

he is usually inattentive. Then when he is supplanted from this employment by machinery, he requires time to acquire the necessary methods of another form of labor. If he is then dependent on his daily work he is reduced to poverty during his term of apprenticeship. To him, therefore, the introduction of machinery is detrimental. Of course, it may be said that depression only affects the individuals and cannot be favorably compared to the general advantages accruing to society from machinery, but society itself is defective if it does not protect the interests of individuals, and especially the poor. It also decreases the demand for intelligent labor. By the use of machinery, the work of a skilled laborer can be performed by a child, and the latter is very often employed, thereby neglecting his education and endangering his morals and these steps often lead to corruption of the child and of society also. Wages are also lowered because the children and those who are employed, can maintain their existence on a cheaper scale than skilled laborers. Another disadvantage in machinery is that it multiplies unskilled laborers, since employees can do their work with very little application or study. The low standard of wages also prevents intelligent men from working at them.

If we compare the advantages and disadvantages of machinery, we must conclude that the former preponderates. Machinery increases the productiveness and efficacies of industry or the wealth of a country. But the more wealth the more demand for labor, and therefore in proportion as the wealth of a community is increased, so also is the demand for labor increased. Again there are machines, such as the plough, that are useful to all and injurious to none. It was once feared that the conveyances by road would be severely injured by steam-engines which are now considered so necessary for the transportation of things and people. But they resulted in an increase in both passengers and merchandise, and were consequently a source of wealth to the nation. The spinning wheel, in England, which was so strenuously opposed, resulted in a great increase in the quantity and quality of manufactured goods. By such extensive use of machines, one nation is placed in a position to compete with another nation, the necessities of life are within easy reach of rich and poor, and any suggestions to abandon machinery on account of its disadvantages would now seem most detrimental to the economic welfare of the world.

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