

while the average return per caput of the labour employed in Colorado is, according to a calculation based on the figures of the *Mining Reporter*, about \$4,000 a year. But it is evident that the return *per caput* must rise as the gross output rises the difference between working on a large scale and working on a small scale affecting the comparison. It is evident also that a thousand and one factors, besides the mere question of labour, affect the validity of the comparison. But aside from all that the question may be raised whether labour in America is more highly paid because it is more efficient or whether it is more efficient because it is more highly paid. As a matter of fact it would seem that those two factors act and react upon one another. The economic law regulating the relation between the value of labour and its price may be stated as follows:—

The coefficient of efficiency is greater in high-priced labour than it is in low-priced labour.

That is to say, that the value in production of one labourer who is worth \$3.00 a day is greater than the value in production of six men who are only worth 50 cents a day. But it must be remembered that the man must be worth \$3.00 a day to begin with. The law works out in this way. Under the stimulus of educative influences, comfortable surroundings and the physical and mental well being induced by a comfortable livelihood, the coefficient of efficiency in the high-priced labourer tends to increase, and in a generation or two he has become worth a remuneration of \$3.50 a day. But while his wages increase there is under the law stated a cumulative benefit accruing to the industry in which he is employed and to the country of which he is a citizen. On the other hand the coefficient of efficiency of the low-priced labourer remains the same, or becomes less or increases in a less degree, and the country of which he is the representative infallibly gets left behind in the industrial race. This is the explanation of how, with continually increasing wages, Great Britain and the United States have not only maintained but increased their industrial lead over other countries in which wages are lower. One of the most mysterious things about old-fashioned political economy is that while every one has always admitted that the efficiency of a horse is a matter of breeding, development and generous living, the efficiency of human labour, in which surely nerve, brain and will power, have more influence, should always have been treated as if it were a constant factor per head of the human beings employed. This false premise has fortunately disappeared from economic thought and in time we suppose will also disappear from popular argument. At the same time there are two fallacious conclusions to which an imperfect appreciation of the principle involved gives rise. The first of these may be termed the fallacy of the working man. He is apt to think that by an arbitrary increase of the remuneration of labour the coefficient of efficiency may be arbitrarily and immediately increased forgetting that the measure of his wage, at any particular time, is the productive value of his labour at that particular time.

The second fallacy is the employer's fallacy. He is apt to consider that an arbitrary reduction of wages will not inevitably affect the efficiency of the labour employed. By the struggle between the employer and the employed, each trying to enforce an incomplete appreciation of the truth, an equipoise is maintained and the progress of society in accordance with the natural law of their relations is provided for.

Many are now casting round for a reason why the mining development of the West Coast of Vancouver Island is proceeding so slowly. Some blame the mining laws, others bad management, but the most probable reason is lack of scientific mining and realisation that the development of a single copper proposition is a very serious undertaking, requiring an abundance of capital. There is a very general impression that the mineral belts of the West Coast are much broken up by great volcanic disturbances, with the result that the copper veins have become so faulted that only isolated patches of copper ore can be found.

It is undoubtedly true that these great disturbances have occurred and that the sedimentary strata have accordingly been greatly broken up and altered by intrusions of igneous rocks, but this condition of affairs is far from being inimical but is actually responsible for the presence of the ore bodies.

As a general rule the faulting of the ore bodies has been slight, as can be observed by a general examination of the ore-carrying belts, notwithstanding the precipitous character of the mountains.

The miner, however, must be prepared to meet with a surface glide where a mass of rock, carrying ore, may slip down the mountain side for some considerable distance. A good miner who surveys his ground before commencing work would soon detect a mere piece of float, even though of considerable size.

On the West Coast the copper ores generally occur in more or less isolated lenses and shoots deposited along great shear planes or contacts, often very irregular. It will thus be seen that the miner must be prepared to follow the ore in whatever direction it may lead him, and to pluckily follow a stringer of ore branching out from an ore body, as it may, and often does, guide him to another chamber of ore. Rock work, however, costs money and the explorer must be prepared to sink \$30,000, and even more, on primary development work before he can say he has a mine or not.

Now for a word of warning. Many of the most promising showings on the coast are simply skins of ore deposited on the surface of the rock from copper-bearing solutions percolating through the joints and faults. These are commonly known as "blankets" and "blow outs." These "blankets" can often be traced in isolated patches along a line of slip which gives rise to the impression that the outcrop of a well-defined and regular vein has been discovered. Such an impression often