

provide one large and well-appointed workhouse rather than a number of small and inefficient ones.

The immediate result of the New Poor Law was to force the farmers and other employers of labour to pay their men out of their own pockets, and not to depend on throwing half the expense on to the parish. Thus the labouring poor did not really lose by the change in the system; but it fell hardly on the generation which was then in existence, since their habits and manners of thought and life had been formed under the old law. It was impossible to get rid of the tradition of unthrift and recklessness caused by forty years of maladministration. On the whole the condition of the countryside after 1835 was decidedly less happy than it had been before 1795: prices had gone up, while wages had not, owing mainly to the old Poor Law. Even after its repeal they have risen very gradually, and have always been so much lower than those obtainable in towns, that there has been a steady drain of population from rural into urban England.

Results of
the Act of
1834.

The financial results of Lord Grey's bill were admirable. The sum expended in poor-relief fell from the £7,000,000 at which it stood in 1832 to £4,700,000 in 1836. And what was far more important, the curse of pauperism was lifted from those of the rural poor who had the strength and independence of mind to fight for themselves. They were no longer practically compelled to live on charity, the most demoralizing of all manners of life.

The second great measure of social reform associated with the name of Lord Grey is the abolition of Negro Slavery in our colonies. The slave trade had been put an end to by the Grenville ministry in 1807, but the stoppage of the importation of fresh negroes did not make an end of the unhappy institution itself. Public opinion in England had been growing more and more ashamed that it should linger on within our empire, and an active

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