

prohibits the importation of any child who has been convicted of crime or has displayed criminal tendencies. Every society or agent bringing children into the Province is required to maintain supervision over them till they reach the age of eighteen years, and also to provide a home for them if they return from the foster homes in which they are placed. A penalty is provided for any society or agent bringing into the Province any child physically or mentally defective, any child of criminal or vicious tendencies or the child of any criminal, lunatic, idiot, pauper or diseased person. These laws have been instrumental on many occasions in saving the Province from undesirable acquisitions. The policy of the Government has warded off what might have developed into a serious evil, and it should be continued with greater stringency.

UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRANTS.

From occasional disclosures it is made evident that we are by no means too strict in our scrutiny of immigrants. It is the right of every country to protect its standard of citizenship and to prevent the lowering influence of undesirable elements from abroad. A cable despatch tells of a danger to which we are exposed:—

"Alfred Smith, aged fifteen, was charged with theft in the Birmingham Police Court, and the Magistrate said the only course which suggested itself was to send Smith to Canada through the Middlemore homes. This course was agreed to."

It may be that this youth would develop into a useful member of the community in Canada. It is quite possible that equally lenient treatment at home would turn him from the path of crime on which he has entered and make him a worthy citizen. His chances of reform are far better in Canada than in Britain because there are better opportunities here for securing a footing on the right road. But there are important considerations for us other than the reformation of British criminals. We are blindly following along the line of development chosen by older countries, and have gone sufficiently far to produce our own by-product of apparently surplus humanity. We have men and boys who find the path of rectitude so crowded that they are forced into ways of crime. Clearly we owe it to ourselves as well as to other nations to let them deal with their own surplus humanity. When conditions are such that some must be crowded into the ranks of the criminal and the pauper the victims will be, as a rule, those with the poorest moral, mental and physical endowments. The migration of such an element must lower the standard of the country of their adoption. War has a deteriorating influence in killing off the strongest and most courageous. The same influence is exerted by the admixture of an inferior element from another country. The Dominion has suffered in this regard. Many undesirable immigrants have been brought here by public encouragement and also by the business methods of transportation companies. We have also suffered through the eagerness of European countries to unload on us their own pauper and criminal elements. The Ontario and Dominion Governments have already taken active measures to prevent the immigration of undesirable classes. The Ontario law