

original demand, though not to the advanced amount which the mine operators asked after the strike was instituted.

After such an experience one would think labor unions would feel that in some cases it was "better to bear the ills they have than fly to others they know not of," but this evidently is not the case. In the particular instance referred to the mine owners said the general depression of business forced them to the reduction, but the miners took another view. Perhaps both sides went to the extreme in their way of looking at the affair; at any rate the greater wrong was perpetrated in the precipitation of the strike, one effect of which was to morally and financially weaken the power of the unions.

But there is a more vital issue in this strike business than the mere question as to whether the employer or employee shall win in any particular contest as to the desires of either. This issue is the right that the general public has in connection with the proceeding, and which is inspiring a demand for anti-strike legislation and is leading the judicial department to take a stand against strikes in defense of the public weal. In the English coal strike the greater burden fell on the general public. More than two-thirds of the expense, or upwards of \$100,000,000, fell directly on those who had no immediate agency in bringing about the conflict. This load came through the effect of the strike on business, its closing of industrial institutions and its demands on public charity. And this is aside from the distress brought to hundreds of thousands who had no voice in deciding the question that involved them in destitution.

It is hardly to be wondered that there is a growing sentiment in favor of direct legislation on the subject of strikes, in the way of forming judicial boards of arbitration for the purpose of settling disputes between employers and employees. As such a procedure is an untried experiment there is no knowing just how it will work. But the continued and exasperating disputes between capital and labor are growing more and more bitter and disastrous, and unless there is a change in the trend of affairs through some agency, the prospect for a series of awful eruptions in the industrial world is decidedly promising.

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 forbearance 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 re-

lating 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, franchises, 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 ones 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 honest in the belief that such radical legislation as has been mentioned can only result injuriously.

A MOST SACRED ORDINANCE.

A correspondent in Heber City requests the NEWS to express an opinion on I 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 rebuking 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 dreaminess 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 I 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 shorten our lives. In the degree that faith is be-