Yesterday the controversy between the Liverpool cotton shippers and the river steamboat operators over the compensation to be paid for handling cotton cargoes culminated in a general strike of the seamen at the freight port of New Orleans.

The Longshoremen (general freight handlers) and the boiler operators had already been anticipated, and therefore created no surprise. There is now no other course open to the owners of the vessels but to unload their ships at sea, and then send them to local help to handle the cotton. It is a test of endurance between the shipping interests on the one hand and the regular harbor of the port on the other.

A similar strike of New Orleans men, something more than eight thousand laborers, white and colored, cannot be avoided, unless the government promises to mediate the difficulties of maintaining public peace under such circumstances. There is the serious question of the lives and property of the passengers and crew of the vessel, that has to be considered. The more stubborn the right and the longer the settlement will be delayed, the greater the amount of traffic to other ports where the conditions are more favorable.

The terms of the strike are quite well known to meet the review here. Even those Stevedores and line which promptly signed contracts with the Longshoremen for the compensation to be paid them and their crews have been threatened with a general strike declared by the Dock and Cotton Council, as their action has been considered unjust.

The cause of the strike is to be a supreme effort to establish a similar situation of labor and capital, with the Longshoremen paid a higher rate than the price of the cotton they are handling, but changes in the compensation paid to labor will establish that parity has not yet been established, and that the laborers are being deprived of their just demands. The labor interest ought to be as willing as the shipping interests to establish a parity, since the condition of the existing situation depends, as is well known to the trade, to make trade relations on fair terms. The action of the Confederate States is also to be considered, and it seems to imply that they are not willing to help in the interest of the profession.

With such an imposing existing the duty of the authorities is clear, namely, to preserve the rights of labor at whatever cost. It is the right of labor to demand what is due to them, and that right must be respected, but is the right of any other labor to work for whatever wages seems fair to them. The guarantee to every man in this right to sell labor for protection and security is a guarantee for every man in this right to sell labor for protection and security.

It is gratifying to learn that the authorities have declared that they have no intention of desire to make trouble or interfere with the distribution of the cotton. The assurance should be accepted as a true assurance, and every effort should be made to assist all interests in the general interest, and not to allow the situation to be complicated by sordid and indecent interests.

ThePLEVEY'S plan has already stated in its favor, and the situation is complex that it cannot be avoided. If a sincere attempt is made to reach a compromise, the right of the port can be preserved, and the established customs are observed, but every interest must be considered in the general interest, and not by the interested parties.