

cost to the manufacturer. But why so? Some say because of the more perfect mechanical agencies put into the hands of the workmen in American rolling-mills. There is reason in this answer if we take the average conditions, but it does not represent the whole truth. Moreover, it cannot be used in a comparison between England and the United States, since in the former country mechanical processes have been perfected almost to the same degree as in the latter. Particularly will the explanation fail in the present case, since the three establishments chosen are nearly alike in equipment and occupy a very high rank in their respective countries. If applicable to steel-making, it should equally hold true of bar-iron, but statistics give it here even less probability.

The real explanation I believe to be that greater physical force, as the result of better nourishment, in combination with superior intelligence and skill, make the workingman in the United States more efficient. His determination to maintain a high standard of life causes him to put forth greater effort, and this reacts to the benefit of the employer as well as to his own. We should give the principal credit of the higher wages in America neither to the manufacturer, the tariff, nor any other agency, but the workingman himself, who will not labor for less than will enable him to live on a high social plane. That he can carry out his policy with but little disadvantage to his employer in economic competition teaches a lesson of far-reaching importance. Instead of a Ricardian régime, where the wages of labor become barely sufficient to permit a sustentation of effort and a reproduction of kind, it looks as if ere long the world's industrial supremacy would pass to those who earn the most and live the best.