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THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

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Editorial

Co-Operative Manufacturing

At a meeting at Canterbury recently, H. Vivian (of the Co-operative Production Federation) gave some interesting and remarkable particulars in connection with the advance of co-operative production, which, he contended, constituted a great factor for the effacement of many of the quarrels which arose between capital and labor. Ten years ago they had fifteen concerns working on a co-operative basis; the workers sharing in the profits and having a voice in the control of the affairs

of the societies. The capital of these concerns was a little over £100,000, and their trade was equal to £160,000 per annum. To-day there were no fewer than 200 of these concerns, with a capital of one million sterling, and a yearly trade of two millions. Let them look at one or two of these societies. The Leicester Co-operative Hosiery Society began in a small room in a cottage, for which 1s. a week was paid for rent. To-day that society could boast of a trade of over £40,000 per annum and a capital of £30,000—all being managed by the workpeople themselves. A little over two years ago he was invited to address the workpeople engaged in the clothing industry at Kettering, and he strongly advised them to go in for co-operative production. About forty joined the movement, and were in consequence dismissed from their employment, with the result that a co-operative clothing factory was started without delay—much sooner than was originally contemplated. Look at the result; in two years they had moved into four factories, because one after the other became too small for their business, and the last factory they had moved into cost about £4,000 to obtain and fit up, so that at the present time the Kettering working people who were driven from their employment because they joined the co-operative production movement, possessed a factory which was far superior to any one possessed by their late employers. In two years also that society had improved its earnings by 25 per cent. beyond what the workmen were getting before; they had adopted the eight hours' days, and had a factory planned in every way for the comfort of the workpeople and lighted by electricity. He had never yet known a Trades Union with dozens of strikes and locks-out obtain for the workpeople in that Union what this productive association had done in two years. The reason was that the workpeople had got inside their industry and were tackling it from that standpoint, instead of from the outside. That was the difference between Trades Unionism and co-operative production. Take as another example, the delicate and difficult industry of silk production at Macclesfield. Between three and four years ago they started a co-operative movement at Macclesfield, and at first relied on the co-operative movement alone. They did not succeed, whereupon the manager suggested that they should go into the open market. Their shares at that time were not worth 7s. 6d. in the £, but the promoters struck out and opened up communication with London,