

alarm, for there is plenty of room in this vast country for many years to come. In England, for instance, there are 310 inhabitants to the square mile, while in the United States there are as yet only 18. The state of Texas alone is equal in area to France, Great Britain and Germany; these countries find room for about 126,000,000 inhabitants, while Texas has only two millions.

But while the question of over-population does not seem to be of immediate concern, it is high time that some discretion should be exercised in regard to the class and quality of immigrants seeking our shores. Manifestly it is the criminals and the physically disabled persons, rather than the illiterate, that should be excluded. Among the latter sometimes are found the sturdy home-builders so necessary for the development of the country's latent resources, while from the former are recruited the enemies to and charges upon society and the government itself. The best patriotism is of course to be found among those who have at least education enough to understand and value American institutions, and a love for these ought perhaps to be exacted as a first qualification; but the country would suffer less from ten thousand poor and unlearned but honest new-comers than from a hundred educated trouble-breeders and scoundrels.

THE VALUE OF PEACE.

Nineteen hundred years have passed away since the announcement first was made that He who was called the Prince of peace had come to dwell among men. For nearly nineteen centuries the message of peace has been rehearsed on earth; nations have bowed in reverent adoration while listening to the story. Yet the practical results seem to be almost nil. There is today not a continent where militarism does not hold sway, and the whole earth seems to be trembling with the heavy tread of marching armies, the sound of cannon and the agony of human beings wounded and dying on sanguinary battle fields. Besides, preparations seem to be going on for wars which in the interests involved may outdo any on record in the annals of mankind. The era of peace predicted at the advent of the Son of Man is apparently as far away as ever.

We say apparently. For in fact the friends of peace have made steady and marked progress in the world all the time and the close of this century finds a vast army ready to battle for the establishment of permanent peace on earth. It has been possible in later years for the war lords of Europe to reconcile the nations to the burdens imposed upon them by the standing armies only on the pretext that their maintenance was needed for the continuation of peace. This is significant. It marks a long step forward from the time when the warrior was recognized as the only member of society worthy of honor and glory, and when wholesale manslaughter and robbery were considered as necessary an occupation as hunting and fishing. The cause of peace is gaining, and when the time comes, a change in the affairs of the world will take place suddenly.

The question of war or peace is not one of sentimentality merely. It is one which our practical age can readily grasp. The cost of a war and of keeping an army ready for war is something enormous, even when the sacrifice of life is not taken into account. A contributor to the Review of Reviews estimates that the wars of Europe during the present century have cost over one hundred billion dollars. Suppose, says the author, that the nineteen American republics should during

the coming century expend that sum on public improvements, what would be accomplished? That money would build the Nicaragua canal; the intercontinental railway uniting the republics of North, Central and South America; the Florida ship canal; improve the Mississippi river and its principal tributaries and protect the valley from destructive floods; improve the Amazon and its tributaries; the Orinoco, La Plata and other rivers in the various republics; improve all the great harbors of the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts; irrigate the arid lands of the great West, and thereby quadruple the value of the 600,000,000 acres of public lands still owned by the general government; erect much needed new public buildings in the capitals of the nineteen republics and in their great commercial cities; build lighthouses and life-saving stations, and inaugurate and complete hundreds of other public improvements that would give employment to labor and add to the prosperity and wealth of the republics.

A matter that involves such an enormous sum is of public interest. The figures presented are a weighty argument for international peace and arbitration.

THE GERMAN EXPEDITION.

Europe is laughing at the bombastic speech of Emperor William on the occasion of the departure of the German squadron for eastern Asia. As will be remembered the Kaiser gravely told his brother to strike with his mailed hand anyone who should infringe upon German rights. The patriotic press enters into the spirit of the solemnity and speaks concerning the Germans about to "defend the cross" and "entering upon a new era of conquest."

