

cused should be accorded the protection of our free institutions. Such a course is not only dictated by the demands of humanity, but is best calculated to make the more reactionary nations take an enlightened view of their position. Barbarism continues longest in the punishment of offences real and artificial, and a reactionary nation will be inspired to take thought of its condition when it sees other lands glad to welcome its supposed offenders. For the real criminal no nation should provide refuge. But when men are driven to real criminality by the artificial creation of offences, the nation and not the individual is the offender. To surrender a political offender for vindictive punishment would be a serious reflection on the people of Canada, and no effort should be spared to avoid any such irreparable mistake. The man who asks for a refuge from barbarous pursuit is entitled to a full consideration of his claims on grounds of human and political rights as interpreted by modern enlightenment.

#### EXTRADITION OF FEDERENKO.

That Canada has no desire to admit or retain undesirable classes from abroad is shown by the strict immigration laws which are carefully and efficiently enforced. The protests from all parts of the Dominion against the surrendering of Federenko to the Russian authorities is all the more significant, as it shows a healthy desire to accord to the more advanced men of the reactionary nations the freedom we have won. Canada has established an important and commendable precedent in refusing to return a fugitive slave to slavery on the demand of a nation whose civilization was still under eclipse, and the fact that the fugitive took a life in seeking his inalienable rights as a man did not affect the decision. There should be no retreat from that position. We have refused to surrender for barbarous punishment and a life of slavery the slave who sought to assert his natural rights as a man and we should also refuse to surrender for the same fate the man who has sought to assert his natural rights as a citizen.

It is not our duty to aid the barbarities of less advanced nations. It is incumbent on the Department of Justice to make a thorough inquiry and investigation before taking action in the matter. If the primary offence is of a political nature and not a violation of the laws of enlightened and self-governing countries the ac-