

The party or parties who get up these strikes are generally men of a discontented nature, and having a great deal of self-importance, they are fond of loud talking—a sort of declamatory power which is used entirely to unsettle the minds of their fellows workmen. These leaders are generally men who have very little to lose themselves, but have a good deal to do with the distribution of the funds contributed to maintain a lengthened stand-out. They lead them to believe, by dint of uncontradicted assertions and false reasoning, that their employers are coining money from the sweat of the brow of the artizan, and that there is no reason why the employer should receive so much and the employed so little; but the truth is these men are no more competent to form an opinion, much less to be a safe authority on the financial standing of a manufacturing firm than a red Indian from the Prairies. Is it, because sales were large and prices fair, say last year, and the year before, that the manufacturer is to spend his profits in the expectation that they will always so continue, what sort of a business man would he be if when times were good he did not look into the future and lay by sufficient to carry him over the difficulties of a year like the present one, when nearly all his customers are suffering from similar causes and unable to pay him. What would be the result were he through strikes, high wages, and these temporary and ruinous stoppages of the work at his manufactory, be unable to place any profits to his credit to meet the exigencies of a commercial crisis? why he would fall under the first blast of the storm, and hundreds of families be thrown out of employment, not for a mere temporary period, but perhaps for a year, and the mechanic would then see the result of following such bad advice, in the source from which he enjoyed a maintenance crumbling-away before his eyes, and all this through following the suggestions of a few discontented and worthless men. What, then, Employed is the almost inevitable results? Misery is inflicted upon a wife and children, sickness, the accompaniment of poverty, soon finds its way into your dwelling and carries off one or more of your beloved ones, and you that once walked out daily from your door to your workshop with a firm an independent step and returned home at night to be cheered with the welcome smile of your wife and the pretty prattling of your little ones, find yourself a broken man, the source from which you derived your living taken away, and you, a dependent upon the cold charity of the world.

There can be no possible doubt in this matter, that the frequent strikes in the manufactories of the United States and in the Dominion also, have been, to a great extent, the cause of many evils from which we are now suffering. The increased cost of labour has raised prices of buildings far beyond their intrinsic value, and every kind of labour and material has increased in a similar ratio—thus it is that mechanics have heavy rents to pay

now in a time of distress far beyond their means. Another cause of the evil strikes has been that these increased rates in wages have led to great extravagances in the families of artizans, for in the expectation that these high wages would always continue, they have launched thoughtlessly into unnecessary expenses in a manner far beyond what was needful for their position in life, instead of laying by something for a day of trouble.

And now for a few words of advice to both Employers and Employed. Let the Employed always study the welfare and interests of those he employs, let him not look upon them as if they formed part of the machinery of the establishment, but feel for them a real interest, encouraging the young mechanic to habits of industry and sobriety by kind words and his own example. When he finds a workman superior to another in ability, if that man considers he is entitled to some increase in his wages over that of another, far inferior to him in skill, let him have it; if the inferior grumbles, let him go. Never abuse your men with harsh words and never approach them with any familiarity, for once a master or a foreman forgets his proper position inside the factory, he has lost his influence, respect and power over those he employs. Put from your employment a discontented man, or a talker, as soon as ever he shows his hand—these are the men who make the strikes, and frequently bring to ruin both the Employer and Employed.

On the other hand let the Employed cherish a desire to do their work cheerfully and uprightly, if they feel they have a grievance represent it in such a way that it will be carefully investigated and remedied, for there are few employers so blind to their own interests, that will part with a really deserving and skillful workman without just cause, or who would not remedy a grievance if brought respectfully before them; but above all give your children a sound practical education, let the foundation be laid on a moral soil, and consist of such firm materials that on it, in years to come, they may through their ability and industry erect with safety the work and machinery of a future fortune.

In concluding the last number of this year's volume most heartily do we tender you our best wishes for more prosperous times, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

ONE of the soda lakes of the Laramie plains presents a crystallisation 5ft. deep over ninety acres of surface.

MR. C. C. THOMAS exhibited at the fair of the San Francisco Mechanics Institute a steam engine which can easily be covered by a thumb. It is of the vertical type, three-quarters of an inch in its greatest height. The cylinder is one-eighth of an inch bore and three-sixteenths of an inch stroke. The valve moves one-thirty second of an inch. The engine is made of gold and silver, the working parts, however, being made of steel. The whole thing is set on a California gold dollar, and can be covered with a No. 6 thumb. Mr. Thomas made a little lathe to turn out the different parts of this machine, and every piece is perfect.