

The population of this Territory is overwhelmingly agricultural. If the soil refused, from lack of moisture or from any other cause, to give forth its fruits, from whence would the farmers obtain their supplies for subsistence? What money they handle is derived from the sale of their products. No products no money. No money means hard scratching to live.

With all due deference to transportation facilities in the way of obviating the distress accruing from short crops, if breadstuffs should in an emergency of the kind in question, be brought in from other quarters of what special benefit would it be to those who would have no cash with which to purchase supplies? If the source of revenue should be cut off, from whence would come the wherewithal. Besides all this, unless an unexpected tide sets in connected with local financial affairs, money is not likely to flow in a lively way through any of the avenues of local business. Matters in that respect are at present very much strained. A little more tension and the string will break.

We are of the unqualified opinion that many of the people have been and are now, living beyond their income. It needs no prophet to predict the inevitable disaster that ensues in every instance where this is the case—it is a mere matter of arithmetical calculation. It is an unavoidable effect of a cause which operates unerringly. In many instances the heads of families have been subjected to great straits by the demands made upon them. Young and old and middle aged have caught the contagion to conform to the tyranny of fashion. And everywhere women and children can be seen with the contents of wheat bins upon their heads in the shape of fine bonnets bedecked with assassinated birds and expensive ribbons and feathers, while their forms are appaled with the farm team transformed into expensive clothing. In the larger towns many of the sisters are clad with the careworn aspect and the sweet-moistened brows of their overworked and anxious husbands and fathers. On the other hand men are also carried away by the pervading spirit of reckless extravagance, never stopping until they are confronted with overwhelming financial catastrophe, with resources cut off, and credit, which they have abused, swept away.

In connection with the ideas offered on the subject of probable scarcity, it may not be amiss to drop a hint to those who need it, that retrenchment would be in harmony with good sense and the demands of the times.

RESTRICTING IMMIGRATION.

A NEW bill to regulate immigration was reported to the House of Representatives of the United States on the 15th of January, by Mr. Owen of Indiana. It is a substitute for a bill referred to the committee on irrigation and naturalization. The new bill was read twice and committed to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

It provides for the exclusion from landing on these shores, in addition to Chinese laborers, all idiots, insane persons, paupers or persons likely to become a public charge, persons suffering from a loathsome or contagious disease, persons convicted of a felony or gross misdemeanor, polygamists, and all passengers whose ticket or passage is paid for with the money of another, or who are assisted to come, unless it is shown that they do not belong to one of the foregoing classes.

Any alien coming here in consequence of the promise of employment through advertisements printed and published in a foreign country, is to be excluded as a contract laborer. Steamship or transportation companies that by agents, or writing or printing, or oral representation solicit immigration into the United States, except by ordinary methods, stating the sailings of vessels and the facilities of transportation, are to be subject to heavy penalties.

Any person bringing or landing or aiding to bring or land any alien not lawfully entitled to enter the United States, is to be subject to a maximum fine of a thousand dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

Regularly ordained ministers of the gospel, professors of colleges, and persons belonging to any recognized profession are exempted from the provisions of the contract labor law.

A Superintendent of Immigration, with a salary of five thousand dollars a year, is to be appointed by the President and Senate. He is to belong to the Treasury Department, have a chief clerk and two assistant clerks and an office in Washington, and make annual reports and such special reports as may be necessary on immigration matters and transactions.

On the arrival of an immigrant vessel the officer or agent is to report the name, nationality, last residence and destination of every alien on board, before any of them are landed. A medical examination is to be made by surgeons of the Marine Hospital service. Inspection officers may administer oaths and take testimony concerning such aliens, and their decisions are

to be final unless appeal is taken to the Superintendent of Immigration.

All aliens deemed to have come here unlawfully are to be returned, if practicable, on the vessel which brought them, at the expense of the ship owners, and during their detention their expenses must be paid by such owners, on penalty of a maximum fine of three hundred dollars for each offence. Any alien unlawfully landing or becoming a public charge may be returned within one year thereafter, at the expense of the person or company bringing him, if practicable, and if not, at the expense of the United States.

This is the substance of the bill. Considering the other important questions which are likely to occupy the attention of Congress during the short time that intervenes between now and the 3rd of March, it is very doubtful whether this bill can become a law.

There are provisions in it, too, that seem to be impracticable. How advertising for emigrants in foreign lands can be prevented, and on what principle of law prosecutions can be maintained in the United States for acts committed outside the jurisdiction of the United States, we are not able to discover. And the proposition to exclude an immigrant because he has seen some advertisement or publication setting forth the advantages of certain portions of the United States to settlers, appears to us to be not only impossible to carry out, but absurd on its very face.

That some measures are needed to restrict immigration as closely as possible to persons who are likely to be a benefit instead of a detriment or a burden to the community, is evident to all who have carefully reflected upon the evils that have been wrought, through the influx of criminals and paupers and those disorderly persons who despise government and seek to destroy society.

But such laws ought to be well considered, and while devised to effect this needful purpose, should not shut out from "the asylum for the oppressed," any worthy person who is poor but who may become a strength to the nation, and for whom there is plenty of room and ample opportunities for advancement in this splendid and productive land of liberty.

A RIGHTEOUS RULING.

By courtesy of Sutherland and Judd, the eminent attorneys for the appellants, we are able to print today the full text of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Cope case, a brief synopsis of which we published a few days ago. Judge Suther-