

of leisure to spread an active desire for mental improvement, we are even better justified in expecting this spread of mental improvement to result in many substantial gains in industrial efficiency. We have seen employers remarking a certain quickening of intelligence in their men immediately after the shortening of hours. The faculties which seem to have been torpid and wandering under the long hours concentrated themselves with more purpose and interest in their work and produced better results.

Why should workers work less hours? Because the man is looked upon as a machine and under the present condition he is nothing else from the employers' standpoint. You will start a machine at 7 a.m., stop for an hour for oiling and cleaning, and work until 6 p.m. But the human machine is duly responsible to his family, he has to meet his obligation, he has to school his children, clothe and nourish them, pay his rent out of the petty earnings sometimes received for such a work. In his old age not much more is done for him than for the material machine. The piece of old iron may be re-cast and something done with it, but the man generally is thrown in the scrap-heap of society. As a machine he has been of great use and profit to his employer but, notwithstanding all that, the steel is worn out and he is dealt with as an old tool. During his life of labour he may have worked ten hours or more a day. If he is in a destitute position the fault may lie in the lack of education, but what time did he have to educate himself; what time did he have to educate his family? It may be said that he should have had done it in evenings. But when fourteen hours of a man's day are taken by his work is it reasonable to believe that such can be done? The strain on his body is sometimes nothing to the strain on his brain. He never knows whether he will work to-morrow, he never knows whether he will live very long under the same roof with his family as he may be compelled to seek employment elsewhere. It may be that one of his family is on a sick bed, crying for better provision than usual. It may be that he is under the grinding of many more causes of daily worry. Still his energy is all taken up by his work. Then, is it possible for a human being to last any length of time under such conditions? These are to-day's reasons which will be repeated to-morrow and with some addition, and so on until such a time as the machine is partially or completely worn out. If a part of the human machine breaks or is out of order, does the employer contribute to repair the weak or broken part? No, but he will do it for his material machine as it represents a certain capital and to replace it a certain amount

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of money must be spent. But he the human can be replaced an hour after the breakage without any cost to the employer, which is most generally done, and still we say, why should we shorten the hours of labour? Because of the present long-hour day many are unemployed and the man on the street fixes the wages paid to the man at work. Labour-saving machinery has increased the producing capacity of the workman who, in justice, should be afforded leisure. Shorter hours would give greater opportunity for social and educational development.

It would raise the standard of living, upon which prosperity depends.

It would help the tax-payers by putting the tramp to work.

It would promote spirit which is lacking in over-worked people.

It would give men a chance to get acquainted with their families.

It would promote temperance by removing the desire for stimulants which come from long hours of labour.

It would make better citizens by giving the citizen more time to understand his duties.

Another reason, and of the highest importance in respect of restriction of hours of labour, is the woman and child labour.

It is not my intention to dwell at any length on that subject at this time. I hope it will be treated in a masterly way by some of the hon. members in this House. However, I am in duty bound to say a few words so as to permit other members to put before the House the necessity of restriction of hours, especially on that line. Have we ever stopped to consider that the child who works in the industries is to be the man or woman of to-morrow? Have we ever considered that they are to build the future generation? Have we ever considered that on them lies the responsibility of the growing of a strong nation? Have we ever asked ourselves whether we have acted in a spirit of progress in favour of our future generation?

Where is the hon. member of this House, either in his quality of member of this council of the nation or as citizen, who can say that he has done all he can to alleviate the sorrows and misery of thousands of women and children who are constantly wearing their life away in industry?

I am sorry to say that so few of our men in the economic world are giving enough time to even think of the condition of such a life.

Alongside of what we may call individual duty there is also a social duty, and I hope that in the near future we will have the government dealing on all such social questions and that a certain percentage of the members of this House will devote a few hours weekly to study this great question, which is the question of the day.