

Empire, suggested and carried through by Mr. Huskisson, opened a highway for colonial enterprise, of which the North Americans were not slow to avail themselves. This author tells us that the quantity of coal raised in the province in 1827 was only 11,491 tons. Ten years later, the quantity was 109,347 tons. In 1847 it rose to 183,099 tons, and in 1857 to 267,808 tons. Under the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, of 1854, the trade continued to be greatly benefited, culminating in 1865 in the production of 635,586 tons of coal, when it received a check, because a duty of five shillings per ton was placed on it." In the earlier part of the century the manufactures of Nova Scotia were as yet of an extremely simple and unpretending character. "Coarse cloth, or homespun, woven by the wives and daughters of the peasantry, are made in all the settlements and are generally woven by that class, the more affluent dressing in English broad-cloth only on the Sabbath. Some of these homemade fabrics are of handsome pattern. Fulling mills exist in the old townships, in which the cloth is thickened and dyed. Where these are too distant, the dyeing is a simple household process. Sheep are kept on every farm and supply the raw material. Coarse flannel for under garments, bed linen, woolen blankets and carpets are also made. Flax grows luxuriantly, but handspun and woven are not considered profitable, the British article finding its way into the province at prices as low. Power looms are unknown here. Tanning, to the extent of preserving all the hides grown in the country, and those occasionally brought from South America, is also practised. Some leather is also brought in 'from Canada.'"

According to "Eighty Years, etc.," the total value of live stock and agricultural products exported in the year 1860 was \$786,526; of timber, \$767,136; products of mines and quarries, \$658,257; manufactures, \$69,978; vessels, \$168,270; miscellaneous, \$151,132; merchandise, etc., imported from other countries and re-exported, \$1,019,788, making the total exports for 1860 up to \$6,787,804. The chief exports to Great Britain consisted of ships built in the province and timber. The West Indies was found the principal market for fish. The United States consumed large quantities of provincial fish, also large quantities of provincial coal and potatoes, and imported grindstones, gypsum and freestone. The province imported, as it does yet largely, of textile manufactures, also hardware, cutlery, pottery, chinaware, breadstuffs, sugar, tea, woodware, etc., which were largely imported from the United States. The value of the imports to the port of Halifax alone from the United States in the year 1861 was £1,736,879.

THE RIGHT TO STEAL.

A manufacturer of bicycles, M. Clement, has obtained considerable distinction as being the first French manufacturer to turn out a machine that could successfully compete with those of English and German make. For, although cycling is very popu-

lar in France, until recently nearly all of the machines used were those made in foreign factories. And even now but few of the French workmen are skilled in the manufacture and putting together of these machines; these few, if dishonest as well as ingenious, have it in their power to put their employers at a disadvantage. The way in which these workmen exercised, or rather abused, their advantages in a recent and peculiar labor trouble at the Clement factory, has been well described in the last number of the *Hardware Trade Journal* of Birmingham.

It would appear that for some considerable time the overseers of the factory had noted the daily disappearance of pieces of the machines. Although a vigilant watch was kept, the thieves remained undetected. At last the matter was placed in the hands of the police, and as a result nineteen of the workmen were arrested, and proof obtained that they had been carrying away machines bit by bit, setting them up, and placing them at a reduced price upon the market. As he was in the midst of the busy season, M. Clement withdrew the charge from five of the least guilty, but determined to take severe measures against the other fourteen. However, upon the first pay day, he was informed by a deputation, acting for some 400 workmen, that they had decided to quit work in a body unless their remaining comrades were released. This request the employer refused to grant, but offered as a compromise the promise to provide, in the meantime, for the families of the accused, and after the offenders had been released by course of law to take them all back into his employ. This was not considered sufficient by the men, and on the 11th of May they struck and refused to work. An increased number of orders was daily coming into the factory, and, after M. Clement had in vain tried to secure other employees, he was at last compelled to make a complete surrender. The charge against the men was withdrawn and they were taken back again into the factory.

The conditions of this strike are peculiar even in the annals of modern labor difficulties. It has been characterized by some as a practical execution of the anarchist doctrine, "What is thine is mine." But in whatever light the matter may be viewed, we can but believe that M. Clement has set a dangerous example, and as the *Journal* well says: "The right of the workmen to theft, or to perquisites, seems to have been established, and, no doubt, advantage will be taken of this victory, not only in the bicycle manufactories, but in all other industries in France."

M. Clement takes the matter very easily, however, and to those who accuse him of weakness in thus dealing with men of proved dishonesty, says he "knows best what is to the interest of his business." He expresses the view that the days which the culprits have spent in gaol, and their knowledge that they are henceforth watched and will be severely punished for any repetition of the thefts, will suffice to prevent their stealing again. His example is a bad one, nevertheless; he does not seem

to have considered how he may have weakened instead of strengthened the hands of other employers, who pay their men well and treat them well, and are entitled in return to honest service.

OCCUPATIONS AND HEALTH.

The influence of occupation on health has long been a subject of interested observation. But the results of observations of this kind in different countries have not always agreed, probably for the reason that they were made under different conditions. Climate, for example, will make an out-door occupation more deadly in one country than in another. And working indoors at certain trades may be pursued without serious menace to health in properly ventilated premises, where without such ventilation the work may prove very injurious.

Such investigations, and the tabulation of their results, are of much importance to life assurance societies, and great pains are taken by actuaries and medical officers of such bodies to obtain accurate information. Some anomalies present themselves occasionally, which tend to make one doubt the record. For example, shoemaking is considered among us to be a confining and unhealthy employment, while carpentry is regarded as an exceptionally healthful one. Yet, according to statistics, the difference in mortality between these two trades is but trifling. The butcher again is shorter lived than his appearance would lead one to expect, whether on this side of the Atlantic or the other.

It is interesting to trace for a series of years the effect of occupation on a large number of people in a great variety of employments. Many of the large life companies do preserve careful records of their mortality experience. Their actuaries are constantly endeavoring to enlarge their horizon by exchanging comparisons with other companies, taking heed of such points as the age at which mortality is greatest, the proportion of male deaths to female, the effect of occupation on different generations in the same trade.

The official figures of the United Kingdom show that between three and four millions of females, young and old, are classed as having a definite occupation:—1,258,000 are engaged at domestic service; 600,000 each at dressmaking and the manufacture of textile fabrics; 288,000 at laundrying; 125,000 nursing; 33,000 lodging house keeping. And besides these occupations, there are many others at which the women employed outnumber the men, for example, bookbinding, confectionery making, lace making, straw plaiting, glove making, woolen and worsted manufacture. And indeed there has been for twenty years a tendency to increase the number of females employed in various branches of the cotton industry.

Mr. Charles Stevenson, a well known actuary of Edinburgh, has contributed to the "expectation of life" tables the most recent information on this subject, in the shape of a little paper on "The Effect of Employment on Life and Health," in which many curious facts are presented, concerning the relation of occupations to mortality rates.