

Alaska Indian of today. Yet the suggestion would be a statement of fact; and its lesson to thoughtful people is to give no encouragement to the barbarous sentiments expressed by such individuals, be they of high or lowly station.

### OVER-POPULATION, OR UNDER- WORK.

The latest cause assigned for the troublous condition which exists in the country is that of over-population. It is urged that there is not enough produced in the land, of all kinds of necessities, to properly support the people, and consequently many suffer deprivation with no hope of relief. It is urged that if the country was capable of producing that which is required, the demand for it is so strong that the energy of trade would be sufficient in itself to increase the supply to the requisite amount, because men will work when there is a prospect of compensation for their toil.

Just a moment's comparative examination. There are about 70,000,000 people in this country, and a territory of 3,745,621 miles, or less than twenty persons to the square mile. Now, as a matter of producing the necessities of life, China does it for over 300 people to the square mile; or place the whole population of the United States in the states of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, and they would have as much territory, just as fruitful or more so, per capita for their sustenance as do the Chinese, with all the rest of the country, twenty times as large as the three states named, to draw on to make their condition better than the Mongolian, so far as nature's necessities are concerned. And China is not the most thickly populated country on earth, being surpassed in several parts of Europe; Belgium, for instance, having 500 people to the square mile, at which ratio the United States would have 1,872,810,500 souls.

It does not, however, require figures of this kind, nor comparison with China, Belgium or any other nation, to show that the limit of production for the support of human beings has not been reached in this country. Even in the most thickly settled section of the Union, east of the Mississippi, there are millions of acres of land uncultivated that might be made to yield abundantly of grain and vegetables, and of that which is necessary for the support of man; while west of the Mississippi the quantity of uncultivated arable land is vastly greater than on the Atlantic side. And yet there are statisticians and pretended political economists who talk of over-population!

The fact is that underwork, not over-population, is the great cause of the evil complained of. There are too many people who seek to live by their wits instead of earning their bread by the sweat of their brow; too many office-holders and political barnacles, that are almost as great a drain on the taxpayers and industrial classes in this land as are the immense standing armies of Europe. If a

fair percentage of those who are living by scheming instead of hard work, or of the extra office holders and their henchmen, were to devote their energy to tilling the soil, to manufacturing, or other industrial pursuits, there would be vastly more of the necessities and comforts of life for the people, and a wonderful diminution in the amount of idleness and cause of complaint. As it is there is a tendency, almost a craze, to do as little work as possible. And by seeking to evade the law, "By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat thy bread," man seems to be getting into a bad fix generally; for the energies that should go to legitimate toil are expended in directions less productive of good. Lots of people there are who are overworked, but the heavy burden upon these, and the cause of much of the unsatisfactory situation at present, is largely underwork on the part of others.

### CONGRESS REDEEMS ITSELF.

Like a refreshing oasis in a vast wilderness of dreary sand was the day's debate in the Senate on the President's action in ordering the soldiery to smash the lawlessness growing out of the railway strike, after the interminable tongue-music on both sides of the tariff discussion. What with sugar trust scandals and innuendoes of many and various kinds, it must be admitted that the Senate had grievously fallen from the high estate it was wont to occupy in the public mind. The debate referred to is priceless as showing that patriotism still lives in the "greatest deliberative body on earth," even though it needs a grave crisis to bring it out as evidence. The speeches made by both Democrats and Republicans on the occasion were full of the fire and earnestness that American boys love to read of; the calm, blunt, courageous argument of Senator Davis, a northern Republican, being no less admirable than the ringing eloquence of Senator Gordon, a southern Democrat, who fought on the wrong side in the "late unpleasantness" and whose valor is attested by more than one grim scar. That Congress is able to place country above party is shown by the unanimity with which the President's course in the strike matter was commended—and the revelation should be a source of extreme joy and contentment all round.

### THE KOREAN TROUBLE.

The latest oriental advises indicate that a conflict is imminent between China and Japan, on account of a dispute concerning the rights of the rulers of the respective countries in a neighboring kingdom.

Korea occupies a peninsula attached to the northern portion of the Chinese empire and is separated from the southern coast of Japan only by a channel. The country has an area of about 79,000 square miles and a population estimated at from ten to twelve millions. They are described as generally poor and full of bigotry and even more

exclusive than the Chinese, as to foreigners.

From the very earliest times of history China has claimed supremacy over the kingdom, levying a tribute on the inhabitants and imposing upon them the use of the Chinese calendar and chronology, but otherwise leaving their own rulers in undisturbed possession. In the middle ages the Koreans became involved in a war with Japan, during which several of the oldest cities were destroyed and three-fourths of the country fell into the hands of the invaders, in spite of the vigorous assistance rendered by China. When peace was restored, Japan exacted a heavy tribute and retained one strong fort in Korea, besides making it obligatory on the government to send an embassy to Japan to announce the accession of each new king. By this arrangement the country virtually became a vassal to both its mightier neighbors.

Through Chinese works on Christianity, a Christian sect sprang up in the country in the beginning of this century, and this gave Catholic missionaries an excuse for penetrating into the interior. Some success was obtained notwithstanding the watchfulness of the Korean authorities, but in 1866 all Europeans were expelled and some missionaries cruelly massacred. A French warship avenged the murder by destroying an important city, but the European commander did not succeed in obtaining any concessions from the government. In order to put a stop to the burning of American vessels a United States man-of-war was dispatched to Korea in 1867. In 1870 Admiral Rodgers proceeded up the river to the capital but was met with determined resistance, and although the American vessels soon silenced the forts, the admiral brought his expedition to a close, only partly accomplishing the object of his mission.

From the dispatches it is not entirely clear what the cause of the present trouble is beyond the fact that the jealousy of China seems to be aroused on account of the aggressive policy of Japan. It is more than probable that Russian intrigues are at the bottom of the affair, notwithstanding the official declarations of that country. It seems hardly credible that Japan would dare to take the bold stand she has taken against China unless backed by some power of considerable importance.

### THE RIGHT THING.

The City Council took an appropriate stand at its meeting last evening, in insisting that all expenditures or contracts of importance made in furnishing the city and county building should be presented to the Council for approval. It has been a wrong to permit the opposite procedure for so long. The people's money is being expended, and the people should know, through the public proceedings of their representatives, how and where it is going. The method of spending large sums of money in the dark-lantern fashion of committee work is an unpopular and suspicious way of doing business, no matter how straight the transactions are.

Everything may have been all right so far as the city part