

look upon the sport as merely brutal. Fifty years ago, drunkenness caused hardly a reproach; now it results inevitably in failure in business and in public and social life. Hate is a declining factor in politics; politicians passing each other in the street, no longer call out opprobrious names as they sometimes did less than a century ago. Then, too, classes were divided by a great gulf, and noblemen were almost a race apart. In Britain the distinctions of rank are still marked, but the great are now less insolent, the poor less bitter, and rank is a more frequent reward of successful effort than ever before; high posts in the army are no longer closed to the common soldier, and he sometimes becomes a general. Public opinion now insists that those who have power have also responsibility, and a higher sense of duty is observable among the ruling classes; in the present age landlords would not venture to house their tenants as many of them were housed fifty years ago.

**Growth of urban population.**—Yet the present conditions of life are in some respects unwholesome. The lack of capital in agriculture has been injurious to farmers of small means and has destroyed in England the sturdy yeomen, who, though poor, had the interest of owners in the soil which they tilled. Now those who do this work are usually hired labourers, and so universal is the system that we are apt to forget that a hundred years ago the labourer was often a partner in the products of the farm. Village life has lost some of its old attractions, and the people now flock into the great centres of population. By 1911 these had so increased that more than twenty-seven of the thirty-six millions of people in England and Wales were dwellers in towns. The dense and smoky air and crowded quarters make life in a British city less wholesome than life in a village, and to bring the people back to the land is a present-day problem. A chief difficulty arises from the fact that the facility of transporting food products has drawn to Britain supplies from all parts of the world, and has so lowered prices that agriculture no longer attracts capital by the profits to be earned. British energy is devoted ever more and more