DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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MECHANICS' LIENS.

There is one fact which cannot be too strongly impressed upon the mind of every member of the Legislature. It is this: The present is an exceedingly bad time to alarm the creditor class, or the capitalist, by means of legislation which they may regard as adverse to their interests. On the contrary, the law-making power should, if it must touch the subject at all, pursue a policy that will increase harmony and intercourse between debtors and creditors, and confidence among men who command money.

The subject of a mechanic's lien law was talked of more or less, prior to the last election, and to some extent was made, or sought to be made, an issue of the campaign. While it may not be denied that the present statute relating to mechanics' liens is imperfect in some particulars, its imperfections were exaggerated by stump speakers who were reaching after the labor vote. As a matter of fact, the laboring man has excellent protection under it, if he will but take advantage of its provisions. It is the lumber merchant and material man, if any one, rather than the mechanic or laborer, who has insufficient protection.

Three or more bills have been introduced since the present session of the Legislature opened "to secure liens to mechanics and others," and to repeal all existing laws upon the subject. In other words, several members of the Assembly are committed to radical and sweeping legislation regarding it.

One proposition is to give a mechanic's lien precedence over a mortgage having priority of date, under certain circumstances. Waiving discussion of the constitutionality of such a measure, it should be refused any consideration at all, on grounds of sound policy. Such a law would vastly increase the difficulty of securing loans, and in many cases would render it impossible to get them. To illustrate: It is proposed to construct a building, factory, canal, electric railroad, or other improvement, and to borrow money for the purpose, giving as security a mortgage on the property, franchise, etc., to be created or improved; who would lend the money under a law giving a mechanic's lien a priority over the mortgage?

Again: Many pieces of realty now under mortgage have greatly depreciated in value—that is, their value in the market has decreased, since the mortgage was given. For the purpose of procuring an extension of payment, and at the same time make the property more productive, the owner is willing to improve it; if a mechanic's lien on the improvement is going to take precedence of the existing mortgage, will that improvement be made? Certainly not; and if the extension of the mortgage shall be dependent upon it, there will be an immediate foreclosure. In such a case the mortgagee is safer without the improvement than with it, for if it were to be made, his lien would become a second one instead of a first.

If any member of the Assembly aspires to distinguish himself by drawing and securing the passage of a bill that will radically change relations between capital and labor, or debtor and creditor, at the present time, he should suppress such an ambition or be himself suppressed. One of the greatest Presidents is credited with the motto "Never swap horses while you are fording a stream." This applies to laws in this Territory at the present time. We know how the case we have are working, and that under them Utah is today feeling the financial pressure less than most other portions of the Union, while her commercial credit ranks with the best. But if some of the would-be reformers in the Legislature shall be given their way, there is every reason to fear for the result. These remarks will not be construed, we hope, as denoting an opposition to the working classes and their rights, and an undue friendship for the capitalist class. If the News leans at all in this matter, it is toward the opposite of this. But we are thoroughly imbued in the belief that such radical legislation as has been mentioned can only result injuriously.

THE POLAR TRIP.

There is no lack of applicants desirous to engage in the arctic expedition which is to start out next spring, as proposed by Robert Stein, of the geological survey. Only fifteen men are wanted but there are now over sixty applications. Of those seven are of German birth, three are English, one is a Canadian, one an Armenian, and the rest are Americans. The Germans consist of three expert machinists and four men of scientific avocations, and all have served a term in the army. Of the Englishmen, one is a captain in the British army and another is an engineer. The Armenian is an artist, who is willing to undertake the perils of the trip for the sketches he can make. In the American list there is also an artist—a photographer. Two mining engineers now in the service of Pittsburg companies desire to go. Two geologists—college professors—four surveyors and civil engineers who have done considerable work in the West, a miner who has prospected into the interior of Alaska and there encountered considerable hardships, and an anthropologist are also on the list. The anthropologist is anxious to study a tribe of Eskimos said to inhabit a peninsula jutting out from the west coast of Ellesmere Land, and understood to have never seen white men. His studies in this line will present a better illustration of primitive traits and modes of living in the extreme north than any other yet noted in the chronicles of explorers.

