

INDUSTRY IN NEW ENGLAND.

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It is customary to say that New England was given little in the way of natural wealth. The picture usually drawn of this section contrasts the fertility of the New England mind with the barrenness of the New England soil, and it is true that we have no abundant stores of raw material in this section now that the virgin timber has been almost exhausted. We have little or no leather, cotton, wool, iron, paper pulp or coal. But, on the other hand, we have water power, which is better, because more lasting than coal; we have a coast indented with some of the finest harbors in the country; we have peculiar advantages of position in relation to the great nations of Europe, and a population in which skill of hand and education of the mind have been traditions for three centuries.

This population, while dense according to the American standard, is not the teeming swarm that it is sometimes imagined to be. All New England contains only about six and one-half millions, while little Belgium, which is only one-third the size of Maine and a trifle larger than Massachusetts, supports seven millions. The time has not yet come when we should look to emigration to relieve our commercial congestion; on the contrary, we can still find use for the thousands who are arriving yearly on our shores. Population and wealth are growing together, and if anything the latter outruns the former from decade to decade.

When we speak of New England, grouping the six states together, I think we unconsciously touch upon one of the elements of our strength. There is an undoubted community of interest among these common-

wealths and a distinctive type or character among the people. This does not mean that we are isolated from the rest of the country in any narrowing sense, but that we are individualized, and have worked out in this upper right-hand corner of the nation a destiny of our own. When one looks at the great variety of interests and industries to be found within our borders it seems absurd to talk of narrowness. New York itself is not an "Empire" state in any truer sense than New England. Our commerce, our manufactures have reached the finest point of delicacy, intricacy and taste, represented in the watch factories at Waltham and in the sumptuous book-binderies in the neighborhood of Boston; while at the opposite end of the scale we find men living in Maine and along the waterfront by the most primitive occupations, such as hunting and fishing. If this exposition does nothing else, it will have emphasized this versatility of the New England section.

I think we all realize that in order to hold our own we must continue the efforts which have brought us our present prosperity. The moment we start to drift with the tide we shall find it turning against us. We have to compete with our own offspring who have settled the Middle West and even the far North West. These men of New England blood have seized opportunities which we would like to have made our own. Every time I see a line of automobiles I remember that 60 per cent of the machines in the United States are made in Detroit, and many of them sold to purchasers in New England. As a good Bostonian, I could wish that things were exactly the other way.

The one thing that will confirm our priority and hold the advantages we have won is education. It was education in a sense that placed us where we are, and education must advance us still further on the path of industry and prosperity. The instinct of the public groped unconsciously toward this truth, and, in spite of conservative opposition, has modified the curriculum in the direction of more practical training for life. The

elementary schools now include manual training for almost every pupil; the high schools have become specialized, so that a boy may take a commercial or a mechanical course as well as a course which aims to impart a general culture. Even the colleges are shaping their courses to conform to this new tendency. Harvard, for example, includes a graduate school of business, applied science, agriculture and forestry, as well as departments which prepare for the so-called liberal professions. It seems to me that this tendency should be encouraged and developed and that we should go even further. We should undertake the education of the adult mind and get the whole public into the habit of thinking in business terms. We should inculcate among them a sort of industrial sense which is never lacking in communities at the heyday of their prosperity.

This exposition is rightly called educational. It is a world's fair in little — a great object lesson in the achievements and possibilities of New England industry. I will not stop to argue against those who contend that such education is prosaic and materialistic. Here, amid the roar of the machines and beneath the finished elegance or sturdy solidity of the product, one feels the qualities that have gone to produce such a result, the patience, industry and thrift, provident frugality and that loyalty to home and family which characterize everywhere the skilled artisan and mechanic.

As the Mayor of Boston I may be pardoned for pointing out the pivotal position which our city occupies in this display. If New England is, as I have said, a sort of nation in itself, then her capital, like those of other nations, sums up in a concentrated form the life of the whole territory. Whatever vitalizes New England heightens the brilliancy and the strength of Boston, while, on the other hand, the stability of our banks and commercial houses, the improvement of our harbor, the development of our railroads and terminal facilities, all react upon the territory and the district whose lines of traffic and of travel converge upon this point. Boston

has led the way in industrial education, in the limited sense, by her splendid technical colleges, her specializing high schools, her continuation schools for working youths, and her evening schools, unsurpassed in the variety which they offer. In the larger sense, too, she has proven herself a pioneer. The Boston Chamber of Commerce, whose delegates have just returned from a tour through Europe, has no superior in its admirable organization, and, after all, organization, like publicity, is one of the prime factors in modern commercial success. This exposition itself, arranged by the Boston Chamber of Commerce to display the industries of all New England, is evidence both of the leadership which rightfully belongs to Boston and of the inter-dependence and mutual good will which must and should exist among the six states of New England.