

number of deaths from diphtheria take place in towns and villages badly drained; well-drained cities are comparatively free. Many cases of a low form of fever have been caused by the escape of sewer gas from the soil pipes. When the pipes have been long in use, the bend of the pipe may often be found coated with a grayish-white deposit easily scraped off. The interior of the pipe is riddled with holes through which the gas escapes. The only remedy appears to be the discontinuance of lead pipes, which are an abomination in every house, and the substitution of iron in their place. We trust that our City Fathers will reconsider their resolution made at a late meeting, and vote a liberal sum for the Health Committee, and induce that veteran sanitary scientist, Alderman McCord, to again assume the Chairmanship, which he held so long to the great benefit of the city, and with the greatest credit to himself.

THE LANCASHIRE STRIKE—ITS LESSONS.

The recent strikes in the cotton manufacturing districts of England have brought the English people to a sense of a danger which threatens one of the greatest interests of the United Kingdom. The wages of the cotton operatives have been reduced more than once in the last eighteen months, and the production has at times been diminished. Since March last the manufacturers generally have been compelled to give notice of a further reduction of 10 per cent. in wages to all branches of the trade. The attempt to enforce this reduction has been resisted by a strike, and this strike has thrown upwards of 100,000 persons of the wages class out of employment. The circumstances leading to this strike are of no ordinary character. The manufacturers plead diminished sale for their goods, and a sale only at such prices as prohibit the payment of former wages. They plead that it is no temporary or trivial interruption of their business, but one which threatens a permanent and even more disastrous interference with British cotton manufactures than has ever been anticipated. The magnitude of the cotton industry of England is very great. There was imported in 1876 raw cotton amounting to within a fraction of 1,500,000,000 pounds, of which only 203,000,000 pounds was exported to the Continent, and the remainder, nearly 1,300,000,000 pounds, was retained to be manufactured at home. There were at that time employed in the 2,655 cotton factories of the country no less than 479,515 operatives. The exports of cotton goods in 1874 had a value

of \$371,000,000; in 1875 a value of \$358,850,000; and in 1876 of \$338,200,000. The decline in prices had begun as early as 1873, and has continued since then. The total value of British exports in 1876 was \$1,000,000,000, and it will be seen that cotton manufactures was more than one-third of all that England sold in that year. Anything which threatens the permanency or value of this cotton trade is therefore a menace to the whole trade of the Kingdom. The value of the exported cotton manufactures of the United States in 1877 was about \$10,000,000, while the value of the exports of British cotton manufactures is equal to \$1,000,000 a day the whole year round, including Sundays.

The plea of the manufacturers of cotton goods in England, that they are compelled to reduce wages, rests upon three important points: 1. A decline in the demand for cotton goods because of the general depression in the world's trade; 2. The manufacture of cotton goods in India and China; and 3. The competition of the United States, which is becoming so great that American cottons have sold wholesale and retail, in England in tolerable competition with Manchester goods. In a review of the state of the cotton trade, published a year ago by Mr. Edward Atkinson, of Boston, he showed that so close had become the management of the trade that each minute item in the cost of production was of importance, and that the possession of the cotton trade of the world might, and eventually would, depend on the difference of less than half a cent a square yard in the cost of production.

The termination of the strike marks the defeat of one of the most powerful, and certainly one of the strangest movements in the history of labor struggles. The operatives ceased work, not so much because of an actual grievance as for the sake of an idea. Although their wages had been reduced, in conformity with the necessities of the times, they were earning enough to yield them a comfortable support, and the plan which they proposed for the solution of their problem and in defence of which they went out on strike, would have actually brought them less wages than they were already earning. Recognizing the depression in the market, the inroads made by foreign competition, and the immense over-supply of goods, they formed the theory that the only way out of the trouble was to curtail the production. To this end they proposed to the manufacturers, instead of a further reduction of wages, to diminish the hours of labor; their argument being that, in this way, the supply would be checked,

and there would be an opportunity to work off accumulated goods. To go on manufacturing to the full capacity would be, they maintained, only an aggravation of the evil already existing, and the small margin created by a cut-down in wages would be soon swallowed up in the glut of the market, so that reduction must follow reduction until the position of the operatives would become intolerable. These views they presented with much clearness and force in their circular addresses and newspaper letters, and their hold upon the operatives is sufficiently proven by the unanimity and tenacity which have characterized the strike. On the other hand the masters, while they made no detailed arguments in reply, held to their position that the manufacture of goods could not go on at existing rates of labor, and it would be better for them to close their mills at once and have done with it than to go on manufacturing at a loss. The strike was succeeded by a lock-out on the part of the masters; an incalculable amount of poverty and distress fell upon the unfortunate weavers and their families, who had no funds either of their own, or belonging to the Unions, to fall back upon; discontent and poverty engendered rioting; attempts at compromise wholly failed; and, after nine weeks of unavailing struggle, the operatives yielded everything, and went back to work at their masters' terms—a 10 per cent. reduction in the spinning room as follows:

Blowing room hands (women) per week	\$3 15
Strippers (young men).....	3 00
Grinders (men).....	4 50
Drawers (women).....	3 15
Slubbers (women).....	3 40
Rovers and tenters (women).....	3 32
Minders (men).....	7 10
Piecers (lads).....	3 70
Reelers (women).....	3 85
Throttle spinners (women).....	3 24
Card master (overlookers).....	9 15
Managers.....	16 88

The following is a table of the wages received in the weaving rooms under the ten per cent. reduction:

Winders (women).....	\$3 07
Warpers (women).....	4 40
Sizers (men).....	9 11
Loomers (men).....	4 50
Two loom weavers (girls).....	3 37
Three loom weavers.....	3 87
Four loom weavers.....	4 95
Tacklers (men).....	9 11
Cloth workers.....	5 63
Managers.....	15 75

According to their own statement, the defeated operatives have lost \$375,000 a week during the strike, in wages which they should have received—a total of \$3,375,000; and to offset this enormous sacrifice they have gained nothing whatever. This is a melancholy exhibit, and calls for compassion more than for blame. There was so much of plausibility, if not