
Canadian Rural Education



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CARLYLE was in the habit of calling political economy the "dismal science." When he first used the epithet, the questions of political economy were dealt with in a rigid, exclusive way which seemed to regard man himself as of little account compared with the exacting economic laws which surround his existence. The humanitarian spirit which had been manifested in Adam Smith was then being replaced by the colder spirit of logical analysis. But the teachings of Carlyle and Ruskin resulted at last in the broadening once more of political economy. It ceased to be dismal; the cash basis became less and less regarded as the "sole nexus between man and man," and a distinct branch called social science has been developed, taking into account human well-being in every direction, and compelling the attention of modern and progressive governments to subjects which, a hundred years ago and less, were considered entirely out of their field of action.

The new view point which is influencing public action may be summed up in the statement that thinking men and women to-day,