

about over, and the prospect for trade is probably brighter than it ever was before in the history of the Province. A crop of grain is now coming to market, which if somewhat below an average in quantity, promises to be the finest in quality ever produced here. Then there have been commenced building operations in the capital and other cities and towns which will aggregate considerably over half a million dollars in value. Add to this the work of railway construction of this season, and it will be seen, that a money circulation that will tell well in the coming winter has resulted from these undertakings. Lastly we have now the great advantage of railway competition, and for the first time in Manitoba's history there will be competition at dozens of points this winter in carrying our products to the eastern markets. Viewing matters in this light we think it is not only foolish and unnecessary to grumble, but it also does incalculable harm to the Province, as outsiders naturally measure the advantages of a country in accordance with the contentment of its people.

GREAT STRIKES.

The dock labourers strike, which has caused so much excitement and has so paralysed shipping business in the British Metropolis for the past few weeks, furnishes another instance of how complicated, and how threatening to society has become the question of the relationship of capital and labor, and how month after month the solution of that knotty problem grows more difficult.

In this and other countries where people think for themselves there is a class of slightly fossilized, but at the same time solid minds, who view these strikes as unmistakable signs of social as well as commercial degeneracy, and who look approvingly upon the iron-handed efforts with which the great German Chancellor recently sought to crush such movements throughout that empire. Then we have others of different ideas, who look upon these great strikes as evidences of a progress made, in which the labourer has developed a power sufficient to protect him from the oppression of capital in the future. Both classes are prepared to admit, that strikes, while in some instances justifiable, are invariably productive of much injury to all engaged in them. A practical course therefore to follow, is to discover some

means of lessening their number, and thereby lessening their evils. But it is clearly visible, that with these two opposite extremes pulling against each other, it is a matter of great difficulty if not of impossibility to secure the unity of action, so necessary to reach the desired end.

It is becoming an all engrossing consideration in the minds of many, that with the rapid strides which have been made in industrial progress during this present century, the relationship between capital and labor, or to put it more correctly, employer and employe are becoming more strained every day, and the gap between them is becoming wider as time advances. Where to find a cure for this evil, is an unanswerable question at present, although where to find its main cause is not difficult, although hard, if not impossible to remove after it is found.

We have heard much about the good old days of our stern great grand fathers, when the power of the employer over his employe, or the master over his servant as they were respectively called in those days, was almost as great as the power of lord of the soil over his serf. When the craftsman could reach the so called position of a free and competent workman only through a long term of years apprenticeship, the conditions of which were more exacting than anything contained in the enlistment oath of a soldier of the present day. Yet in those days the gap between master and servant was after all more in name than reality, and the relations were with rare exceptions amicable, compared with those of capital and labor in the present day.

In the boyhood of the grey beards of the present day, before industrial undertakings had begun to be organized on a huge scale, as they now are, and when employers were as a rule individuals or firms composed of only two or three persons, there did not exist the misunderstanding and mistrust existing between capital and labor now, although laws then gave the employer a power over the laborer not allowed to him in the present day. It is only since capital has begun to be organized and concentrated in vast quantities for the carrying on of industrial affairs, that the gap between it and labor has widened, until it seems beyond the power of being successfully bridged. Our age is an age of economy in industry, and the idea is now deep rooted, that concentration is the essence of economy.

That the concentration and organization of capital in industrial affairs secures economy, no one will question who will consider the matter. But the concentration is of men's money, men's skill and men's business acumen; while it does not aim at, but actually opposes any concentration of men's heart power, or consideration for others. This is just the point in which modern organization of capital crushes any mutual considerations between capital and labor. The employer of a century ago with all his power over his employe felt, if he was capable of feeling, that he had a moral responsibility towards those under him. The employer of fifty years ago had similar feelings, for where the interests at stake are directly those of individuals, individual responsibility, must be felt, and that cannot fail to produce more or less mutual consideration.

The action of the directors of the London Docks Companies in the present strike is an example of the absence of individual moral responsibility in connection with the management of large corporations. One of such corporations is simply a colossal pile of so many thousands or perhaps millions of dollars, rubbing and grinding against other similar huge piles, that it may add to the wealth of its owners, none of whom feel any responsibility as to its actions. It is folly to appeal to the better instincts of such a colossal pile. It may be the acme of financial organization, or perfect in its organization for industrial undertaking, but like Frankenstein's monster the heart is omitted in its construction. It utterly lacks individuality, and is equally lacking in the better instincts of an individual.

While capital is being thus concentrated and organized on a basis of sordid economy, it is not surprising that labor should be following a similar course. Its organizations are all aimed to crush individuality, and concentrate its power in masses that will overawe or fight capital as may be required. If such organizations are less grasping or less sordid than those of capital, it is because rifts and creaks are still left in its structure, through which the light of individual responsibility will at times shine even though faintly.

It must be acknowledged, that the prospect of amicable relations between capital and labor being reached are anything but encouraging at present. It is folly to expect that the huge organisations of the present day can be speedily disbanded or dispersed, in order that individual responsibility may again become supreme. The economist would laugh and not without good reason at such a proposal. Still it is the absence of that individual responsibility which is the greatest cause of trouble between capital and labor in the present day, and since it cannot be restored, it remains to be seen what substitute or substitutes can be supplied by social and commercial economists.