

than they were fifty years ago. In all employments the rise in wages has been very considerable, in some as much as 150 per cent. On the other hand, there has been a decrease in the cost of the necessities of life, especially in wheat. The exception in articles of food is in meat, which has increased in price, but fifty years ago the lecturer explains that the workman had little more concern with its price than he had with the price of diamonds. The kind of meat which was then alone accessible to him, viz., bacon, has declined in price. Another item of expenditure, rent, has increased in price, but, allowing for this increase, the balance of the workman's wages applicable to other necessities would be more than 80 per cent in excess of what it was 50 years ago. It is also to be borne in mind that the increased rent is, in a great measure, the higher price for a superior article which the workman can afford.

The table of imported articles gives the import per head of the population of the United Kingdom in the years 1841 and 1881, and although it may be difficult, owing to the fact that many of the articles, such, for example, as wheat and flour, are articles of home production, to draw correct inferences, yet there are several articles not produced in the United Kingdom which will illustrate the improvement in the circumstances of the masses. In 1840 the import of tea was 1.22 lbs. per head, and in 1881 4.58, nearly quadruple. Raw sugar increased from 15.20 lbs. to 58.92 lbs. Rice, from .90 to 16.32. Tobacco, from .86 to 1.41, and currants and raisins, from 1.45 to 4.34. The increase in corn, wheat and wheat flour was from 42.47 to 216.92 lbs. Referring to these results, Mr. Giffen correctly observes that the increase is not to be attributed to the increased consumption of the rich. "It is the consumption, emphatically, of the mass which is here in question."

A very interesting portion of the lecture is that relating to education, pauperism, crime, and savings banks. The education statistics go back only 30 years to 1851, when the children in average attendance at schools aided by parliamentary grants were, in England, 239,000, and in Scotland 32,000. In 1881 the figures were 2,863,000 and 410,000. The lecturer, who is a Scotchman, bears his personal testimony to the improvement in that part of the United Kingdom, where, as he correctly observes, there was, 40 or 50 years ago, "the most advanced common education," but "the superiority of the common school system there at the present day" "to what it was 40 years ago is immense." There are no statistics given in regard to

Ireland, but there is probably no part of the United Kingdom where there has been greater improvement in the opportunities for education.

In regard to crime it is stated that the number of criminal offenders committed for trial in 1831 was 54,000, and in England alone 21,000. In the United Kingdom they are now 22,000, and in England 15,000. The decrease has been much greater in Scotland and Ireland than in England. It must, however, be borne in mind that allowance should be made for the summary trial of offenders that were formerly tried at the assizes; but the lecturer holds that there is ample margin for such changes, "without affecting the inference that there is less serious crime than there was fifty years ago," an improvement which corresponds to the better education and well-being of the masses.

In regard to pauperism it is a matter of history that half a century ago it was nearly breaking down the country, and that, when the population was half what it is now, the burden was the same. The earliest and latest figures are for 1849 and 1881. In England the paupers were, in 1849, 934,000, and in 1881, 803,000. In Scotland in 1859, 122,000, in 1881, 102,000. In Ireland in 1849, 620,000, and in 1881, 109,000. The large number of paupers in Ireland in 1849 may be attributed to the consequences of the great famine. We have been so accustomed of late to read of the distressed condition of the Irish people, with reference to the high rent of land, that it seems strange to find in the lecture of a profound statistician that the great rise in the remuneration of labor in Ireland is the only way in which it is possible to account for the stationariness of rents for a long period, notwithstanding the great rise in the prices of the cattle and dairy products, which Ireland produces and which, in ordinary cases, would have justified a rise of rents. "The laboring farmer and the laborer together have in fact had all the benefit of the rise in prices."

The figures relating to the Savings Banks are the most remarkable of all. In 1831 the number of depositors was 429,000, in 1881, 4,141,000. In 1831 the deposits were £13,719,000, in 1881, £80,334,000. The amounts per depositor were £34 in 1831, and £20 per depositor in 1881, thus showing that the Savings Banks were used more by the wealthier classes 50 years ago than now. The increase in the number of depositors was about tenfold in the 50 years. In connection with Savings Banks the progress of the industrial and provident co-operative societies

deserves notice, but the lecturer was unable to get figures prior to 1862, although he had reason to believe that their growth up to that period had been very small. In 1862 the number of members was 90,600, in 1881 525,000. The share capital in 1862 was £428,000, in 1881 £5,881,000. The sales in 1862 were £2,333,000, in 1881 £20,901,000. The net profit rose from £165,000 to £1,617,000. Under all heads the increase was about tenfold. We shall postpone the consideration of the lecturer's deductions from the facts, which we have endeavored to give as briefly as possible, and which will be found deserving of thoughtful consideration.

MR. PAUL ON THE SILK TRADE.

The Y. M. C. Association is well entitled to the gratitude of the community of Montreal for having secured the delivery of the course of instructive lectures, another of which we have to notice in our present number. Mr. Frank Paul, resident partner of the silk manufacturing firm of Belding, Paul & Co., known as Belding Bros. & Co., in New York and other large cities of the United States, naturally took for his subject the "Silk Industry." This industry had its origin in China in times so remote that we have to rely on tradition that it was first woven some 2,700 years before the Christian era. From that country the knowledge of silk culture, long confined to the extraordinary race where it originated, spread into Arabia, India, Persia and Japan, 600 years B. C. In process of time the industry took root in France, which became its principal seat in Europe. When the Huguenots were banished from France by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, in 1685, a great number of them took refuge in England, where they established the silk industry in Spitalfields in East London, whence it was introduced into one or two other inland towns, but without ever becoming one of the principal British industries. It seems almost marvellous in the present day to be told that at one time gold and silk were of the same value, weight for weight.

Mr. Paul estimates the annual production of silk at \$300,000,000, to obtain which sixty to seventy billions of worms had to live and die annually. So late as the year 1861 six new species of the silk worm were rearing in France. The chief silk manufacture in the present day is carried on at the City of Lyons in France. It is interesting to learn that in that city there are very few power looms, the bulk of the silk goods being woven