

and Hawaii and the coasting trade of these islands to vessels of American registry." It is almost incredible that a policy such as is that recommended should, at this time of day, be seriously entered upon. A recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury does not bind Congress. Recommendations are constantly made by heads of Departments at Washington which fall still-born. Mr. Gage has several times recommended a currency law which would confer large benefits upon the class to which he belongs, bankers, but Congress has not given the slightest indication of responding. It remains to be seen whether this will be the fate of the one under notice. Considering the time and the circumstances under which it is made, this last recommendation is a monument of illiberality which we would rather have expected to emanate from some other person.

All the great features of the treaty of peace between Spain and the United States have been agreed to. Spain relinquishes Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines, and is to withdraw her troops, according to a programme in which full details are given. On account of the Philippines the United States is to pay Spain \$20,000,000. The treaty will have to obtain the sanction of the Spanish Cortes and the United States Senate. In both these bodies some opposition may be looked for, but from neither need rejection be feared. In the United States there is a large number of people who object to the new policy of expansion, but there is no reason to believe that they are a majority of the population or of either branch of Congress. And as the question as to these new acquisitions is settled, it is once settled for ever, the number of opponents of the new policy must tend to decrease for want of material to fasten upon. Their ineffective opposition will become a reminiscence. Some difficulty over the government of these new acquisitions there will be, but the necessary machinery for the purpose, though it does not exist, will have to be created. Over the payment of \$20,000,000 for the Philippines there is sure to be some criticism, but it must be ineffective, for the islands are worth a much larger sum. Practical difficulties of climate will have to be faced; and for this work preparation is already being made in the study of climatic conditions in the neighboring island of Jamaica. The rebels in the Philippines are not satisfied with the new order of things, nor are those of Cuba; both desire independence, which both are unfitted to maintain. The governing of these subject races, discontented at the outset, is one of the tasks to which the Government of Washington will have to apply itself.

The New York Chamber of Commerce seizes the present opportunity, which is deemed favorable, for making an appeal to the National Government to take steps looking to the abolition of what it calls legalized robbery on the sea in time of war. Several countries, not including the United States, have already abolished privateering; the present proposal would prevent the capture, by war vessels, of the private property of the enemy. American war ships made some such capture at the beginning of the war, and the nation, to do it justice, was not proud of the exploit. The Chamber of Commerce proposes that the United States Government should invite the nations to enter into a common agreement for this purpose. The adhesion of the Republic to the declaration of Berlin would almost, if not entirely, cover the ground, and would be a simple and unostentatious proceeding.

An incident connected with the trial for bank robbery at Napanee was the reading of the Riot Act before the

verdict of guilty against one of the accused and a disagreement, which came within two of an acquittal, in the case of the other prisoner, became known. A street row led to the reading of the Riot Act, which appears, in spite of the opinion of the Napanee council, to have been a just and necessary step. Moreover, it had the desired effect of putting a stop to the rowdyism. One effect will almost certainly be that when Ponton is put on his trial again the venue will be changed. This sort of rowdyism, which appears to have been intended to express disapprobation with the charge of the judge, is new in Canada, and it was essential that the evil should be nipped in the bud.

Cheap, inferior and doubtful kinds of teas will hereafter undergo tests by experts of the Canadian Government. This precaution has been found necessary in other countries, where the good effects have been seen in the condemnation of teas unfit for use by human beings. There is of course a strong temptation to send here teas which have been rejected in the United States, and rumors have at times gained ground that such transfer had actually been made. The high priced teas carry their own recommendation and will not be interfered with. The supposition that a worthless tea could not be sold at a high price is probably correct, though some amusing stories have been told which would tend to invalidate it, such as goods offered at a low price not being sold, and going off well when the price had been raised out of all proportion to the value. But such incidents, the reverse of the general rule, must be rare.

THE CAUSES OF CRIME.

Thirty-five per cent. of all persons convicted of crime in Canada last year are officially put down as immoderate drinkers. This is a suspicious connection between crime and drunkenness; but the bare coincidence does not prove that drunkenness was the cause of so many crimes, or that crime was the cause of drunkenness. Some reciprocal action of this kind there undoubtedly was. Nearly two-thirds of the crimes were committed by persons against whom no such charge is or can be made. But when we consider that there were only 5,721 convictions in a population of five millions, it is evident that the number of convicted criminals is much greater among immoderate drinkers than among the rest of the population, and this disproportion requires to be explained. There is a strong presumption that drunkenness was a cause of crime. But it may be that we shall frequently find the explanation of both the drunkenness and the crime in some defect of the organization of the individual, either physical or mental. Statistics which merely show a coincidence are far from being of the highest value. Would it not be worth while to obtain some further facts regarding the condition of the health of the criminal class? Perhaps this would enable society to apply a preventive against crime which it cannot now use. Habitual drunkards are not seldom persons whose nervous organization is, from birth, defective. It is reasonable to suspect, and more than suspect, that drunkenness is a cause of crime; what we want to know is, what is the cause of drunkenness. Drunkenness is so unlovely a thing that most of us are willing to set it down to mere perversity of disposition. Medical men tell us that it is often congenital; in these cases the victim to the habit deserves only our pity, though he often gets our disdain. To the congenital drunkard society owes some duty. He ought to be saved from himself; himself he cannot save from the tyranny of the inborn propensity. He is not wholly a responsible being, and as an imperfect