The personnel of the expedition is to be passed upon by Gen. A. W. Greeley, chief signal officer of the army, Prof. T. C. Mendenhall, superintendent of the coast and geodetic survey, and Commodore G. W. Melville, engineer-in-chief of the navy. The expense of equipment was at first estimated at [illegible], but it will take at least $15,000. Some of this added cost is owing to an intention to search for the Swedish exploring party which disappeared in the neighborhood of the Cary Islands, near the mouth of Smith's sound. Of the amount needed, $3,700 has been already subscribed. None of those who want to go also offer $500 each. Mr. Stein hopes to secure the full amount to obtain supplies, apparatus, etc., before the time set for starting.

The plan of the Stein expedition is on different lines to those that have usually headed northward. It is not for anybody's self-glorification by reaching a point nearer to the Pole than previous explorers have attained, but its purpose is the scientific exploration of territory already trodden by white men's feet in some of its parts, to endeavor to find the Swedish party mentioned, and to establish another permanent station at Cape Wertsender. If the work is successful it will add something to the present volume of information regarding Northern America, and may afford safer and more convenient routes to the still undiscovered regions. While the attractions of a Pole-hunting expedition are greatly modified by the definite purpose and limits of Mr. Stein's scheme, this will not be devoid of romantic interest in the way of prospective adventure and hardship.

THE CZAR'S SECOND SON.

There is an air of heroism connected with the illness of the Grand Duke George, second son of the czar of Russia, who is reported in the telegraphic dispatches to be in a critical condition of health. The grand duke is just in the prime of life so far as age goes, and during the past few years has undergone many physical hardships which a less courageous man would have shrunk from even though impelled by the same reasons which actuated the Russian prince.

Some years ago he was attacked by lung trouble, which developed into consumption. The best physicians of Europe were consulted, but could give no relief, and the disease made rapid progress upon the royal patient until, about four years since, the grand duke's race in mortality seemed to be about ended. One day when out riding, the dying man met an old Russian doctor, who told him he still had one chance of life which, if it had been taken earlier, would have effected a cure, but even then would prolong his life a number of years and possibly might result in a restoration of health.

The grand duke caught at the faint ray of hope, and promised to implicitly follow the instructions of the aged physician. The latter prescribed a life of the utmost physical hardship in the way of exposure to the rigors of a north Russian climate. The grand duke was directed to spend almost his entire time, night and day, in the open air. The luxurious dining room, the palatial drawing and reception room, and the closed and comfortable bed chamber were alike forbidden to him. He must live in the open air, with only such protection as was necessary to shield him from the fury of storms. While he was to seek shelter from rain and snow, the summer breeze and winter blast were to have free access to the royal personage who, however, was allowed to wear a reasonable amount of clothing to suit the season. He was to travel on the plains and climb the mountains of Russia, to seek the eternal snows of Siberia, but to avoid the damp air of the sea coast or the close and poisonous atmosphere of the larger towns and cities. When he could sleep with comfort in the open air at forty degrees below zero, with no other covering than a Russian bear skin, then the limit of the physician's prescription was reached, and the royal patient would have received all the benefit in the way of prolongation of life or recovery to health that could be afforded by this manner of treatment.

The grand duke George, who had been nursed and cared for in the most careful manner, pondered long and deeply over the advice given him, but concluded to follow it. The former treatment had failed, and he entered into the full spirit of the latter. In his self-imposed hardships many of his attendants were unable to stand the exposure required of the party, and more hardy men were selected. The grand duke's health began to improve, and last winter [he reached] the limit of the discipline imposed. The north Siberian wintry atmosphere of forty to forty-five degrees below zero was more comfortable to him, he said, than that under the covering of a tent, and while his attendants were wrapped in great coats and furs and huddling around a fire in a snow covered hut, the grand duke slept peacefully outside, wrapped only in bearskins.

