of his father, and was very active in the campaign for improvement in educational methods.

Although some of the reforms sought by the early labour movement subsequently became law, the labour movement itself fared badly; meetings were broken up, labour candidates defeated, intimidation and bribery were brought to bear upon it and it was finally, like the English movement, driven out of politics back to the industrial field of bargaining over hours and wages. In the meantime factory production made great strides, developing new centres of industry, introducing more and more women and children into industry to work at starvation wages and compete with the labour of men. Along with this, however, the growth of the railways broke into the isolation of local groups and brought workers in different, and widely separated, areas in closer touch with each other; making it possible to hold national labour conventions.

By the year 1837 America had advanced far along the industrial high road, accompanied by wild speculation and fictitious land sales backed up by loans, but it still depended considerably upon England, both for loans to finance industry and dwindling exports, and as a purchaser of raw cotton. Thus when England, overtaken by the financial crisis of 1836-7, called in loans and debts and shut down factories the shock hit America hard and the financial system collapsed. Mills and warehouses shut down, banks closed their doors, wages were cut, and thousands thrown out of work. At the same time, to add to the disaster, the wheat crop failed and prices of foodstuff went up. America was now permanently linked up with the periodical world crises, and the booms and depressions that have been one of the penalties of the growth of modern industry.

The industrial crises hit the growing labour movement hard; unions fell to pieces under the strain of workers fighting for jobs at any wages, and the labour press disappeared. — GILMAC, S.P.G.B.

(To be concluded in next issue)

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