been of wonderful benefit to the country. We are all agreed that Canada needs the immigration of good and desirable men and women, and that this is essential to the fuller development of our wonderful resources; we are also agreed that undesirable immigration should be prevented; and if it is desirable that harmony should prevail in discussing the question, it will be necessary to discuss it on its merits, and not drag in other questions upon which we are not all agreed.

#### DEMOCRACY IN THE SOUTH.

DURING the latter part of last month considerable interest was centred around the fact that an insurrection against the laws existed in the coal region of East Tennessee, growing out of the efforts of the organized coal miners there to prevent the working of penitentiary convicts in the mines. Vast quantities of coal are taken from these mines to supply fuel to the iron works in Northern Georgia and Alabama and Central Tennessee, and the convicts have been used as miners in the business. The free miners are displaced from their business by the introduction of the convicts, and are very justly incensed thereat. We do not know what remuneration is paid to the State for the services of these convicts. In the 1886 report of Hon. Carroll D. Wright, United States Commissioner of Labor, referring to Tennessee, he states that the convicts of that State are leased to coal mining contractors who work them in the coal mines, paying the State for their services 24½ cents per day each; and that the average price per day for free labor in that occupation in the vicinity of the mines was \$2.50. Free labor at \$2.50 per day is not overpaid, and it is impossible that free men can compete with convict labor where the remuneration is only 24½ cents per day; and the issue now before the authorities of Tennessee is whether the free miners, being thrown out of their occupation, shall starve to the end that the convicts may be kept at work; and whether the contractors of this convict labor shall reap the difference in their coal-mining operations between the cost of convict and of free labor.

As society is now constituted in Tennessee and the other States in the South there is never any shortage in the supply of convict labor. Perhaps over ninety per cent. of Southern convicts are negroes, for it must be remembered that Southern Democrats, who are in power, consider that negroes have no rights that the whites are bound to respect; and as the

negroes, when free, are disposed to vote other than the Democratic ticket, it is found easier and more convenient to restrain the negroes of their freedom, and this is done generally by convicting them of any misdemeanor or crime with which they may be charged, and consigning them to servitude for long terms of years in the penitentiaries, or to the coal mine contractors which amounts to the same thing. Southern Democrats as a class are ultra aristocrats, and they view the poor whites and the negroes as being inferior beings who exist in their midst on sufferance. Therefore, as in Tennessee, the negro convicts are leased to contractors who are infinitely more cruel and exacting than the slave drivers were in the days of anti-bellum slavery; and, whenever these unfortunates can be profitably employed, as in coal mining, they are crowded in to the exclusion of the free miners of both colors. Civilization in the South does not permit any man, white or negro, to vote for legislators who does not vote the straight Democratic ticket, and no man can be a candidate on a Democratic ticket who can possibly consider the rights of the poor man when in conflict with the interests of the aristocrats. If this were not so there would never have been occasions for such occurrences as have recently attracted the attention of the world to the Tennessee coal region. In justice to the laboring classes no law should ever have been made there which would have thrown free miners out of employment, replacing them with convicts for which the contractors pay less than twenty-five cents per day. As it is, under the reign of these aristocrats, the free miners are expected to submit to starvation and to see their families die of want before their eyes—not because there is no work for them to do, but because the contractors of prison labor can supply their places at a cost of one-tenth of what the labor of free men is worth.

Some may blame these Tennessee miners for taking up arms to redress their grievances instead of quietly submitting to them. But it may be said that between the evils which environ them, death from rebellion, if death it must be, is no worse than the starvation and misery that is killing them; and they know that appealing to the Government for a redress of their wrongs is equivalent to their filling their bellies with the east wind. The Government of the State will do nothing for them. The United States Government is helpless to do anything, and the alternatives left to these unhappy miners is to starve to death where they are, take up arms and rebel against the laws of the state, or expatriate themselves by emigration to more favored climes.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

IN a former article we contended that, if the Government had preserved a duty of 40 or 50 cents per hundred pounds on raw sugar, and put the duty on refined at 80 cents, the country would have derived a revenue of over a million dollars, and consumers would have obtained their refined sugar as cheaply as they do now. The revenue so derived would have enabled the Government to aid many public works which it is now unable to assist; and a very small portion of it appropriated for the encouragement of the beet-sugar enterprise, would have secured its rapid and certain success. We believe an error