population. They are hard workers, abstemious, strong, hardy and intelligent. For the greater part they are

peasants, thoroughly skilled in tillage.

They have succeeded in winning a good

living from the hill pastures and aban-

doned farms of New England. They

are crowding to this country at the rate

of 8000 a month, and intelligent Ameri-

can observers are glad that they are

coming, because there is a place for

them in the ranks of our agricultural

workers, and our unskilled labor. Fifty

oblefly represented by the Irish peasant

immigration which poured into this

country in a flood from 1846 to 1855.

There is no more athletic race in the

world than the Irlsh peasantry, and

years ago our unskilled labor

VALUABLE IMMIGRANTS.

Italians are coming to this country

by the hundred thousand, and are prov-

ing a most valuable addition to the

their strong arms built all our railroads and digged all our canals up to about 1860. But the Irish immigration is not nearly as large as it was in the years following the famine of 1845-47, and the Irish are an energetic race who soon get beyond the sphere of unskilled in-

bor. They soon become small farmers,

mechanics, tradesmen, and their vacant

places have been taken largely in rail-

road labor by the Italians.

The Italian has not so powerful a physique as the Irishman, and he is handicapped at first by his ignorance of the English language, but he soon 'picks up' our tongue; he is hardy, patient, industrious and economical, be-

cause he comes from a land where these virtues are necessary to get a living. It is doubtful if any field laborers this side of India and China work so hard for so little pay as the Italian peasant is obliged to do in his native land. Italy is taxed it death to support a very large standing larmy, and the Italian peasantry if seemt years have been

taking to sight by thousands During

the last inften years the Brdy, vig-

orous Italian immigrant has made all our railroad cuts and embankments. His superior duckness and intelligence will ultimate enable himito loave the field of unskilled manual abort to the Slav, even as the Irishman abandoned it to the Italian.

The capacity of the Italian immigrant

for rapid improvement is shown in the

Argentine Republic, where climate and

social conditions have favored his de-

velopment, and where he has attained

the first rank in the industries of the

country. Italians own nearly half the

commercial firms in Buenos Ayres, with a capital of \$150,000,000, and more than half its workshops. Italian architects have built the greater part of Buenos Ayres; Italians have all the river carrying trade and two-thirds of the consting trade; Italian peasants and men of business own nearly all the corn

farms. The production of corn and ar-

tificial grasses has been created by the

Italians, who own rural property to the

value of \$50,000,000, and one in every

eight is a proprietor. The bulk of the

engineering and milling, the paper and

soap industries, almost all the hat and tobacco manufactures, most of the cement and marble works, a large part of the tanning and tinned meat business is in the hands of Italians. In wheat-growing they form the enormous majority of the population. A Piedmontess proprietor plants 67,000 acres in wheat; an Italian firm mows, 12,000 acres of temporary grasses; an Italian, the foremost wine producer of South Amer-

ica, has 2500 acres under vines. The

Italian vinegrowers of Mendoza and

San Junn and Buenos Ayres produce

every year 38,000,000 gallons of wine, All

this has been done by uneducated, pov-

erty-stricken Italian peasants in a few

years. The Italian immigrants who

have performed this mighty work in

Argentina are identical in quality and

canacity with the Italian immigrants

that were formerly condemned in the

United States as useless or dangerous paupers.

The popular prejudice against Italian immigration rests chiefly upon a confusion of a genuine Italian peasant immigration with the comparatively worthless, homicidal, mongrel, so-called Italian immigration from Sicily and Naples. Sicily has been ruled in succession by Greeks, Itomans, Moors, Spanlards and Frenchmen; Calabria and Naples have much of this mongrel pop-

ulation. The disterence in quality be-

tween these Italian mongrels of Biclly

and the extreme south of Italy and the

One peasantry that people Middle and

Northern Italy is shown by the fact

that while Northern Italy shows no

larger per cent of homicides than tho

most civilized countries of Europe,

Southern Italy shows a very high aver-

age for homicide. The highest average for homicide is found among the poor, brutalized miners of Sicily, who are absolutely illiterate. Popular education has almost eliminated homicide in the Ticino, the Italian canton of Switzerland, where sixty years ago homicides were frequent and ignorance abounded. The criminal associations, like the Mafia, are confined to Sicily, Calabria and Naples, and it is this quality of so-called "Italian" immigrants that are as prompt to use a knife murderously in a trivial quarrel as an Anglo-Saxon would be to use his fist.