

their occupation gone in the presence of inventors of mowing and threshing machines. It has been argued that the small traders, thus crowded out, may, as many have done, find employment in the special departments of the great supply depots, but this is true only in regard to a limited number. It cannot be true of all, else one of the principal economies supposed to be wrought by the change would be illusory. If, however, the economy is real, the compensation will come to the general public in the increasing use and demand resulting from increased cheapness. Again, the establishments in question have been sometimes regarded as largely responsible for the sweating system, and for inferior qualities of goods, but it is obvious to a little reflection that whatever foundation in fact there may have been for these charges, these evils are by no means necessary products of the system. And these include, we think, the more usual objections urged against the system.

On the other hand, it is undeniable that strong reasons may be given for expecting the revolution to develop into a very beneficent evolution. Some of these reasons may be suggested in a sentence or two. Suppose, for illustration, the change to have been brought about by a general and benevolent desire on the part of a number of the large distributing houses to do better for their customers, without seriously diminishing their own profits. A little consideration would show them that a great economy could be effected by combining their various lines of business. How many duplications and quadruplications of expenses of various kinds could be got rid of. How much could be saved in rents. How much in the shape of drivers, waggons and other machinery for the local delivery, and so forth. And then what a saving in the time of their customers—to a large extent, no doubt, the same individuals—and what a convenience—to say nothing of reduced prices—to these to be able to purchase all their necessary supplies under the one roof, instead of having to visit half-a-dozen or a dozen different shops. It is evident that substantially the same results are being wrought by the competition and rivalry of the great general stores.

But what of tendencies and dangers? Ay, there's the rub! just where it is in the combines of manufacturers and other producers. The smaller the number of capitalists engaged in any line of production or distribution, the easier it is to effect a combination. A combination of fifty or a hundred, not to say five hundred, retail stores would be a virtual impossibility. Their various businesses once concentrated in half-a-dozen mammoth houses, combination becomes tempting and easy. Let the process we have described be continued in this city until all or nearly all the retail business is in the hands of a few firms, and these would have the consumers, for the time being at least, at their mercy. What would there be to prevent them from entering into a compact, to raise the price of goods to consumers almost at pleasure. The proprietors of this or that store to-day may be too virtuous to do such a thing, but who can vouch for their successors?

If only the great distributing establishments could be safely and efficiently owned and managed on the co-operative principle, or by the State on behalf of its individual members, à la Bellamy, what a grand economy might be effected! But ———?

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The supreme mistake of Lord Randolph Churchill when he resigned the chancellorship of the exchequer, expecting to be taken back into the Cabinet on his own terms, was in his forgetting Mr. Goschen. When told at a party by his hostess that Lord Salisbury had sent for that gentleman, he felt as if he had been dipped in cold water, his heart assuring him the news was true.

Canadian Nationality and Resources.

A VERY admirable address on this subject was recently delivered by Senator MacInnes, of Hamilton, before "The Canadian Club" of that city. It is needless to quote what he says as to the extent of the Dominion, or of the magnitude and availability of its natural resources. These are trite themes, and all that is left for any one to do now, who has to speak about them at all, is to say what he has to say as gracefully and as effectively as possible. Senator MacInnes' address was a model in both respects.

More out of the line usually followed on such occasions is a warning against the prevailing tendency to professionalism in education. Without going so far as to endorse the writer's preference for a "technical" as distinguished from a "classical" course, we regret to have to admit that as a matter of fact the use generally made of a linguistic and literary education, is to treat it as a passport into one of the learned professions. There is no reason why it should be so. The farmer or mechanic stands just as much in need of the consolations of literature as does the doctor or the lawyer—perhaps more so. Why should not a University graduate, who has in the culture resulting from academical work a means of adding indefinitely to the zest of life, turn his attention to the practice of agriculture or of mechanics, instead of the practice of law or medicine? The time may come, probably will soon come, when it will not be deemed necessary to advise young men to take a "technical" rather than a "classical" course. The latter is quite as important and as useful as the former, in view of the fact that man cannot live by bread alone, and that rational enjoyment is a duty as well as a privilege.

One of the most interesting points in the address is the reference to views expressed by the late Mr. Siemens, the eminent English engineer, on the then coming applications of electric energy. Senator MacInnes had an opportunity of spending a few days with him, in 1876, at Niagara Falls. Shortly afterward, in the course of an address to the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain, Mr. Siemens spoke of the enormous power running to waste over the cataract, and of the probability that some means would yet be found of conveying it to a distance. Amongst those conceivably available he mentioned the electrical conductor:

"Suppose water power to be employed to give motion to a dynamo electrical machine, a very powerful electrical current will be the result, which may be carried to a great distance through a large metallic conductor, and then be made to impart motion to electro-magnetic engines, to ignite the carbon points of electrical lamps, or to effect the separation of metals from their combinations. A copper rod three inches in diameter would be capable of transmitting 1000 horse powers a distance of thirty miles, an amount sufficient to supply one quarter of a million candle power, which would suffice to illuminate a moderately sized town."

During the last twenty years a great revolution has been wrought along the very line here suggested, and the power generated by Niagara Falls has played an important part in bringing it about. Senator MacInnes strongly emphasizes the interest Great Britain has in maintaining and retaining her colonies, and Canada's advantageous position in relation to traffic within the British Empire. She is now part of the highway between the mother country and Australia, and if she is true to her high calling and important mission nothing can deprive her of the advantage which such a position confers. In this connection he refers sympathetically to the recent Intercolonial Conference at Ottawa, and quotes