

BARBARIC AMERICA.

The Infamous Doctrine of Contributory Negligence.

The doctrine of fellow servant is very important. It means that when any man enters the employ of a great corporation he becomes responsible for all the stupidity, carelessness or recklessness of all his fellow servants. He doesn't choose his fellow servants. They are chosen for him, but he assumes all the personal risk which comes from working with them.

There is still another doctrine which the law advances to do the injured out of justice. And this doctrine is called the doctrine of contributory negligence and "it is dramatized once for all," says William Hard, "in the case of Smith versus Selligman.

"Smith, an engineer for the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe, started off to get some sleep. He was called back by the master mechanic.

"There was a train of oranges that had to be hauled to Pinto. Smith objected. He said he felt unable to handle an engine. The master mechanic insisted. It was an urgent case. Smith climbed back on his engine.

"Smith reached Pinto at 3 o'clock that afternoon. At 8:30 in the evening he was on his way back to Winslow.

"It was then that he committed his act of contributory negligence. He got into a collision.

"He had been on duty thirty hours and thirty minutes. He fell into a doze. He forgot just where he was. He ought to have run his train at that point off the main track on to a side track. He forgot about it. And in the midst of his contributory negligence another train ran into him.

"Smith's right hand was badly crushed, and its subsequent use for purpose of his trade was rendered impossible. He had made the mistake of dropping off to sleep after more than thirty hours of continuous work.

"The court of appeals of Texas did not condone Smith's offense. The court admitted that in Arizona, where the accident happened, there was a law forbidding railway companies to work their employees more than sixteen hours at a stretch. Under that law when a man had worked sixteen hours he was entitled to enjoy nine hours' rest.

"The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe had kept Smith at work for almost twice the legal length of time. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe was a lawbreaker.

"But Smith was a contributory negligent and hopelessly careless person. His real character was exposed by the court.

"The allegation," said the court, "that the laws of Arizona prohibit railway companies from working their employees for more than sixteen consecutive hours does not excuse the contributory negligence of the appellant (Smith), which arose from his working such a length of time that he was unfitted for business. He knew his physical condition far better than the railroad company could have known it, and he cannot excuse his carelessness in falling asleep on his engine. The petition presents a clear case of appellant (Smith) having been hurt through his own negligence in stopping his engine on the main line instead of taking a siding, as he should have done."

Now, that's the whole story. It's the law. It's the doctrine of contributory negligence.

Smith ought to have known better. Think of a man running an engine along the main line when he was asleep!

But the courts know their business. Smith got no sympathy from them. It was contributory negligence that Smith did, and it was his own fault. And, anyway, it's the law.—Robert Hunter.

Millions of Union Labels.

The International Union of the United Brewery Workmen of America reports that from Sept. 1, 1908, to Sept. 1, 1909, 38,680,000 union labels were used; from Sept. 1, 1909, to Sept. 1, 1910, there were 41,930,000 used. The cost of printing and shipping these labels for the two years was \$13,754.03.

UNION LABOR NOTES.

Union coopers make 90 per cent of all the barrels on the market.

New York lithographers will enjoy the eight hour day on and after Jan. 1, 1911.

Recent municipal elections throughout England and Wales show a considerable growth in the labor vote.

Many society women of Chicago assisted the striking garment workers of Chicago. More than a score were arrested by the police for picketing.

Expert investigators for the national child labor committee, which has been conducting investigations in Delaware, report the conditions as deplorable.

Edwin R. Wright of the Chicago Typographical union has been re-elected president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor to serve a fifth term.

For trying to form a rival organization the Winnipeg Bricklayers and Masons' union recently sentenced six of its members to pay a fine of \$100 each.

In view of the great number of unemployed men who are in the Romagna region, Premier Luzzatti of Italy has decided to begin at once the construction of provincial and national roads, canals and other public works.

Hereafter applicants for positions in Boston which are classified as the city's labor service must submit to physical examination. The regulation affects common laborers, including boys, skilled laborers and mechanics and craftsmen, in all many thousands of men.

Novel Use of a Billboard.

During a recent run on a western bank a billboard was set up in the street, where the line of depositors were gathered, and its frank statement of the bank's condition did much to restore confidence. Many people dropped out of the line after reading the sign, which bore this legend: "This bank can pay every dollar on deposit. It is one of the strongest banks on the Pacific coast. It has been your friend. Jealous competitors have worked to bring you here. Every person in this line should show their loyalty by leaving at once. Your money is safe. Why, then, remain here doing an unkind and foolish thing? Break ranks." The run lasted thirty-six hours, but the bank stood the strain and remained solvent. An enterprising merchant took advantage of the incident to secure a novel advertisement for his store. It happened that he was prepared to move into the adjoining building and the picture of the crowd before the bank had the appearance of heading for his new quarters. A cut of this picture was used for his announcement, the legend reading, "Your money is safe if you follow the crowd to"—giving the name of his own establishment.—Bookkeeper.

A Luxury.

"But," objected the heiress, "I have been accustomed to every luxury."

"That's all the more reason why you should marry me," replied the impetuous suitor. "I'm a luxury myself."

Courage.

What one needs to cultivate is a tenacity of purpose that will not quail or turn aside a courage that in emergencies dares to separate from the crowd, that never recognizes defeat.

ANT OR GRASSHOPPER?

After singing merrily all summer and passing away the pleasant hours in idleness, the Grasshopper discovered on the arrival of winter that it was up against the real thing.

Thereupon the Grasshopper, having noted the industry of the Ant, hurried to Antville and besought Mr. Ant to Come to the Rescue.

Mr. Ant, after reminding Mr. Grasshopper of the wasted hours, ended up by uttering the Merry Ha Ha and retiring to his well stocked bungalow.

Ant or Grasshopper?

The time to begin emulating the example of Mr. Grasshopper is now. Begin by investing with us a portion of your weekly or monthly wage. While with us your savings are earning you money at the rate of 4 per cent. You would be surprised to know how rapidly interest accumulates. Let it be accumulating for yourself instead of paying it to somebody else. We will gladly explain our system. Ten years successful business is our claim upon your attention.

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