

the masters found that they would have to manufacture at a loss, unless the cost of production were also diminished. The workmen refused to accept lower wages, and struck work, and at latest advices still maintained their position of voluntary inactivity, aided, as they were, by contributions from other iron districts. Now it is very evident, that while employers are losing the profits of their business, as well as a certain portion of expenses which cannot be stopped, the men are proportionately losing much larger sums, and the longer they refuse to work, the greater becomes their loss. In addition to the loss of masters and men, there is also the very heavy loss to the country at large in the stoppage of production, while the consumption of food, &c., goes on as usual. The loss is a very serious one, and with the other evils resulting from the contests between capital and labour, has attracted a good deal of attention in England, and much thought and consideration has been devoted to the subject. Mr. Fawcett, member for Brighton, lately made a speech at Leeds on the Co-operative Coal Company of Messrs. Briggs, in which he pointed out the great difficulties that surrounded the commercial position of England from the unsatisfactory relations existing between the classes of labourers and capitalists. He also pointed out what he believed to be the only certain way of palliating, if not remedying this evil, namely, by the growth of associations such as Messrs. Briggs' Coal Company, in which the interest of the capitalist and the labourer are to a certain extent identical, and in which the wages of the labourer, if too low, are supplemented by a share in the profits. The plan of the Coal Company is to pay, first, the regular rate of wages in the district, then 10 per cent, on all the capital of the company, and finally to divide the surplus between the capital and the labourer. This system, it will be perceived, is as nearly equitable as any arrangement can be. It gives to all those employed in the production, whether represented by capital, one of the great elements in production, or by labour, another of its chief elements, a similarity of interest, and a *pro rata* share in the profits. Mr. Briggs stated that the result had been not only to put a good bonus into the pocket of the labourers—a bonus of five per cent. on their wages—but to yield himself, as capitalist, a larger profit than he had ever before received, ever in the most prosperous years of the colliery's existence. This co-operation between capital and labour is only a variation of co-operative working societies, where the men themselves represent both the capital and the labour; but, as in the latter case, the efforts of the men are hampered by the smallness of their means at the commencement of their undertaking, we think the arrangement a better one where the capital is furnished, and the men, as in the case of the Coal Company above mentioned, given a certain share of the profits. They might also be allowed to invest their earnings in stock of the company, and thus give them a strong motive for the practice of economy and the virtues which are inseparable therefrom.

Several very important advantages are at once secured by the co-operative principle. Disputes between men and masters with reference to wages are almost of necessity entirely prevented, and production goes on steadily, up to the point allow-

ed by the means of the company or the state of trade. The men are perfectly willing to receive wages, which would otherwise be low, when they are sure to receive back in shape of profits, the difference between their nominal wages and what they should in equity obtain. And let it be remarked, their earnings will always be larger in this way than in any other. Each man having a direct interest in the success of the whole, he will do his best, and more work by far will be accomplished than under the ordinary labour system, and the jealous watchfulness of all will prevent idleness or waste on the part of any one who may not be so industrious as the rest. Improvement both in the amount of work turned out and in the quality of that work, has always closely followed the adoption of the co-operative system, and Mr. Fawcett was not far wrong when he said that "he almost believed that the future existence of his country depended upon this scheme. If it be not extended, we might depend upon it that capital and labour would, to a large extent, emigrate from this country. If capital went, where was our wealth? If labour so went, where would be the elements of our future greatness?"

Several co-operative societies have been formed in Canada, but with quite a different object in view. They have been formed with a view to economy of consumption, not of production, to furnishing food and clothing as cheaply as possible to their members, not to producing the wherewithal to purchase those necessaries. We should be glad to see co-operative working societies introduced into this country; and whether the capital were contributed by the labourers themselves or furnished by capitalists, the greatest economy of production will be secured. We would then have an opportunity of testing the great question of the profitableness to Canada of producing her own manufactures; of deciding whether the manufacturing interest should be fostered at the expense of other and much more important interests; whether even it would need any legislative help whatever; and if the experiment should prove successful, it would undoubtedly attract to this land, where the cost of living is so low, a large share of both capital and labour, which, together, are at the foundation of the material prosperity of every great nation.—*Trade Review*.

Colored Starch.

This, says a London paper, is the latest and greatest novelty of the season. It is made in pink, buff, the new mauve, and a delicate green, and blue will soon be produced. Any article starched with the new preparation is completely colored—dye) we should have said, but as it washes out, and the garment that was pink to-day may be green to-morrow, and buff afterwards we can hardly say "dye) It is intended especially for those bright but treacherously colored muslins that are costly, wash out and perplex their owners. If the pattern has been mauve, they only need the mauve starch, if green, green starch; and they can be rendered one even and pretty shade, thus becoming not only wearable again, put very stylish. White anti-macassars, or lace curtains may also be colored in the same way, and infinite variety afforded.