

govern, regulate, and fashion the practical work of life and society, become an instrument of personal use and daily importance. Statesmen, legislators, organisers of men, captains of industry, contractors, practical engineers, colonisers, pioneers, and leaders of all kinds are still mostly ignorant of these scientific ideas. They regard them from a distance, themselves relying mainly on common-sense, on personal experience, or on the innate but indefinable impulses of individual genius; professional, scientific knowledge is only one, and hardly the most important, of the many agencies with which they deal and which they have to take into account.

And yet, in spite of this fact that the ordinary routine of life is a very different process from the ways of science, we must admit that the scientific spirit very largely pervades the business of to-day. You cannot enter any commercial, shipping, or general trading office without being struck with the number of carefully prepared charts, tables, and statistical registers of all kinds of curves showing the rise and fall of prices, the production and consumption, the stocks and values of metals, coal, grain, chemicals, cotton, and produce of every kind; and in quite recent years, not only material things of all sorts, but the intangible thing called energy—after supplanting the older term horse-power—has become the subject of elaborate tabular and graphical registration. The streets of even the smaller towns in every civilised country show, besides the sign-boards of shops, offices, and banks, an increasing array of insurance firms, whose whole business depends on elaborate calculations, based on long tables of births, deaths, marriages, shipwrecks,

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Scientific  
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