THE GODIN FACTORY.

METHODS OF THE CO-OPERATIVE ESTABLISHMENT AT LIEGE.

A Peculiar Scheme of Industrial Distribution—Division Between Capital, Labor, Talent and "Nature"—How the Stock Changes Hands—Results.

As with his social palace, so in his scheme of industrial distribution, M. Godin's ideas were colored by Fourierist recollections. Before 1880 M. Godin had merely set apart a certain sum—£8,000 or £10,000—out of the profits of the year to be distributed among his men as a bonus; but in 1880 he converted the business into a commandite company, and introduced a complicated system of arrangements for realizing effectively Fourier's principle of a just division of the produce of industry, the division between capital, labor and talent, according to the importance of their several contributions. It is true he thought this principle theoretically defective, because talent was only a particular kind of labor, and because nature, which Fourier wholly ignored, was, in Godin's opinion, as important a contributor to production as any of the other three. Nature's share in the division ought, he thought, to be appropriated by the state, partly by means of the nationalization of land for the purpose of letting it out to all sorts of productive societies, and partly by means of a heavy graduated succession duty; and the funds thus obtained ought to be employed in establishing a system of universal insurance against sickness, accidents, age and vicissitudes generally. But in the meantime, so long as the laws of private inheritance and private property in land remained unmodified, and the state showed no disposition to serve himself heir to nature's share, individual producers must each set aside that share for themselves, and consequently the first part in M. Godin's annual division is 25 per cent. of the whole net profits to a reserve fund for purposes of personal insurance. In passing I may say that besides this every workman is obliged to pay to that fund 2 per cent. on his wages, that in 1883 the fund amounted to 360,000 francs, and in the three years it had existed at that time more than 90,000 francs had been paid out of it for sick relief and pensions on a comfortable scale.

Next to nature's deal comes the deal of talent or intelligence, and that also is fixed at 25 per cent. The director alone (M. Godin during his lifetime) got and gets 12 per cent. of the profits, in addition to his salary of 15,000 francs. In 1883 this 12 per cent. amounted to more than four times his salary. Half the profits going thus in equal shares to nature and intelligence, the other half remaining to be divided between the factors, capital and labor. Capital had already received 5 per cent. interest, and labor had of course already received its weekly wages, all before there was any calculation of profit at all, and M. Godin concluded that the proper principle now was to give capital a share of the remaining half of the profits in proportion to the amount of interest it received, and labor in proportion to the wages it had received. In 1883 the total amount of interest paid was 250,000 francs on 4,000,000 francs of capital, and the total wages paid was 1,250,000 francs, so that of this remaining half of the profits some nine-tenths go to the deal of labor.

M. Godin's scheme, however, by no means ends here; his object was to make the employes in the final result owner of the capital of the business, and with this view he decided that the laborer's share of the profits should not be paid immediately into their hands, to be used at their discretion, but should be applied to buy for them shares in the business. In this way the business is gradually falling into the hands of the laborers engaged in it. In 1883 they already possessed stock amounting to nearly two millions of francs, and though the capital has been raised to 6,000,000 francs, it will only take a few more years for it to be acquired entirely by the employes. The interest on the shares they possess they receive like their wages, to spend as they will.

M. Godin states, in his book on government, that the average amount of indirect taxation on articles of consumption paid per head in the familistere of Guise is seventy-five francs, and turning to books of statistics we find that the average for France generally is only thirty francs. The people of the familistere live, therefore, two and a half times better than the rest of the French. Their working day is ten hours, and they have besides common holidays, two special fete days of their own every year—the Feast of Labor on the first Sunday in May and the Feast of Infancy on the first Sunday in September.

The director, who at the head of the whole place, is an autocrat in all business affairs. He is elected—that is, since 1880—but he is elected for life, and the management is uncontrolled. He chooses the foremen and makes the bargains. Next below him stand the group that elect him, the associes, numbering sixty-eight in 1883, who must have worked at least five years in the foundry, be men of good education and stainless life and possess not less than 500 francs of capital in the business. Their privileges are large, like their requirements. They elect themselves by co-optation, share in the profits on twice their wages, can only be expelled from the association by a vote of two-thirds of their own peers (the other associes), have the first right to work when work is short and retire on a pension of two-thirds of their wages or salaries. After them come ninety-five sociétaires, chosen by the manager and administrative council, sharing the profits on one and one-half times their wages, and getting a pension on one-third of them; 573 participants, similarly chosen, and sharing on their simple wages only; 258 auxiliaires, who as yet get no share in the profits, except through their interest in the insurance fund, and 306 interesses, who are allowed to retain stock they have inherited, though they have no further interest in the concern.

