

has resulted. The only gleam of light that now shines on China is that preparatory schools on the western principle have been inaugurated and that a university of the same model has been established in Peking. But the effect on a dense and hardened mass for many years to come will be like the picking at a huge boulder with a geologist's hammer.

#### Co-operation.

The National Co-operative festival held annually in Great Britain occurred several weeks since at the Crystal Palace, London, and the reports made on that occasion were full of interest and suggestion. The possibilities of co-operative enterprise as a solution, at least in part, of the clashing of capital and labor have been widely discussed and its experiments closely scrutinized. All the facts naturally command the attention of people on both sides of the Atlantic. The system has acquired a "locus standi" in political economy. It has failed in many instances. Yet it has been markedly successful in others. In England the success has been more distinctly in the line of distributive co-operation than that of productive. In the latter form indeed there have been only a few notable instances in England, with rather more on the continent perhaps, and these have not always lived to be more than temporary. But as an agency of effective and economical distribution co-operation shows a striking aggregate of achievement in Great Britain, demanding a few words of comment. Including both kinds of co-operation they have done a business within less than a generation of \$272,000,000. The largest part of this was that of the distributive stores. In the period from 1885 to 1895 the societies increased in number from 1,441 to 1,966 and in membership from 850,659 to 1,430,340, the amount of capital from \$55,785,465 to \$106,656,995, the value of sales from \$156,529,550 to \$275,501,245, the value of profits from \$14,943,450 to \$26,945,355. It should be borne in mind that these figures have reference to distributive as well as productive co-operation societies. The capital of 84 productive societies in England, which represented the copartnership of labor, was only about \$2,250,000.

The bonus on the total of the wages paid was  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. The distributive stores showed an average saving to the membership of about 5 per cent. The reason is not far to seek why distributive has been more successful than productive co-operation in that there is less temptation to depart from the pure doctrine. This is that the co-operator must take losses as well as accept profits. In distribution he is benefited as a customer, if he fails as a shareholder. But in case of production, should the year go wrong, he loses both as capitalist and as workman. It is said that the danger

affecting both forms is that the highly successful societies begin to covet the profits after awhile and refuse further membership, though selling to all desiring to buy on equal terms. In other words, they tend to degenerate from the co-operative idea and become capitalistic in their methods. It is an interesting fact that the English Wholesale societies, which are both producers and distributors, do not pay any bonus on wages to the workmen employed. In other words, they are capitalistic in production and co-operative only in distribution.

These institutions have been of immense value to the English workman, and, while they have not solved the problem of capital and labor, they have gone a considerable way in alleviating some of its difficulties. Mr. Henry D. Lloyd, well known in the United States as an able writer on these subjects, in a recent book calls attention to one notable fact. On the continent democracy has found expression in attempts to topple over thrones and upset the established order of things. In England it has saved its sixpences, established methods of co-operation growing from small to large and striven to work out its own salvation.

The work of college athletics in fitting young men for life has been a matter of controversy. The excess to which physical training is carried under the spur of competition has occasioned protest from many wise observers. Some light is thrown on the question by the lesson of the war. It has been found that the trained athletes of West Point have died from the effects of wounds or disease more quickly than those not distinguished in athletic skill. Medical opinion asserts that the severe training required to prepare men for athletic contest affects their vital organs. They are thus less fitted for the exigencies of campaign life.

In six years more California will be a genuine forty-niner, an argo of the argonauts, for she will have achieved that mystical number in her statehood. The grizzled old veterans of golden adventure hope to live long enough for the golden occasion, when they will paint Frisco yellow.

The course of the last act in the Dreyfus drama has shown the greater part of official France making a firm stand against the rising tide in the middle and lower classes favoring a revision of the case. Why President Faure should have threatened to resign the presidency if the public demand overrode opposition it is not easy to analyze. One can only understand it on the assumption that he, the highest official in France, was as guilty in the Dreyfus episode as any of the officers of a court packed to condemn. One can only suspect that there are depths which have not been

sounded yet. The finale of this Dreyfus affair, for the truth is certain to be yet forced to the surface, may easily prove a more sensational revelation than anything yet known in the tragedy.

The reports of merchants and shippers indicate a great growing trade to England in manufactured products where England herself is our competitor. While some of these articles are designed for reshipment it is amazing what a variety of American made goods are absorbed in the English market. In every town of medium size dealers in hardware, machinery, fancy goods, shoes and hats offer large lines of the American product. The weekly shipments of such articles, it is said, rarely amount to less than \$1,000,000 per week. The country is proving its ability to meet the world on its own terms despite the higher price of labor. The secret is more effective and ingenious machinery.

In acquiring control of Delagoa Bay, the only possible port for the Transvaal republic, the "detested Englishers" have put a permanent muzzle on that African G. O. M., as some of President Kruger's admirers have dubbed him. It was the height of the Boer statesman's highest ambition to secure access to this outlet. But his dear friend and son, Kaiser William, "went back" on him. The South African Republic is now completely bottled up.

Lucchesi (the name of this miscreant is spelled in several different ways) displayed great cunning in selecting Geneva as the place to vent his murderous hate. There he escapes the noose or the guillotine. It is a pity that a retroactive law cannot be enacted for the occasion.

The story that Queen Wilhelmina was shot at by an anarchist a few weeks before coronation has been denied by the Dutch papers. But the fact has been established by other evidence. Holland should make good its contrast with the ineptitude of Switzerland.

Kansas is not to be outdone in its productions and does not stop with corn and wheat. In the recent cold snap she produced a crop of five inches of snow at one point.

In the race between the English and French to be the first at Khartum the English won the prize. It was a bigger prize, too, than a ruined city. It was the sure control of the interests of all of east central Africa, where the Germans are willing to play second fiddle.

If one would be sure of the qualities lacking in an acquaintance, let him study those which the latter boasts of the most.

The rudest man inspired by passion is more persuasive than the most eloquent man if uninspired.