

of a probable outbreak of cholera in Europe, on the approach of warm weather, it may be judicious to extend the prohibitive policy invoked by President Harrison. The exigencies of the case last year required the prompt and decisive measures adopted; and similar or even stronger reasons may exist this season for their continuance. For all of this, the law as it stands is sufficient.

During the past year there were 374,741 immigrants admitted at the port of New York, with occupations classed as follows: Architects, 72; brewers, 563; butchers, 1814; barbers, 848; bakers, 1583; blacksmiths, 1786; bartenders, 280; bricklayers, 716; carpenters, 3656; cabinetmakers, 1459; confectioners, 377; cigar makers, 624; cooks, 431; coopers, 434; farmers, 28,612; florists, 208; gardeners, 701; hatters, 418; iron molders, 866; laborers, 104,343; locksmiths, 1196; laundrymen, 12; masons, 3353; miners, 4870; machinists, 1672; millers, 636; musicians, 660; painters, 1425; peddlers, 789; plasterers, 263; porters, 242; potters, 217; printers, 582; saddlers, 573; shoemakers, 8575; spinners, 451; tailors, 5,076; tinmiths, 755; tanners, 573; wagonsmiths, 416; weavers, 1,534; waiters, 763; all other occupations, 14,764; no occupation, including women and children, 180,833; total, 374,741. The destination of these people was as follows:

Alaska.....	7	Montana.....	1,102
Alabama.....	297	Massachusetts.....	16,219
Arizona.....	156	New Hampshire.....	710
Arkansas.....	356	North Carolina.....	254
Connecticut.....	8,189	North Dakota.....	2,293
Colorado.....	1,748	Nebraska.....	3,966
California.....	6,861	Nevada.....	432
Delaware.....	470	New Jersey.....	15,889
District of Columbia.....	411	New Mexico.....	196
Florida.....	341	New York.....	172,972
Georgia.....	299	Ohio.....	7,867
Indiana.....	1,915	Oregon.....	733
Indian Territory.....	291	Pennsylvania.....	61,823
Illinois.....	28,080	Rhode Island.....	2,814
Iowa.....	6,949	South Carolina.....	168
Idaho.....	244	South Dakota.....	1,300
Kentucky.....	616	Tennessee.....	368
Kansas.....	2,431	Texas.....	2,290
Louisiana.....	651	Utah.....	429
Maine.....	391	Vermont.....	671
Maryland.....	2,035	Virginia.....	323
Michigan.....	9,089	West Virginia.....	64
Missouri.....	3,229	Wisconsin.....	7,749
Minnesota.....	9,802	Washington.....	1,077
Mississippi.....	201	Wyoming.....	430

These statistics give an idea of the class of people admitted as immigrants, and also show their general distribution over the country. They come from almost every European nation. It will be readily seen that during the prevalence of cholera or any great epidemic in Europe, the enforcement of proper quarantine makes prohibitive measures against immigration a necessity. But outside of such an emergency, the country has not yet reached a stage when it can profitably exclude industrious, honest and intelligent settlers from the Old World.

### STRIKES DIMINISHING.

It is believed by many and hoped by more that the vigorous manner in which the more gully among the Homestead strikers have been dealt with has put a quietus upon that particular phase of striking, and that hereafter when strikes occur they will be conducted within the pale of the law. It is also certain that

the suffering and sorrow entailed by the strike itself and the consequent lockout have placed a damper upon rashness among those who toil, especially in that vicinity, and that hereafter strikes will not be precipitated for light and transient causes. The want prevailing is being alleviated as much as possible by sympathizing workers all over the country, but even with this the distress must be considerable and will doubtless increase until the wounds which that awful encounter inflicted are healed.

The information is given out that the probabilities of labor disturbances for the present year have been reduced considerably by a canvass as to the policy of striking among the labor organizations themselves. Railroad men, from whom the greatest danger was expected, are now comparatively quiet, and the prospect for the present at least is for general tranquility.