The stock, which is only being gradually taken up year by year, must, when it is all taken up, be again parted with in the same way, the first shareholders being then obliged to sell out their shares to the new comers. During the interval the shares may occasiently be held by widows or other persons not in active employment, but at the end of the term they must always return to the possession of actual laborers, and so the way is smoothed for the retirement of the older generation and the accession of the younger.—Good Words.

A New Fire Detector.

An ingenious method of detecting a fire in its inactive stage, whereby better protection is insured against fire in textile mills, warehouses, large public buildings, ships, etc., has been advanced by the fire brigade master at Paisley, England. His system departs from the heat alarm method and consists of an arrangement of perforated pipes, which are led through the interior of buildings or the lower decks of seagoing vessels. These are connected with an ordinary aspirant and force pump or pumps, either rotary or reciprocating, which, when set in motion, will inhale smoke arising and discharge it at a convenient point available at all times.—Bradford Times.

Facts About Girard College.

With regard to the exclusion of ecclesiastics from Girard college, a writer, in commenting on the will of Stephen Girard, once said: "It is agreed on all hands that no evil has resulted from that singular injunction in the will." The only effect of the clause is that the morning prayers and Sunday services at the college are conducted by gentlemen who have not undergone the ceremony of ordination. Notwithstanding the free thinking tendencies and wishes of the donor of that magnificent orphanage, the beneficiaries, one and all, receive a sound religious training. The original cost of the college was about $2,000,000. Thirty years ago it was the finest specimen of Grecian architecture in America. The college buildings are surrounded by a stone wall ten feet high, inclosing forty-one acres beautifully laid out in play grounds, grass plots and gardens. Orphan boys from the city of Philadelphia have the preference over all other applicants; then comes the state of Pennsylvania, and after that the city of New Orleans. The whole estate left by Girard amounted to $7,000,000, all but $500,000 going to the college.—New York Press.

How the Window Smashers Work.

Breaking store windows for the purpose of robbery has been reduced to a system of which few people are aware. It is a bold piece of work and requires a man of nerve. The old method was to smear molasses or wax on the window pane, cover it with paper and force in the glass. The sticking material prevented the pieces from falling and making a noise. The large plate glass windows now in universal use necessitate another mode of breaking. The sharp end of a three cornered file is inserted between the woodwork and the lower end of the pane, and a quick turn of the file splits the glass. The broken piece is quickly pried out without much noise. Some window smashers carry an iron plate having a handle like a shield on one side and a sharp projecting iron rod on the other. This is pushed against the window, breaks in the glass and leaves an opening large enough to secure a good grip at the contents exposed for show.—Chicago Times.

China Not Overpopulated.

Most people are under the impression that China is an overpopulated country, and that the constant flow of emigration is due to that cause and that alone. We are now, however, told by no less an authority than the Marquis Tseng that this is an entirely erroneous idea. The emigration, he says, has been caused by the ruin brought about by recent rebellions, and not by any difficulty of finding subsistence under ordinary conditions. The marquis' plan is that the Chinese government should organize a colonization of Manchuria, Mongolia and Chinese Turkestan, where there are immense tracts of country which have never been cultivated, and where the establishment of a strong population would be not only financially but politically most important.—Home Journal.

Different Modes of Spelling.

The ingenuity exhibited in the different modes of spelling quite a common name is curiously illustrated in the following incident: A lumber dealer in Minnesota, whose given name was Isaac, had quite an extensive correspondence. His bookkeeper made a memorandum of every time his name was misspelled in letters directed to him, and the list reads as follows: Isiac, Isac, Icaach, Ickie, Ysac, Isaag, Isic, Isiacs, Icac, Isach, Isie, Isiacz, Isacce, Iosic, Isaac, Icks, Iasac, Aisac, Imac, Iaacc, Iosic, Isacs, Isics, Isac, Isaac, Isic, I Sic, Isaach, Isac, Isics, Izacs, Isaacs, Isaks, Isiick, Isaas, Isacc, Isak, Isaack, Icano, I Sick, Isick, Isaac, Isaac, Isacs, Iosic, Isics, Isaic. That will do for Isaac.—Chicago Herald.

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

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