

ably slower, but its great resources were bound to be discovered in time. There is every indication that from now on, that Province will not lag behind in the industrial and commercial race, and the City of Quebec will lead in the renaissance.

**T**HE appointment of a committee by the Ontario Legislature to take evidence on the child labour question takes time by the forelock. For while the reports of the factory inspectors show that there are not lacking examples of the evils attaching to child labour, at the same time there has not been a general development of vested industrial interests dependent on the exploitation of children. The experience of the United States shows that the employment of children of immature age and its attendant ills is not an old world phenomenon alone. In the Southern States the children of the "poor whites" are aiding in shifting the centre of the American cotton industry from New England to the section adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico. At the same time these states have shown themselves incompetent to deal with the evils arising from the untrammelled employment of children. It is this which leads to the attempt to have the Federal Government deal with the matter indirectly through the increasingly elastic interpretation of the interstate commerce clause.

The justification of governmental regulation of the conditions of employment of children depends not on humanitarian grounds alone. It is demonstrable that life-blood is too costly a dye stuff to enter into cotton fabrics. To permit children to be employed in workshops and factories is to permit their physique to be stunted and deteriorated. The nation that through such a method of industry gains temporary cheapness is living

out of capital not income. Children worked out before their time fall far short of their maximum wealth-producing power. Enfeebled physique, resulting from high pressure activity at an immature age, is transmitted to future generations. In the interest of the highest development the brunt of the competitive struggle, which is after all a man's game, should not fall upon the poorly defended child.

**M**ORE than ten years ago, Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward" described, among other automatic wonders in a modern Utopia, a magic button which would under pressure yield any class of musical composition desired. In the Canadian Courier there was described two months ago, Dr. Thaddeus Cahill's recent invention which an English magazine called the dynamophone. Last week a page of the "Illustrated London News" was given up to this invention, now called the telharmonium, by which music is transmitted to any distance, while the performer controls vibrating currents from a series of dynamos, each of which corresponds to a separate note of music. Electricity, which has worked such transformations in almost every department of industry, is now being used in the more subtle realms of art and music. It is said that Dr. Cahill's invention will send the music to the people and change the system by which the rich may enjoy the best music. Nothing will ever take the place of the individual human appeal of the great artist, but it seems as if the telharmonium were to work a revolution in the concert system. And the beauty of the arrangement is that the listener can never be disturbed by the people who come late and then insist on rustling their programmes.



THE MIS-FITS OF THE CIVIL SERVICES OF CANADA.

When men are appointed to office haphazard, without any system, there are bound to be many mis-fits. Under a Civil Service System worthy of the name, each man would be specially examined to find out his particular qualifications. If he developed any special abilities, they would be recognised and utilised. Every civil service in Canada needs reorganising in order to make mis-fits impossible. Driving square pegs into round holes, or the reverse, is but a natural result of the present deleterious and pernicious system of appointing only party workers to public office.