

EFFECT ON THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY

matters not vitally how far these occupations are within the economic process as paid work or outside it as the occupations of leisure; how far we become professional musicians or concentrate our talent in amateur musical societies and so on. The leisure, the means, the opportunity will be provided by the surplus wealth created by the machines.

The same surplus will at the same time provide the basis for a greater approach to human and social equality, by removing the material opportunities by which they are confirmed; so that increasingly the differences between men will depend upon individual variations in talent, quality, and character.

Last, but not least, the new wealth will in time have a profound effect upon social ethics, and upon the underlying psychology which determines the springs of action in groups and communities of men. Hitherto the basic material fact of existence has been an inescapable scarcity in relation to human needs and desires. It is due to this that competition has been so fundamental a factor in the lives of both individuals and of communities; the effort to create more having its counterpart in a scramble to get a larger share of a necessarily limited total. The struggle for existence throughout all the stages of evolution, due to the constant excess of living and consuming