

ticularly by Viennese physicians, writing in Austrian papers from India, to the efficiency of the methods adopted to deal with the disease, and the encomiums are quite in order judging from all reliable accounts.

It is absurd for the foreign press to talk of England's inability to cope with either the plague or the famine, and to say that the existence of each is due to the policy of government pursued by that country with regard to her Indian Empire. Before England took hold of India and opened it up, plagues and famines were of the most common occurrence, and absolutely no precautionary measures were taken by the natives to avert disaster in either case. If a famine occurred it was a decree from heaven, and if a plague visited the country, it was useless to try to combat it. Such was the belief of the people, and Englishmen found it the greatest labor to induce the natives to allow them to do anything that would alter the conditions that existed, which tradition and caste made it obligatory on the people to observe. It is only of late years that the natives have learnt that it is proper to stay the visitations, if practicable, and, moreover, it is only since the country has been opened up by the English that any attention has been paid by European nations to the existence of scourges and distress in India at all; and the humane measures to prevent the occurrence of such disasters have done more than anything else to draw attention to the existence of the evils.

No, it is owing entirely to English occupation that the country has not suffered more than it has of late years from plagues and famines.

The progress which industrial co-operation is making in England has been creating considerable comment of late.

There are already, in the United Kingdom, co-operative institutions boasting upwards of 1,500,000 members holding £17,096,538 in capital shares and reserve funds, doing an annual trade of nearly £53,000,000, and earning for their members thereon £5,400,000 in profits. "We see," writes Henry W. Wolff in the *London Cosmopolis*, "the two wholesale societies of England and Scotland em-

ploying between them about 10,000 hands, disposing of about £1,000,000 of funds of their own, selling £13,000,000 worth of goods, and sending abroad their own flotilla of steamers to carry their merchandise home from stations, branches and depots scattered all over the globe." What an example of the great influence of democracy in England!

Here is a system of industrial enterprise run by and operated in the interests of the workingmen of England, doing an annual trade of over twice the value of the annual export trade of Canada, or exceeding, in round figures, the total imports and exports of the Dominion by \$40,000,000. The value of this as a means of elevating the workingman's condition cannot be estimated.

Is it not time that the workingmen of America were alive to their interests? We are accustomed to hear so much about the power of democratic institutions in the United States that one would think that working men had no rights outside that country. But where can the United States show such a practical example of "government by the people" as that which is exemplified in the great co-operative stores of Leeds, of Woolwich, of Huddersfield and of Leicester—enterprises owned by the people and returning the profits to them; managed and operated by *bona fide* workingmen with an unsurpassed administrative and commercial judgment, and providing work for thousands at fair wages? True, there are departmental stores in the United States, as well as here; but are they run in the interests of the employees, of the workingmen and of the people? Are they not, rather, operated for the benefit of the few—for those who have combined to monopolize trade and cut down employees' wages? The contrast between the result in the one case and the effect in the other is as marked as is the difference between day and night. The profits on the one hand return to the purchaser who, in addition, is a part owner in the institution; in the other case the earnings go to build another summer home for the man who has five or six already. There is, emphatically, no similarity in the sociological effects resulting from the departmental stores