

the trades-union, can sympathize with the effort of any trades-union to diminish the production of the country or to restrict the industry of any man who is willing to work. And public sympathy is, in the long run, a very valuable thing for any organization of workmen or employers to possess. The great majority of Americans have, fortunately, no class feeling which induces them to take sides in labor troubles according to the class to which they belong. They judge every case on what they esteem to be its specific merits. And the same feeling which enlists them against greedy, extortionate, and tyrannical employers enlists them also against greedy, unambitious, and short-sighted workmen.

PARASITES OF LABOR.

The harm that an ignorantly managed trades-union can do its own members has lately been illustrated in the building trades of this City. The point at issue, upon which several small strikes were ordered and which the employers yielded, did not in any tangible way concern the pay or privileges of the men at work. They threatened to strike simply upon the ground that other men who did not belong to their union, but who did work at their trades, were enjoying the same pay and privileges. In fact, the men at work had no interest in the matter. The object of the whole performance was to dragoon men who did not belong to the union into its ranks, under penalty of losing their means of livelihood, so that their initiation fees and dues might be put into the treasury of the trades-unions, and made to contribute to the subsistence of the "walking delegations" and other hangers-on of the trades, who live not by working at trades but by working at trades-unions. It is these men who do most of the brutal and silly things for which workmen are blamed, although workmen are blamable only for allowing the trades-unions to be managed by men of this kind.

The Pittsburg glass-makers are now in trouble with their workmen over certain rules adopted by the latter. These rules bear marks of having been drawn up not by workmen but by these parasites of labor, with the intention of securing a constant supply of grievances. One of these rules prohibits a workman from making more than 48 boxes of window glass in a week. It appears that the capacity of a "pot" of glass is 60 boxes, and whatever of the contents of a "pot" is not used up is a dead loss to the owners. The employers have struck against this barbarous regulation, and every reflecting man will justify them in striking. There are other regulations of much the same kind to which the manufacturers refuse to submit. As their representative puts it, "We must have the power of the association restricted or the members must become more reasonable."

This regulation limiting the output of glass smacks much more of the spirit of European than of American labor. Most of the walking delegations and other "dead beats" who live upon the trades-unions are foreigners with foreign notions of the relations of capital and labor and with foreign class feelings, which it would be a great misfortune for the country if any considerable number of Americans should adopt. The equalization of the rewards of the prudent and the careless, the skillful and the clumsy, the industrious and the lazy, is a leading object with many of the managers of the trades-unions. And yet nothing could have a more potent effect than such an equalization in preventing an industrious, skillful, and prudent mechanic from rising to be an employer or in stifling honorable ambition. As a result of this equalization, which is itself a result of the Europeanization of the trades-unions, it is said by those who are in a position to know that the number of "bosses" and contractors who are themselves skilled workmen is constantly diminishing, the bosses and contractors being mere speculators and brokers in the services of mechanics instead of being themselves mechanics.

This un-American tendency toward establishing hard and fast distinctions of classes is fostered, we repeat, by everything which tends to keep good and bad workmen on the same level. It is especially fostered by everything which tends to limit production by way of keeping producers employed at good wages. That is distinctly the object of such a regulation as that which the Pittsburg glass-blowers have adopted to inflict loss upon the employer by preventing a fifth part of his material from being worked up. It is also the object of the regulations by which almost every trades-union limits the number of apprentices that may be employed, instead of leaving that matter to be fixed by the condition of the trade under the law of supply and demand.

No American, not-himself a member of