

The objection of a certain sort of immigrant parent to sending his children to school after they are old enough to earn 25 cents a week is a purely sordid one; and no other measure seems to offer so trenchant an answer to it as the assurance that he cannot put his child to work unless it has first received from school at least as much benefit as is embodied in a rudimentary knowledge of the English language.

#### CHILDREN IN THE GLASS WORKS AT ALTON.

The child labor sections of the law have proved of great benefit to the children employed in glass works. Their condition when the law went into effect was more pitiable than that of any other working children in this State. It was a matter of very great difficulty to get the law obeyed in this industry, because some of the glass companies maintained that the work of young children was absolutely indispensable to the manufacture of bottles and other light wares. The inspectors insisted that the children under 14 years of age must be replaced by older ones, or by some technical improvement. The Illinois Glass Company, at Alton, maintained that this was impossible. This company was so certain of the impossibility of conducting its business in compliance with the law, that a special investigation of the condition of its works and of the children employed in them was ordered in January, 1895; all the other glass companies in the State having at that time taken steps to comply with the requirements of the law.

The following report sets forth the result of the special investigation. Since it was made, the company has accomplished that which it had declared to be impossible; making such a rearrangement of its "glory-holes" as enabled it to dispense with a large number of the smallest boys. While there are still children at work who are either dwarfish or have perjured affidavits, the number of larger boys has been increased, and 260 affidavits are kept on file. The Illinois Glass Company, the largest employer of child labor in the State, now finds it possible to comply absolutely with the child labor provisions of the law.

#### SPECIAL REPORT.

"SPRINGFIELD, January 10, 1895.

HON. JOHN P. ALTGELD, *Governor of Illinois*:

DEAR SIR:—I have the honor to submit, as requested by you, a detailed statement of the conditions of work of the children in the Illinois Glass Company's Works, at Alton.

Mr. Smith, president of the company, states that it employs about 1,800 persons, of whom about 25 are women and girls, and about 600, one-third of the total number, are boys under 16 years; and of these last about 200 are under 14 years of age.

The company has never kept the register required by law of the names, ages, residences, etc., of its employés under 16 years