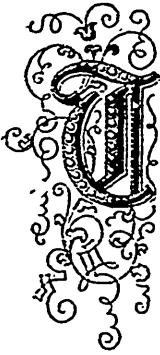


Debate.

RESOLVED THAT STRIKES ARE JUSTIFIABLE.



THE following two papers were delivered at a public prize debate held in May 16th 1902. The arguments presented at the time attracted more than usual attention but now after the ordeal to which we have been subjected by the coal strikers of Pennsylvania, these arguments in favor and against strikes seem to be of more than ordinary value. We regret that space will not permit us to give more than two of the address delivered.

THE AFFIRMATIVE.

Mr. Chairman—The question under discussion, the Justice of Strikes, is, at the present time of paramount interest to all countries and to all classes. Claiming attention for centuries back, the strike grievance now overshadows all other movements; the general welfare is so imperilled that the public at last realizes that the solution of this problem can no longer be safely adjourned

The spectacle of 147,000 miners ceasing work in order to obtain a higher wage for the labour they perform, their stubborn fight against corporations seemingly beyond the pale of the law, and the terror, famine, and even blood-shed this demand has caused assuredly stamp it the most pertinent problem of the century.

When we glance at the records of past strikes and behold the devastation that has accompanied and followed many of them, when we see the riots, the disturbances, the acts of violence and even attempts on public life our sympathy vanishes; when the sacred precincts of one's home have been desecrated by the mob and ruffian of that locality in which a strike may be in progress, righteous indignation is aroused,