

CROWDED NATIONS LOOK THIS WAY.

Our Empty Spaces.

Writer Points "Danger of Migration Laws."

By LADY DRUMMOND-HAY.

People in many of the congested parts of the world are turning their eyes to Australia and asking why they should not be allowed to populate such a vast land.

"The earth to those who will cultivate it," is becoming their parallel slogan to the industrial slogan of Red Russia: "Food only to those who work."

Migrations of peoples have almost entirely ceased because of the well-nigh impassible immigration barriers that Argentine, Brazil, the United States, Canada, Australia and South Africa have raised. I am wondering just how long it will be before this stoppage of the flow of the stream of humanity will react in the demand for an international conference to discuss a redistribution of over-population to the bare spots and un-filled spaces on the globe, in the interest of world peace and world economics.

Again and again I see reference in Continental newspapers like the following:—"Britain controls almost one-fourth of the earth's area, and neither fills it with her own people nor lets other nations colonise."

In German, Austria and Italy this pressure for an outlet for their overflow population is becoming stronger and more intense as unemployment grows and misery increases. It is almost certain to be only a question of time before that problem will be brought up in Geneva, once sufficient public interest has been aroused.

"The Empty Continent."

British East Africa, including the former German East Africa, with its vast fertile stretches scarcely populated at all by whites, is the spot on the map which the Germans and Austrians believe could relieve their countries of many thousands of surplus population.

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term for Australia—is another target at which German and Italian writers have of late been shooting with their pens or typewriters.

Two German writers, Dr. Colin Ross and Dr. Max Jordan, recently visited Australia, and have written extensively on their observations. They argue, "What moral right has Britain, or the Australians to such a vast "Empty Continent" when they do not populate it or cultivate it, and allow it to lie barren, while in other parts of the world people starve?"

It is pointed out that Australia has been a British possession for more than 100 years. In the time that the United States has become a nation of 120,000,000 Australia, with an area almost as great, has climbed to 6,500,000 or much less than the population of London or New York.

"If the spirit of adventure and pioneering has died out in the British race, then let our young men and women into those empty spaces," the argument continues.

Japanese Longing.

"We would make a garden of Australia if we were allowed to emigrate there," I was told recently in Japan, where the great increase in population threatens to burst all barriers.

The action of the Australian Government in stopping Italian immigrants from entering Australia has aroused feeling in Italy, and also brought the "Empty Continent" to the attention of those Europeans who feel that in their overcrowded sections there are no chances for them, or coming generations.

Dr. Heinrich Schnee, former Governor of German East Africa, charged the other day in a newspaper interview, that Britain is seeking in effect to annex the mandated territory, formerly German possession, and which he points out is twice as big as Germany itself.

Looking far into the future, one may well ask whether the emptiness of Australia may not in time menace its chances of remaining a "white continent," unless ways and means are found for increasing its white population as a defensive bulwark.

To the north is Japan, with its rapidly-increasing population, already far beyond what the Island Empire can support. There is China, over-

can support. There is China, overflowing wherever it can, with peaceful penetrations.

To the west are the crowded Dutch East Indies and India, with its 320,000,000 of humanity.

In this sea of brown and yellow mankind aggregating about 1,000,000,000 souls, Australia with its 6,500,000 white population is just a tiny island of uncertain future.

Nothing more than an outpost. One might almost say a "listening post" of white civilisation. Can it be held if the Australians persist in their immigration policy?
