

most lasting because it kept alive the co-operative faith in the minds of men after his successful experiment had died away.

The weakness in the Owenite plan was that he helped by his genius and altruism the mass of the people from the outside. He gave them the benefit of his money and his talents, but failed to adequately teach them the virtue of the maxim that "God helps those who help themselves."

Rochdale Pioneers

While we regard Owen as the father of modern co-operation, he did but plough up the land and prepare it for the co-operative seed. Modern co-operation had its real birthplace in the town of Rochdale, Lancashire, on December 21st 1844. That town is to-day the Mecca of international co-operators. From that store, hired at \$50 per annum, containing \$70 worth of fixtures and trade utensils and \$75 in merchandise, consisting of small quantities of "flour, butter, sugar and oatmeal," has arisen that mighty movement, so widespread in its beneficent operations that some years ago it was described by Lord Rosebery as a "state within a state," one which, in my judgment, because of its democratic organization, its magnitude, its compre-