

this is happening at a time when the price of lumber is becoming higher and higher. Again, the value of standing timber, as a wind-break to prevent crops being injured by severe blows, is only barely recognized; while its efficacy in preventing the drying out of moisture to the great detriment of many plants whose roots are shallow feeders, is apparently only known to a few here and there. Yet these are points on which in many cases a year's profits hinge. To take another illustration, the aspect of the whole homestead would be beautified for his own enjoyment, and the contentment of his children.

#### UNIONISTS, EMPLOYERS AND THE PUBLIC.

In a recent article we endeavored to show that of the two great parties to industrial controversy, Labor and Capital, the worst enemy of each is its own over-zealous advocate. From this embittered source spring the misrepresentations constantly made by each side respecting the other, as well as the gross abuse of power which, so often in evidence, is becoming more and more a cause for anxiety among thinking men, who wish well for the future happiness of the country. During the last week or two there have been some flagrant instances of these tendencies, these habits of mind, which, unless kept sternly in check, bid fair, in the neighboring Republic, if not yet to such an extent in this country, to loosen the very roots of our modern system of society. Not only are they a serious menace to future industrial and commercial prosperity, but they cause irretrievable damage, if only it would be recognized by those primarily interested, to the best interests of the real working-man.

At Schenectady, N.Y., a certain man, named Potter, a painter by trade, was ordered out with the remainder of his company in the militia to help quell disturbances during the recent coal strike. The union to which he belonged objected to this, and Potter had to disobey either it or the State. He decided to obey the call of the Commonwealth, whereupon he was expelled from the union. Further, his employer was notified that as Potter was no longer a member of the union, he would have to be dismissed. And the employer dismissed him! In other words, because a man fulfils the terms of his oath and refuses to disobey the command of his country, he is to be prevented from earning a living! Can arrogance any further go? Can any better example be presented of the lust for power run mad? The poor, down-trodden workingman forsooth! The only satisfactory feature about the whole business is that the union's action is so utterly outrageous that people, not only of that locality, but in every other section of the country, are forced to look facts in the face and are beginning to see the goal to which some of the more unballasted among the labor leaders are tending. It shows how dangerous a thing is a little authority in the hands of an ignorant, power-boastful man. And if this piece of tyranny has not been the work of a leader, but the result of popular clamor, it indicates with singular clearness the truth of what we have before remarked, that the so-called heads of trades' unionism are often not strong enough to prevent being wobbled hither

and yon by the vast masses of ignorance which they are supposed to keep in control. A case like this does almost infinite harm to the cause of Labor; it is such a fine handle for the adherents of the other party. Already public sympathy is enlisted strongly on the side of the man Potter. This means that unionism in his locality and elsewhere loses one of its strongest allies in the gaining of public tolerance, namely, the sense that it is a protection of the feeble, labouring unit against the injustice of powerful capital. For, if a union's action in trying its utmost to starve a man into submission to its dictates is not the very grossest tyranny and injustice, the public want to know what these do consist in. And public sympathy with their objects is the very breath of life to unionists in their various conflicts with employers. If the various unions conclude that they can form a little world all to themselves, having no relation with the general community, and able to make and unmake laws *ad libitum*, a rude awakening will surely be theirs.

Similar remarks apply to the other recent occurrence in the same city, where, because the local electric railway company employed non-union men and refused to order them to join the union (not, mind, refused to *allow* them to join the union), a boycott was declared, not only of the street cars, but of business men using the cars, and not only this, but the latter, whose employees were found riding in cars, were ordered to dismiss the latter, also on pain of a boycott. It almost takes one's breath away to read of such atrocious lengths to which unionism, born presumably of a spirit to protect the feeble workingman against the encroachment of capital, can be carried under the intoxicating influences of a little parvenu power. But the public, the poor public, which generally does not mind putting itself to a little inconvenience, if it will help the cause of redress against grasping injustice, is wondering why it should have to bear the brunt of a conflict in which the contentions at issue are not those of over-work or under-pay, but merely of a company being forced to *force* its employees into a society which they do not want to enter.

Another case of recent happening in which, in our judgment, over-zeal was apt to do harm to the cause in which it was arrayed, took place in the opposite camp. A Mr. John Kirby, president of the Dayton, Ohio, Employers' Protective Association, made a speech in Toronto, which, if the newspaper reports are to be believed, was simply permeated with exaggerated abuse of trades-unionists and their methods. "Human devils," "union brutes," and "perjurers" were some of the choice epithets which, it is said, were handled by Mr. Kirby without compunction. Organized labor he regarded as the greatest, most tyrannical and unlawful trust the world had ever known, guided by trouble-breeders, agitators, socialists, anarchists, and so forth. It recognized no sense of honor or moral obligation, and there was not one in five thousand union laborers who would not perjure himself in a witness box to prevent incriminating a fellow unionist.

Now, really, are they quite as bad as that? There must be a large number of people who will look around among their fellow-citizens, and failing to recognize at a hasty glance any such individuals as are so luridly