

clergy that their interference in matters not strictly (according to the American view) coming under the jurisdiction of the church, will from now on in this country not be censured by the highest authorities. Of course, there is nothing surprising in this except the frankness and openness with which the policy of Rome is acknowledged. Further developments will show more clearly what the pope's representative really had in view in his now famous decision and what the consequences will be in other affairs than those directly involved.

COMFORT FOR TEA DRINKERS.

Tea drinkers may find some consolation in the fact that the war between Japan and China is not likely to increase the price of tea, at least at present. The crop for the year has been gathered, and there is a very large store in supply; and the conflict now on, while it is confined to the Mongolians, does not interfere with the working of the tea plantations in India. The only effect the opening of war has had so far on the tea market is to reduce the price of the new article about \$1 per hundred pounds, caused by the Japanese crowding in an unusual quantity in order to realize the cash. And in this connection it may be interesting to quote from the department of agriculture report, showing that Japan produced last year 64,100,000 pounds of tea, of which only 228,773 pounds was retained for home consumption. These figures show a condition widely divergent from the usual idea of the Japanese, who are popularly supposed to be constantly steeping and sipping the fragrant shrub. Instead of that the report shows that they use a very small quantity of the chief production of their country. Perhaps they are like the small boy who was urged to take a meat pie at a children's party, and who refused with a "No ma'am, thank you; I works where they're made."

RUSSIAN CONDITIONS.

The slow progress of the Russian people in civilization is a fact difficult to account for. It is true that since the time of Peter the Great, whose victorious armies and mighty genius lifted the empire up to the position of one of the great powers of the world, there has been steady advancement in every direction; but it is equally true that this advancement can bear no comparison with that of the rest of Europe, not to mention the phenomenal growth of our own country. And it is equally true that what progress has been made in Russia is confined almost entirely to the upper classes, the favored few, who mostly have had the benefit of foreign influences, while the masses of the people remain practically in a condition not much above semi-barbarous. It is strange

that in a country with such vast agricultural and mining resources, the bulk of the nation should be plunged in a bottomless pit of debt, almost starving to death; that the clouds of ignorance and superstition should darken the face of the land while neighboring countries are basking in the light of knowledge and freedom of thought. To say that all this is due to the established form of government is not to account for the fact; it is but to state another fact equally strange, and both no doubt being but different effects of the same cause. History teaches plainly that when a people really advance in civilization, in a desire for liberty and enlightenment, no despotic government can keep them back forever. As they grow and expand they will burst their fetters and crush despotism with irresistible force, or perish in the attempt.

Recently some interesting figures illustrative of conditions in Russia have been published, which throw a ray of light on this subject. It is shown that the death rate in that country is enormous. According to the reports of the medical department, the rate of mortality for the whole empire ranges from 31 to 37 per 1,000, and in the thirteen central provinces of European Russia it reaches 62 per 1,000. Last year in 128 districts the deaths exceeded the births, indicating, it would seem, that the population is actually dying out. The death rate throughout is about twice that of Great Britain and exceeds largely that of every other European country. In 1886 it was calculated that the average duration of life in Russia is 29 years, while in Germany it is 37 years, and the fact is that the mortality is greater among the country population than in the cities, proving that it is not due entirely to bad sanitary regulations.

There must be a cause for this, and it is thought to be found in the fact that a vast majority of the people are actually starving. The food of the Russian laborer consists chiefly of bread. Statistics show that the gross product of the country when the exports and that which is reserved for seed are deducted leave just about 390 pounds a year per capita, or less than half what is allowed a convict in English prisons. With all his toil and economy, the average Russian peasant cannot earn enough to pay his taxes and secure the food necessary to maintain his vitality. The government now has an account of \$58,428,621 taxes in arrears, and \$200,000,000 for food furnished from public storehouses, all charged to the peasants.

These figures show, even if they are but approximately correct, the true cause of the enormous mortality in the country and also the condition of stagnation in which the Russian people exist. Neither intellectual nor physical progress is possible when impeded by hunger. A people daily starving and grappling with the problem of mere living as with an impossible puzzle are not likely to take much interest in the higher questions of life, such as education and individual human rights; nor are they in a position to give time and thought to such things, even if they should mo-

mentarily feel an interest in them. Disheartened, despairing, the peasants plunged in debt and slowly dying of want cannot have ambition enough, as a rule, to rise and demand reforms; they try to forget their misery in intoxicating drinks, resigned to their fate and accepting it as unavoidable.

It is of but little avail that the higher classes of the people live in luxury and get the benefit of civilization abroad. They are not and cannot be in touch with the suffering masses, the main body of the nation. These remain sick and unable to profit by the advance of civilization around them.

The great lesson to be drawn from Russian conditions is that any nation that will advance and maintain its position in the front ranks of civilization must see to it that all its resources are so utilized as to give the laboring classes the means of living in accordance with the requirements of nature. If the laborers and their interests are so neglected that starvation is the result, the nation as a whole will suffer; and the outcome must be either dissolution or a relapse to despotism in one form or another.

A GRAND TRAIT.

The News was much impressed with the following remark of a staunch friend of the people of Utah, a gentleman who knows them well, although he is not one of them: "I have been telling your friends in the East, when the stories of this political party's trickery and the other political party's unfairness would be telegraphed on for unfavorable effect, 'Never mind about such things; don't quibble and become fearful that one side or the other is going to get the advantage by any sharp practice; the people of Utah know how to deal with knaves, whatever the name or politics the latter may have; any crowd or clique that try to put up a job on them will be sure to get the worst of it.'"

This fine tribute to the perception and the sense of justice of the citizens of this Territory will be appreciated, and all ought to see to it that for the future it is still more highly deserved. The News believes it has been and is true of the people inhabiting these mountain valleys. They never were blindly, intensely and bitterly partisan, and we trust they never will be. Our faith in their integrity is that no party affiliation will be strong enough to make them partners in and beneficiaries of political chicanery, selfishness or fraud. We know them well enough to promise that crooked work of any and every kind cannot escape their stern rebuke. They are a patient and a charitable people, but they are honest, and will have fair play in politics as well as in business. This is not saying that they are or will be prone to party treachery. On the contrary, it is saying in the most emphatic kind of a way that, fighting bravely for right