

CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALISM 27

exist to-day were comparatively unknown. But when the steam engine came those who were rich and enterprising, and small in humane emotions, got possession of the machinery; the productive power of industry was immensely increased,* the business of the old masters of handicrafts was ruined, the multitudes were compelled to crowd for work into the cities where the machinery and the factories were, modern cities began to grow rapidly, an era of intense and ruthless competition began, certain classes of the population became immensely wealthy, while many from the weaker and less privileged classes went under in the struggle for an existence, and Professor Walter R. Schenbusch tells us that while in about sixty years—from 1760 to 1820 A.D.—the population of England increased 70 per cent., the poverty increased more than 500 per cent.

*J. Ramsay McDonald tells us that "twenty men in Lancashire to-day can make as much cotton as the whole of the old cotton-producing Lancashire put together, and 1,000 shoe operatives in Leicester can supply a quarter of a million people with four pairs of boots a year." See "The Socialist Movement," page 96, by this author.