

Immigration and Protection.

Immigration under present conditions presents a serious problem.

No one can sit at his desk and absorb the facts that come to us in reports without appreciating the peril that threatens should hard times come to this country.

I am not an alarmist, but when I see hundreds of thousands of ignorant foreigners coming into our great cities every year I think I can realize in some degree the danger that will come from their discontent and dissatisfaction when there are no wages to be earned.—Commissioner Sargent.

"When there are no wages to be earned." What memories such a supposition brings up. It carries us back to the days of panic and idleness following the Compromise Tariff of 1833; it carries us back to the workless and wageless days and years between 1850 and 1860, brought on by Free-Trade; it carries us back to the idle men and women of 1895-6, and the loss of earnings due to the Free-Trade law of 1894, says American Economist.

With the experience and knowledge which we gained from these awful periods following Free-Trade legislation, we can well appreciate the necessity of continuing our present excellent tariff law to enable us to care for these millions who are coming to our shores. We must protect them by continuing to protect our labor and industry from one end of the country to the other. It may be that some of these immigrants are of an undesirable character. It may be that better immigration laws are desirable. That is something that we must leave to the wisdom of Congress. Whatever the present law is we must accept it and face the conditions which are before us. It is protection and prosperity that invites these foreigners to our shores. They do not come in such numbers when we are living under Free-Trade. The same fiscal policy which invites them must protect them and enable them to gain a foothold and become profitable members of the great American army of producers and consumers.

It does not take so very long for a foreigner leaving his home where he gained an income of perhaps twenty cents a day to become a good American citizen earning ten times that amount per day. Perhaps at first the foreigner is careful of his dollars, and is not so liberal in his expenditures as the native born and those who have been citizens a number of years. But soon he begins to aim at the American standard of living, he becomes ambitious to own his business and his own home, and to dress and eat and enjoy the same luxuries as the average American citizens throughout the country.

Our home market has most appreciably increased annually, not only by our own augmented wants, but by the increased demands of the newcomer. In but a few years the most diligent become independent, while a few join our wealthy classes. Among our millionaires today can be found the representatives of every nation on earth, many of whom came to our shores but a few years ago penniless. It may be that our immigration laws are too liberal, or it may be that they are too liberally administered. At the same time we have gone on now for over a century inviting the poor and the weak from abroad to this country of opportunity. There need be no fear but what the vast majority of these immigrants will in a very short time become good American citizens, law abiding, well to do and reputable upbuilders of the nation's institutions. There may be lawless characters among them, and these must be checked with a firm hand at the first evidence of any outbreak against the country's laws and customs.

No doubt a return to Free-Trade and idleness would bring a conditions awful to contemplate. It would bring riot and war with the inevitable poverty and ruin and death which follow in the wake of a fiscal policy giving no opportunity for employment and no chance for compensation. Let us see to it, then, that we continue our present most admirable fiscal policy; that we continue to protect our men as well as our industries; that we continue to maintain and build up our home market, worth more than all the markets of the world combined, and that we do not disturb the causes of the present splendid growth of industries, our splendid advancement of citizenship and our splendid standard of living, which cannot help but invite those abroad who have been struggling for a bare subsistence, and have in their nature a single spark of ambition.

A Pitiful Case.

"God says I must kill and eat my little boy, and I dare not disobey him. How can I do it? Oh, how can I do it?"

This was the wild cry that rang out in Superior Judge Albertson's courtroom and startled the staid lawyers and hardened hangers-on about the courthouse. It was the finale of one of the most pathetic incidents in the social life of Seattle.

Four months ago Mrs. Sophia Nelson was a bright-eyed sunnytempered little lady, the chief ornament of a lovely home, the object of a loving husband's care and beloved by her numerous friends and acquaintances. Last week she was sent to the Stillacoom insane asylum a howling maniac, believing herself commanded by God to kill and devour her infant child.

It was just four months ago that Mrs. Nelson gave birth to a baby boy, and the loss of her mind is attributed by the physicians to the agonies of childbirth. When she was taken into Judge Albertson's court to be examined as to her sanity the scene was pathetic beyond description. The efforts of the sweet-faced trained nurse, who had been caring for her, and her broken-hearted husband and brother to calm her were without avail. Her agony at the thought that she must obey the imaginary command was terrible to see. She repeatedly attempted to check herself, screaming: "Lord, let me sacrifice myself instead of my boy."

As the unfortunate woman was taken from the courtroom she threw her arms around her husband's neck and implored him to pray to God to release her from the awful promise she said she had given.

Preparing Strawberry Plants for Fall.

Now is the time to do this. Get a lot of 3-inch flower pots, and prepare a rich compost for them. Go into the strawberry patch and find the young runners that have made little white roots an inch or so long. Take these to a convenient table and pot them in the 3-inch pots. Now in an unused cold frame spread a bed of coal ashes and on these set the pots closely together. Water well and shade with a screen of building laths nailed an inch apart and then see that the plants never suffer for water. You can attend to a large number in this way, and in the fall you will have a lot of plants that can be knocked out of the pots and set so as to get strong enough to make a full crop the next spring. The books will tell you a lot about growing pot plants of strawberries by crawling about the patch and buying pots and putting the runners on them to root. But all this is a waste of time and labor, and you can have just as good potted plants by taking up the young runners as suggested and potting them in a convenient place. Growers in the trade who offer the potted plants by the thousands do not crawl over the ground and sink the pots in the soil. They leave that advice for those who do not know better.—Practical Farmer.

Write your Farm Experience and Send

In 1902 the Southern Pacific Company published a pamphlet entitled "California Industries." It contained principally the personal testimonies of experienced cultivators, says the Pacific Homestead. A short description of the different sections was given and following this the testimonies of fruit growers, dairymen, etc., etc., showing the number of acres cultivated to oranges, grapes, olives, alfalfa, etc., the cost to cultivate the yield per acre and price the products were sold for. This was one of the most practical pieces of literature that could be put out. Mr. W. E. Coman, G. P. A., of the Southern Pacific Company, has written the agents of that company in Oregon that it is the intention to get up a similar publication for Oregon and asks that all who are able to give the results from their farms, dairies, fruit orchards, berry patches, etc., in Oregon, write the results for publication in this pamphlet. He says he wants only the actual results under favorable conditions—the same as can be accomplished by any intelligent grower under normal conditions; that is, he wants only honest representations. Any of our readers in Oregon who will take the time to give their experiences will be doing the company a courtesy and the state justice. You may send your statement to Mr. Coman, or to the Plaindealer and it will be forwarded to him.

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