

tens of thousands to educate the first pretender who presents himself, as was exemplified in a neighboring manufactory a few years ago. Had some of the young men who bore off at college the only prizes of their lives, entered, as mere factory hands, our woollen, cotton, furniture or other manufactories, if only for a short period, these industries would not suffer for want of that skill for which we must depend on the man whose early training lacked perhaps as much in the other direction. We should then not witness the blunders that have been made in the endeavor to establish new industries in this country; the work would be better performed if the abilities which proved themselves prize winners at school were directed towards some of the mechanical callings. People who have had occasion to employ plumbers or other mechanics in Montreal can testify to the great want which exists for intelligent, well-trained mechanical skill. Any man or boy is a plumber even before he knows how to solder a joint without a second or third visit; or a carpenter ere he can cut a piece of flooring at right angles. And yet these men are able to earn at the rate of \$50 to \$75 a month, while the bank clerk lives and moves and dresses and ogles on \$30 or \$40.

A youth who has the intelligence which a college or a high-school education implies cannot fail to rise in the world if he will enter a manufacturing establishment, refinery, paper-mill or any important mechanical occupation and master the business. The industries of the country are greatly in need of such an infusion of intelligence and skill as earnest recruits from such a source would be sure to afford. "The majority of the young men who graduate from our schools," said a gentleman in Portland, Me., with whom we recently discussed the question, "do not, as a rule, do much for years. They generally look about for places in the so-called genteel employments, and continue an expense to parents or guardians until they finally fall into some precarious or overcrowded employment." The towns and villages are crowded with such young men, who, if they had the courage and good sense to enter a factory and learn the business, might not only become self-supporting from the first, but would be sure to secure a trade, which would in a few years, if they showed any ability, insure them much larger returns than one in a hundred will ever acquire at any of the hazardous occupations that ordinarily turn up.

The best brains in the country are not any too good to be employed at the head of our manufacturing establishments.

Were one or two of our leading families to set the example much would be done,—others would soon follow, for it is "society" that rules in this case. It is not, of course, considered the thing for those who move in the higher circles in our towns and cities to engage in employments where manual labor is necessary;—it is deemed preferable to compete for the few situations in banks and counting houses, even in the retail stores, for the lowest remuneration, or starve in law offices, or seek any other half paid and precarious employment rather than seek good wages, advancement, and probable wealth, by learning some useful mechanical occupation.

There is a tendency, which all sensible men must welcome,—to criticise even the best present methods of public education on the ground that children are not taught much of anything which will enable them to earn a living. The education given is a training for the mind, and may be indirectly useful, but it is a preparation rather for entering upon a higher course, which the child can never take, than of any value for that life which the child must enter in a few years at most, in order to utilize its labor in the family economy.

THE GREAT STRIKE.

The recent strike of the telegraph operators is probably the most important declaration of war between capital and labor that has ever taken place, and has necessarily excited general interest throughout the entire continent. We should infer from our United States exchanges that the operators are very generally condemned for having made demands far beyond their own expectations, and for having endeavored to enforce them by subjecting the entire community, but more especially the commercial classes, to most serious inconvenience and loss. The proposition of the Western Union Co., made in the hope of enticing back to its employment those who have struck work, is anything but a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. It is simply a bribe, which may or may not have a temporary effect, and would rather be an encouragement to their employees to act in a similar manner in future. The true way of dealing with the difficulty is to examine the complaints of the operators, and to redress all substantial grievances. It is of course, wholly inadmissible that a telegraph company should be required to pay uniform wages for the same class of work, regardless of the skill and industry of the operators. On the other hand, it

seems reasonable that females should receive equal compensation with males, if equally efficient. It is a favorite idea with brotherhood, and unions, that all the members should be put on the same footing as to pay, while employers, as a rule, will always insist on paying in proportion to the service rendered.

The fair remuneration for a day's work of a given number of hours, and for an average operator, might surely be arrived at without difficulty by friendly negotiation, as well as the additional rate per hour for extra time, which is sure to be required from telegraph operators. As to Sunday work it is not unreasonable that, when such is required, it should be paid for at an increased rate, and it would only be reasonable that this should be provided for by an increased rate on all messages despatched on Sundays. It seems incredible that the "Brotherhood," as the executive of the operators is termed, can believe in the possibility of securing equal pay for the skilful and the unskilful, the industrious and the indolent ones, and yet, by making such a demand, it has materially injured the cause which it has taken such violent steps to promote. The public naturally hold the Brotherhood responsible for the vexatious interruption of business, caused by their sudden and arbitrary demands, and there can be little doubt that, whatever may be the final adjustment of the present controversy, the influence of the secret junto will be seriously impaired. It has been suggested that all disputes between the telegraph companies and the operators should be left to arbitration, but we own that we doubt the practicability of establishing any such general arrangement. It is possible that if the leaders of the Brotherhood were to consent to leave the points at present in controversy to the mediation of some disinterested outsiders, the telegraph companies might be inclined to make concessions, but this is very different from admitting the general principle of arbitration. The question is almost certain to come up before peace is re-established, whether the dissolution of the Brotherhood shall or shall not be one of the conditions.

MANUFACTURING DEPRESSION.

The failures during the first six months of the current year have led to rather a lively controversy between the leading organs of the Government and Opposition at Toronto representing the advocates of Protection, and of Incidental Protection. It is sufficiently obvious that no sound