

INSTITUTE OF THE UNION

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1860.

CO-OPERATION IN ENGLAND.

The London Spectator gives an account of the meeting in Manchester, there being a large number of delegates representing 80,000 associated workmen, chiefly from Lancashire and Yorkshire, who constitute the "North of England Co-operative Wholesale Society." Over two hundred societies were represented at the meeting by some four hundred delegates. They assembled in a warehouse built by themselves, in Balloon street, Manchester, at a cost of \$60,000; and they discussed plans for extending and improving their already extended organization, which has been in existence but five years. Its object is to furnish the two hundred local societies which take part in it, the means of making their purchases of provisions and supplies, so as to be able to sell those articles in the local co-operative stores to the best advantage. It is, indeed, as described by the Spectator,—

"A co-operative store of co-operative stores, whose capital is contributed by co-operative societies only, and by each in proportion to the number of its members, with none but co-operative societies for customers, among whom the profit—which is not the object of the federation to make a high one—is distributed in proportion to their dealings. In the course of five years of existence, the 'North of England Co-operative Society' has reached a business of over half a million a year; has built for itself, on its own land, at a cost of £9,000, the warehouse in which the gathering of their immense, substantial, dry and well-lighted, though without pretensions to artistic beauty; has two branches in Ireland; and does this—at least, including interest of capital of 12 per cent."

The great success of an older and better known organization—the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers—who first established co-operation on a firm basis in England, is so familiar that we need only refer to it here. In spite of the difficulties attending co-operation, which are neither few nor small, it has reached in England a degree of development that shows how powerful an auxiliary it may become in this country, of the various movements for improving the condition of the laboring poor, and of overcoming many of the obstacles which we find in the way of establishing comfort among the middling classes of American society. The theory of co-operation has always been a favorite one, but it has been believed by many to be practically impossible of realization. But the statistics of the English associations show that they may be well managed in that country; and if there, then here. It would be well if the various leagues and unions and organizations of every kind for the agitation of the labor question in the United States would turn their attention to perfecting the machinery of co-operation here. At present the poor are the victims of high prices, and of every variety of fraud and adulteration in the articles purchased. A co-operative store, well kept, secures to its customers good articles at reasonable prices; and when many of these, as in England, are combined in their purchases, and under strict supervision, they not only do this, but they return a small dividend to their associated members. When shall we see such results in New England as the men of Lancashire and Yorkshire can show?"—*Springfield Republican*.

RUNNING A MUCK.
A European resident of Macassar gives a vivid description of this scene in Malaya.

One morning, as we were sitting at breakfast, our carrier servant informed us that there was a "muck" in the village—in other words, that a man was "running a muck." Orders were immediately given to shut and fasten the gates of our enclosure; but, hearing nothing for some time, we went out, and found there had been false alarm, owing to a slave having run away, declaring he would "amok," because his master intended to sell him. A short time after, a man had been killed at a gaming table, because having lost half a dollar more than he possessed, he was going to "amok." Another had killed or wounded seventeen people before he could be destroyed. The local wretched crew of slaves, who will sometimes agree to "amok," and then rush on with such energetic desperation as to be very formidable to men not so excited as themselves. Among the clients these would have been looked upon as heroes or demigods who sacrificed themselves for their country. Hence it is simply said—they made "amok."

Macassar is the most celebrated place in the East for "running a muck." There is said to be one or two a month on the average, and five, ten or twenty persons are sometimes killed or wounded at one of them. It is the national, and, therefore, the honorable mode of committing suicide among the natives of Celebes, and is the usual way of escaping from their difficulties. A Roman soldier, in his swooning moments, rips up his stomach, and an Englishman blows out his brains with a pistol. The Bugis mode has many advantages to one suddenly unchained. A man thinks himself strong by society—he is in debt, but cannot pay—he is taken for a slave—he sees no way of recovering what he has lost and becomes desperate. He will not put up with such cruel wrongs, but will be revenged on mankind, and like a hero he grasps his kris-blades and the next moment draws out the weapon, and stabs a man to the heart. His companion, with bloody kris in his hand, stabbing at every one he meets. "Amok! Amok!" such resounds through the streets. Spears, kris, knives, and guns are brought out against them. He rushes madly forward, kills all he can—men, women and children—all die overwhelmed by numbers amidst the tumultuous battle. And what that excitement is! those who have been in one best know, but all who have seen it give it a violent character. Such scenes of wanton and exciting exercises, may form a very good idea. It is a delirious intoxicating temporary madness that absorbs every thought and every energy. And cause wonder at the kris-bearing, untutored brooding Malay preferring such a death, looked upon as almost honorable to the cold-blooded details of suicide. If he wishes to escape from overwhelming trouble, or the merciless clutches of the hangman and

the executioner, he prefers to lay his hands, and too readily avenges himself upon his enemy? In either case he chooses rather to "amok."

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