

implements with which he supplies the farmer, or to the building of railway lines to convey freight to and fro between city and county. And so the circle can be filled out, one man supplying a necessity to others and being helped himself by them, in turn.

Let us look now at the effects of the division of labour, considering first its good effects. Principal among these is the increase of skill which it causes in the workman. "Practice make perfect" is an old and reliable adage. It is evident, that when a man interests himself in but one trade or profession he becomes more skilful than does he who dabbles in many occupations. Especially is this evident in large factories where the division of labour can be, and is, carried to the extreme. In these factories it is often the case that an operative's whole task consists of one operation repeated at regular intervals. In time the operative becomes so accustomed to his work that he does it perfectly, mechanically and while paying scarce a fraction of attention to it.

The division of labour leads men to invention. When a workman is doing the same work every day and meeting the same difficulties, it is only natural that he should, in time, contrive means of obviating or of overcoming these difficulties. We are told that the first steam engine was not provided with an automatic safety-valve, but that a boy was employed whose duty it was to open the valve when the steam-gage indicated too great pressure. The boy, finding his job tedious, invented a means by which the pressure, when it became too great, would open the valve itself. The boy had had but one operation to consider, he acquired a perfect knowledge of its every aspect, and finally he overcame the one difficulty it presented. Had the care of the safety-valve been but one of a number of duties, the boy would, probably, have overlooked the difficulty and would not have removed it.

And again, if every man endeavored to do everything for himself he would be learning all his life, and, at that, he would not attain more than passable skill in his different industries. But when labour is divided minutely a workman may learn his duties in a day, and most trades can be learned in three years. This is a great benefit to many poor people, for the time of apprenticeship is a time of small pay and, the longer it lasts, the more insistent becomes the howling of the wolf at the door.

Capitalists have a better control over the cost of production and over the men in places where labour is classified minutely,