

MECHANIC'S LIEN—STANDARD TIME.

mise it. But when a decree is made, the case is different. He ceases then to have absolute control, and the general body of creditors, for whose benefit the decree is made, become entitled to intervene."

It will thus be seen that the result of *McPherson v. Gege* is to establish that suits to enforce mechanics' liens differ from other class suits so far as regards the rights of other members of the same class as the actual plaintiff to intervene therein. In such actions they have not only the right to intervene and prosecute the action before or after judgment, where the original plaintiff neglects, or refuses to do so, but the latter's right to consent to a compromise, or a dismissal, of the action, is practically confined to his own claim, and the action may be restored if any other member of the class choose to intervene. We observe that Mr. Justice Galt is reported to have dissented from the majority of the court, on the ground that the applicant was not of the same class as the original plaintiff; we are inclined to think too, that the decision goes a little beyond the strict letter of the Act. The intervention which the 15th section appears to contemplate is an intervention in an existing action, not an intervention in an action which has been dismissed. The conclusion which the court arrived at, however, is a very reasonable and proper one, even if it does savor a little of judicial legislation, but we fear it may be found to lead to some difficulty in practice. The question must inevitably arise, as to the effect of parties acquiring rights between the dismissal of an action, and its subsequent restoration on the application of another lien-holder of the same class. Will persons thus acquiring rights, be nevertheless bound by the claims of other lien-holders who apply to restore the action? or will they take free from such claims? Until this question is determined, it is clear that another and very dangerous obstacle is placed in the way of persons dealing with lands on which mechanic's liens exist. The difficulty is complicated by the fact, that

after an action is commenced, it ceases to be necessary for any lien-holder of the same class as the plaintiff to register his lien; consequently it must become a matter of serious difficulty to ascertain, when an action is dismissed, who the other lien-holders of the same class are, who are entitled to intervene, and whether or not their claims have been satisfied.

STANDARD TIME.

"Time was made for slaves." So thought the freeborn Britons at Quebec, when the garrison gun, fired by a Dominion officer, made it "eight bells," when old Sol made it 25 minutes past twelve. The same thought occurred to the clerks in government offices at Ottawa, when the clock of the House of Parliament was put on three minutes for the same reason. And for *what* reason? Because the railway magnates thought proper to reconstruct their time tables on some arbitrary system arranged for the convenience of their traffic.

It may be good for us, living in the City of Toronto, to be compelled to go to bed 17 minutes earlier than usual; but what about getting up so much earlier in the morning. We are creatures of habit as well as freeborn Britons, and we object to what is left to us of life being made more of a burden than necessary by having to breakfast by gaslight.

But let us look at the effect of "following a multitude to do evil" in this matter from some less personal points of view. It goes without saying that a railway company cannot alter the time of day except for its own servants or service. Yet with an amusing lamblike passiveness the clocks of the country have been set by those of the railway companies. This must be discouraging enough for some unhappy wight who walks across an imaginary line and finds he is an hour behind time; but the present situation has some consequences of a more serious character.