French papers are much amused at this rhetoric. They argue that it is grotesque, since the question is of a jaunt as free from danger as if it were arranged by Cook's excursion agencies. The English papers take the same jocular view. The Graphic does not believe that either laurels or fists will be in demand. That paper "sincerely" hopes that the elements will not have been seriously disturbed by the earthshaking accents of the imperial rhetoric.

It may be a question, however, whether the imperial figures of speech have a hidden meaning, incomprehensible at present but capable of a more literal interpretation when the purport of the Chinese expedition is fully understood. Germany firmly believes that Russia owes her some consideration for non-interference in the negotiations between Japan and China, and also that France is indebted to her for assistance rendered in the seizure of Tunis. The time has now come, in the estimation of the government, for the Germans to make further colonial expansion, and the possibility of a serious contest for this "right" may not be far away.

The Kaiser's ambition in this matter is not confined within narrow boundaries. He is reported to have said to Count Zichy: "You should visit China; by the time that you get there, you will find Prince Henry emperor of China." And this is by Germans regarded as less of a joke than may at first appear. In a recent cable from London to the New York Evening Post the subjoined quotation from the German national organ in Vienna is given:

"Why should not Emperor William found a second India for Germany in China as a means of imperial aggrandizement and of averting the social revolution threatened at home? Kiaochow, with its harbor and hinterland, which Germany is annexing, is as large as Wales and full of people. It is capable

of yielding a substantial revenue and of becoming the stepping off place for the acquisition of the central division of China. These possibilities will come home to John Bull when he has done his laughing. Anticipating that time and taking advantage of the state of mind bordering on frenzy to which German trade rivalry has reduced a small section of the British people, the Navy League, whose one desire is for increased naval armaments, yesterday sent round to London editors a document marked 'Private and Confidential,' begging them to awaken the public to the peril of the 'deadly enemy, silently, steadily and stealthily preparing to strike England down. In the end they will succeed, for so soon as the German emperor gets his naval vote through the Reichstag—and that seems the most obvious purpose of these Kiel antics—so surely will the cry go up for a proportional increase of the British navy.'

That Russia is preparing for the worst appears from a San Francisco dispatch stating that the czar's agents have recently made extensive purchases of army supplies in the United States, ostensibly for the garrison at Vladivostok, and that several firms have been invited to bid on an immense quantity of provisions. It is believed there that hostilities are imminent between Russia and Japan, and in that case Prince Henry could hardly remain inactive, especially if, as is now generally understood, the occupation of Kiaochow by the Germans and Port Arthur by the Russians is part of a prearranged program. All things considered, the German expedition may find more serious work to do than the occupation of a convenient place for a coaling station.

CITY OF REFUGE NEEDED.

Kentucky has a murder trial that is attracting attention because of a principle involved. Some time last July Jacob Harris killed his wife's lover, Thomas H. Merritt. Harris had suspected his wife for some time and on the evening of the tragic event followed her for four hours, armed with a revolver, borrowed for the occasion. At last he saw his rival sitting on a bench in the park in company with his wife. He watched them and then crawled up behind them. When Merritt found that he was watched he ran, but Harris emptied his revolver at him and he fell dead about fifty yards from the bench where he had been sitting. The wife left, too, before the enraged husband could settle with her in the way he intended to do.

At the ensuing trial Harris told his story. Judge Falconer declared that the crime was murder, but as Merritt had destroyed Harris's home and wrecked his life, the act was justifiable under "a higher law than the criminal code."

A few days ago the Fayette county grand jury reversed this theory of a "higher law than the criminal code" and indicted the slayer of Merritt for murder in the first degree. The question, therefore, must be discussed whether there exists any law entitled to judicial recognition "higher" than that framed by the legislature of the state; what the responsibility is of man or woman who undertakes the role of an avenger, in truly ancient style.

In the case of Harris there was no need of a sanguinary revenge. Why did he not reason with his wife when suspicion first took possession of his soul? Who knows but that neglect in this respect was responsible for her continuing in the erring course? From all accounts he dogged her steps, prepared to kill both the guilty parties as