The courage and determination exhibited by the royal Russian, even under the strong impelling force of a struggle for life, elicit a marked degree of admiration, and cause a feeling of regret that his brave fight against overwhelming odds has not gained for him immunity from the dread disease. But his example and experience may prove of benefit to others. That his life was prolonged as a result of his having plenty of clear, pure air, there is no doubt. This was all his adviser had promised. But there was a hope of release from the bacilli of consumption if his system had not been so thoroughly wasted when the treatment began. It may be that this incident will cause people to realize that in the clear air of the varying seasons, free from the impurities of crowded streets and badly-ventilated rooms, there is not only a preventative, but a cure in its earlier stages, for the wasting disease that continues to hold the highest mortality.

A MOST SACRED ORDINANCE.

A correspondent in Heber City requests the News to express an opinion on 1 Cor. xi, 30: "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep." The question is whether the weakness and sleep here mentioned are to be understood of a spiritually weak condition or literal bodily sickness and death.

Paul is treating on the subject of partaking of the Lord's Supper and explains how necessary it is that this Sacrament be partaken of with great reverence and after sufficient preparation. In reproving some members of the Church at Corinth for eating and drinking unworthily, he says their conduct will bring "damnation." The word so translated means condemnation or judgment, and the thirtieth verse explains the nature of the judgment threatened, viz., sickness and sleep.

From this it is clear that Paul here refers to literal sickness and death. It is unquestionable that Church members who unworthily partake of the Sacrament are spiritually weak and asleep; they have no strong faith in the Lord, whose death the ordinance commemorates, and they are liable to fail in the performance of every other duty; but this lamentable spiritual condition is not the result of going to the Sacrament table unprepared, and it is not so in this verse referred to by Paul. It is not a judgment of God on account of the error he seeks to correct. Rather, this spiritual weakness and drowsiness precedes that sin. When professed Christians allow worldly interests to become paramount, they will lose their spiritual strength and become to all intents and purposes as useless to the Church of Christ as if they were diseased or asleep. If in this condition they continue to partake of the holy emblems, not discerning the Lord's body, their own bodies will be made to exhibit their true spiritual condition. They will become afflicted with sickness. This is the just chastisement of the Lord. But if the warning is not heeded, death will ensue. This was the case with a great number of Corinthians. They had prematurely "fallen asleep" in death.

It will be remembered that Paul often refers to death as a sleep. In this same epistle, speaking of the resurrection from the dead, he mentions those "who are fallen asleep in Christ," meaning departed saints. In the first letter to the Thessalonians he also uses the expression "Them which are asleep," referring to the dead. It was a favorite figure of speech of Paul and indeed of the first Christians generally. It is therefore no violation of the text to interpret the word "sleep" in 1 Cor. xi, 30 as "death."

Moreover, it is but natural to expect sickness and death to follow as a result of the violation of the commandments of God. It is by faith that we are enabled to battle successfully against the evil influences that threaten our lives. In the degree that faith is becoming weak, the power to resist sickness and "evil spirits" is lost, wherefore people who are unworthy members of the community of Christ are liable to fatal diseases. Their spiritual condition being one of weak faith, the administration of the servants of the Lord cannot be expected to have the usual blessed result. All is but the natural consequence of a departure from the path of duty and the mechanical [illegible] of the commandments of the Almighty. Hence the importance of the following injunction: "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."

The wheat production of Iowa is small as compared with that of other [illegible] of earlier [illegible]. According to the figures prepared by [illegible] of the Iowa City National bank, the total value of the [illegible] is [illegible] [illegible] for 1893 was [illegible] for 1894 is dropped to [illegible]. And yet the "Queen of the Hawkeyes" goes right along uncomplainingly, [illegible] in the wealth and full distance development of her resources!

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