

pations at the lower end of the scale, she is creating new ones at the top. There are thousands of men at work to-day in callings which had no existence three-quarters of a century ago. Modern society has given rise to many entirely new vocations. The electricians employed by the telegraph, telephone, electric light, electric locomotives, etc.; the civil engineers and draughtsmen; the journalists, teachers, photographers, and a hundred others; these are instances of the new employments brought into being by the new inventions. Whole armies of men are thus employed, and all at what may well be called skilled work. It is estimated that in England alone one-fifth of the adult male population now find their livelihood in callings that had no existence a hundred years ago, and in America even greater progress has been made.

There was a time, and indeed it is not even yet fully past, when the laboring classes met the introduction of labor-saving devices with disfavor, and sometimes with riot. The immediate effect of such improvements is, of course, that workmen are thrown out of employment for the time being. They are thus forced by circumstances to move a step higher in the industrial scale. They cannot, however, pass at once from the lowest to the highest employments. A coal-heaver cannot take up an engineer's work at a day's notice, nor a plumber become an electrician. But a gradual creeping-up is always taking place. The man out of work must exert himself to meet the requirements of a higher position, and the changing at the top brings about a shifting at the bottom by which a vacancy is provided for him to step into. This upward movement is also helped by the family education. The plumber educates his son to be an engineer, the carter apprentices his boy to a plumber, and the dock laborer encourages his young folks to be carters.

Thus the general drift of the whole social scale is steadily upward. Science

provides intelligent occupations at the upper end and abolishes those that are more or less brute-like at the lower, and society is constantly being transformed and bettered by the practical effects of scientific progress.

England's Great Excitement

POLITICS, religion, and education, are curiously mingled in the great public question that has for some months been exercising the people of England, known to us as the English Education Bill. No such complication could be possible in Canada, where sectarianism has fortunately never gained the foothold that it has in the older country. Yet complicated as it is, the whole matter reduces to very simple terms. It is a fight for public control of the schools, in which the contestants are the State Church and the Nonconformists.

The public schools in England are of two kinds, board schools, supported from the public funds, and voluntary schools, established and controlled by the church, but only partially supported by it. In these latter schools the religious teaching is sectarian, and there are eight thousand parishes where no other kind of elementary school exists. Long usage has given the churches a powerful influence in this connection, but they are finding the financial support of the schools an increasing difficulty. The present Bill accordingly proposes to abolish the electoral boards and put the control of all schools in the hands of a county council, the whole cost of maintenance to come from the public rates. The voluntary schools will, however, continue under denominational control to the extent that the church in question will select two-thirds of the local managers, and will appoint and dismiss the teachers. To this the Nonconformists strongly object, and are prepared to forfeit their property rather than to submit. They claim that schools supported from the public funds should be under free control, and that the proposed endowment