

PIPE FORCEPS.

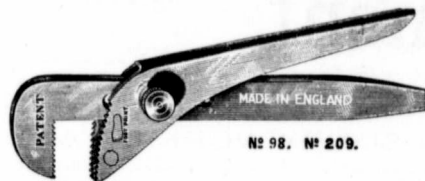
The accompanying cuts are illustrations of a line of pipe tongs, of which H. S. Howland, Sons & Co. have received a consignment. All these tongs are fitted with



milled-headed steel set-screws and all the parts made interchangeable. The hand presses on a round surface. Enlarging the grip does not shorten the leverage. It is



not necessary to remove this wrench from one face of a nut to the next (as in the ordinary spanner), but by simply releasing



the grasp, it will open sufficiently to allow the corner to pass, after the manner of a ratchet, which causes a great saving of time.

STRIKES AND SATCHELS.

THE public idea of a strike is simply that of a struggle between two parties, one or both of which have a real or imaginary justification for the act, writes Fred. Woodrow in Age of Steel. There is also a vague and nebulous idea as to the general effect of a strike on business and public convenience. It is known that it costs more to bake a pie or boil an egg during a coal strike, and in the case of railway trouble, the delay of passengers or a firkin of butter, with divers mishaps to switches and bridges and scabs are all forcible reminders of the kicking powers of a strike. There is also some curiosity aroused among grocers, bakers and landlords as to whether the strikers have gained their point, in adding to their wages or in keeping the scissors off the pay roll. The professional agitator, the politician and the statistician have also their several fingers in the pie. The amount of revenue lost or gained, the duration of the struggle or the folly, whichever it may be, the cause as found out or guessed at, and the general damage done to business, are each and all the various phases of a strike on which the public looks with or without its colored glasses. It is in the home side of a strike, and not the shop side, where you can come in touch with humanity and forget

your arithmetic, and you can learn more from a thin hand than from a big slate. There is more in the cold toe of a hungry child peeping through a worn-out shoe, and the pinched face of a mother sitting over a fireless stove, than in all your stump or platform oratory on the financial and economic sins and wrongs of man. It matters not whether these pallid cheeks and shrunken limbs are due to the sins of millionaires or the follies of toilers—not a cupboard without bread nor a child without shoes but has its dumb message to such as would search for what a protracted strike

means in the homes of the people. We are convinced that an education of this kind would thaw out some of the ice of which we

have too much in business, and might put a bridle in the mouth of the wild ass who finds his fodder in agitating strife.

We do not forget that in much of this unwritten history, in sufferings untold, in cold, famine and nakedness, in homes broken up, in families separated, and in tragedies unseen from the street side of a window curtain—there has been patience, fidelity and heroism to gild the cup that held the bitter drink. No man can deny this, but where this is needless and could be prevented, the sin of it is a brand on the brow of modern civilization. Looked at from all sides, the unnecessary strike is a curse to body, soul and spirit. In its sanitary phase, semi-starvation is hand in hand with disease and death. Epidemics find dry straw for the match where men are idle and children half fed. Morally many men are ruined by a spell of loafing. Idleness and the devil, as everybody knows, are in partnership, and many a man can date the day of his descent into vice from the time of a strike. No work and too much beer are too often synonymous. How many of our nomads, with thin shoes and dusty satchels, would never have left mother, wife or child, had they not been compelled to do so by their inability to obtain work after a strike. You can see these helpless pilgrims everywhere, to whom the name of home was once the sweetest on earth, and the love of mother, wife or child a deep and sacred joy. It is time that these phases of strikes should be studied and everything done that can be done to wipe them off the slate of industry.

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