It will be a happy day indeed when there shall be no strikes at all, when there shall be no arrogance or oppression on one side and no cause for discontent or desperate conduct on the other—when, in short, capital and labor will be co-operative and harmonious. Strikes are in almost every instance a source of loss, annoyance and harm to both sides, the amounts in earnings which are thrown away always being considerable and it being invariably the case that there is no corresponding benefit. If what we hear is true, there seems ground to hope that we are near the end of a bad system, which must certainly occur before we can be said to be safely at the commencement of a better one.

### HOW TO MEET THE DIFFICULTY.

A correspondent writing from Chelton, Idaho, states that the position of the people there, especially those engaged in agriculture, is far from satisfactory. The state law taxing canals has added to their burdens. Many farmers have mortgaged their property for living expenses, and now have no prospect of paying the indebtedness incurred, as farm produce commands very low prices in the market; and when the farmers get anything on credit, two per cent per month is the customary rate of interest charged them, after thirty days.

The correspondent also states that the storekeepers in the locality have formed a league, and will pay the smallest possible price for the farmer's product. This payment is made only in merchandise, so that "storepay" has superseded cash almost entirely, and the quantity of that is growing perceptibly less through the failure of the agriculturist to get fair value for his produce.

Such a state of affairs as that described is very discouraging, and it is to be hoped that things do not wear quite as gloomy an aspect as the correspondent thinks. The facts and figures which he gives, however, show that the situation of many of the people is far from being as prosperous as might be desired. This does not arise from a failure of the soil to give forth in its strength; there is no complaint of light crops. The trouble lies in a chain of circumstances which the

people themselves, by careful, unselfish and combined action, could in great measure control to their own advantage, rather than be crowded thereby into a condition that is galling.

"Running credit" is a custom far too prevalent among other classes than those engaged in tilling the soil. As a practice it cannot be too severely condemned. There are cases of emergency when obtaining credit is justified, but as a habit it is foolish and costly, whether in country or city. A judicious and thrifty manager studiously avoids it. Our correspondent says that twelve per cent per annum interest on bills after thirty days is insisted on by the local merchants. How can they do otherwise and keep in business? They cannot afford to expend their capital in carrying a long list of debtors without return for the means so applied, any more than the farmer can turn over his team for constant use by his neighbor without remuneration therefor. Besides, the loss of storekeepers by disputed accounts and "bad debts" under the credit system is far from inconsiderable. People who do not wish to pay heavy interest on overdue bills can be relieved of that burden by not habitually permitting their bills to become overdue. Then if, through misfortune or stress of business, they are forced to ask for long-time credit, their record for promptness in meeting their obligations will stand them in good stead in securing the desired accommodation. The workman who makes a practice of spending his wages before they are received, and the farmer whose custom it is to mortgage his whole crop before it is harvested, are poor financiers.

Equally objectionable with the "habitual credit" policy is the "storepay" system. Incidental to their business, merchants properly issue due bills under specified and understood arrangements. These are often a necessity. An exchange of commodities is also legitimate. But the storekeeper whose method is to compel people to trade with him by the storepay process is without the pale of either.

The merchants who have entered into the league referred to doubtless found it to their interest to engage in concerted action. If the farmers are imposed on by the combination, they have an example of how to obtain relief. Their own harmonious and united action would settle the question. By organizing and combining for mutual benefit, they can command the market to a reasonable extent; and if in one place the prices for their produce are inadequate, their unity of action will enable them to reach another mart. Aside from any real or fancied local grievances, the organized co-operation of farmers in a district, for mutual help in any direction, would be of vast benefit; while the strength of such union would be a means for protecting its individual members from many of the impositions commonly practiced.

A NEW venture in the journalistic field hails from Kayville and bears the name of *The Eagle*. Speaking of itself the first number says:

It shall have a kind word for all who deserve it and rebuke for those who practice treachery and villany. It shall treat all alike.

The two paragraphs don't seem to "consist," somehow.