

population in Europe can only be clearly seen when we remember that there is no such restraint exercised in Asia, and that the surplus population of Asia is even now competing with that of Europe for the possession of the American Continent.

But the most powerful opposition to the carrying out of any liberal scheme for promoting emigration comes from the capitalists of the Mother Country and those who speak in their behalf. This has been made more clearly apparent than ever by the conduct of the upper classes during the late agricultural strike in the South of England, when even a prominent dignitary of the Established Church went out of his way to declare himself in favor of using the harshest measures towards those who were goaded into social insurrection by a state of affairs and a condition of life outrageously oppressive almost beyond credibility. It is not difficult to understand why the ruling classes in England should oppose emigration, since it would tend to diminish the supply of labor, raise the wages of employees, and diminish the profits of capital; but it is to be hoped that opposition based on a plea characterised by the most unmitigated selfishness will not long be allowed to stand in the way of a movement fraught with so much benefit to the masses.

A far more insidious argument against encouraging emigration is one which may by courtesy be granted the title of "patriotic," though such patriotism is of a very selfish, narrow and unenlightened kind. It is contended that the efflux of laborers will raise the wages of labor by diminishing the supply, that this must of necessity enhance the cost of production, and that Britain must be placed, relatively, at a disadvantage in the markets of the world. It is predicted that her commercial greatness, depending as it does, mainly on her manufactures and her mineral productions—these being so closely associated with cheap labor—will decline, as the enhanced cost of her goods enables other nations to undersell her, that her supremacy will soon vanish, and that she will sink rapidly to the rank of a third or fourth rate power in Europe, if, indeed, she has not reached that stage already. That there is much force in this reasoning, Englishmen are even now learning by experience, when the prices of coal and iron are rapidly increasing, through the diminution of the supply, caused by the operation of strikes and lock-outs. The whole plea might safely be admitted to be valid from the point of view of selfish