

simply displacements in the geography of commerce.

I remember a time when the silk trade was much more widely distributed in England, and carried on not only in the great towns of the midland and northern counties, but in little villages in Suffolk. But, under the guidance of Mr. Cobden, a treaty was concluded with France which almost destroyed the English silk trade by allowing French goods to enter the market to compete with our own manufacture. France and Italy as silk-growing countries are obviously in a better position to carry on the manufacture of silk, even if there were no differences between the cost of English and foreign labour. But, while the finer silks are lost as English goods, a new industry has developed in manufacture of the produce of the oak silk-worm of China, which yields the Tussock silk, largely made in Macclesfield. And more recently the manufacture of silk plush has assumed some importance in Yorkshire, in a beautiful industry which is based upon the utilization of the waste cocoon from which the silk has been all reeled off. And it is not without interest that an item of profit in this trade consists in the careful preservation of the bodies of the insects which are within the cocoon, for these are sold as insect manure.

Almost all branches of manufacture show in a few years evidences of changed conditions of prosperity. We associate the paper trade very much with the basin of the Thames, though it is by no means limited to that area. But proximity to sources of supply of rags and waste paper, and facilities for shipping have made the Thames basin important in the paper trade. Now, however, there are important paper works at Glossop and at Barrow-in-Furness, in which no rags are used, and excellent paper is made from Norway pine. Outside

the works the wood is stacked in short lengths, just as it is stacked along the railways in Russia as fuel for the engines. It goes into the works in this form, and it comes out in endless rolls upon which newspapers are printed. Steam wedges split it. Steam drills take out the knots. Steam chisels cut it into chips. The chips pass down a hopper from which every discoloured fragment is removed by hand. Then they disappear in a vessel of sulphuric acid, in which the wood is reduced to pulp. It is yet a long way from becoming paper, and its after-treatment depends greatly upon the kind of paper that is to be made. The samples present a toughness and beauty which seem to indicate that the old ideas of paper-making may undergo change, both as to the raw materials used, and the geographical positions favourable to the industry.

A not infrequent difficulty in the local prosperity of an industry, is the contests that so often occur between workmen and employers concerning hours of work and rates of wages. So long as there is free trade and the wages paid abroad are less than in this country, it is possible for almost any industry to be transferred to the Continent, if the workmen demand higher wages than the trade will bear, and remain on strike sufficiently long for the foreign goods to supplant their own in the market. Many English manufacturers have from this cause been compelled to become manufacturers in Germany. The individual trade is oftentimes ruined by a strike, in the same sort of way as the national trade may be ruined by a war. At the present time, for instance, there is a strike in the glass-bottle trade, some branches of which are largely centered about Castleford and Knottingley in Yorkshire. There many of the bottles are made which are most familiar to us. Bottle-making mach-