

X-RAY COMPETENT EVIDENCE

Supreme Court Lays Down Broad Rule Regarding Its Admissibility.

PASS ON SEVERAL INSURANCE PROBLEMS

Among Other Things the Supreme Court Declines to Follow the Rule Laid Down by United States Supreme Court.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) LINCOLN, Nov. 20.—(Special.)—The use of the X-ray or cathode picture as a piece of competent evidence was officially recognized by the supreme court in a decision handed down at the present term. It had previously tentatively sanctioned the use of these developments of science, but went much farther than ever and broadens the rule of other courts materially. It says that to constitute a foundation for the introduction of such pictures it is not essential that they were taken by a competent person nor that the conditions of the apparatus and the circumstances under which it is taken were such as to insure an accurate picture, where the object sought to be shown.

The case is one from Merrick county, where Frank A. Carlson was defeated in an effort to recover from Dr. E. A. and Joseph Benton damages for what he contended was an unskilled and negligent piece of surgery by which the bones of a broken leg did not unite, and which left him lame and suffering great pain. The supreme court reversed the lower court, and says that the trial judge was guilty of an abuse of discretion in ruling out the X-ray pictures. It says that the discretion of the judge in the reception of evidence is not absolute where the evidence leaves no room for a difference of opinion, and if exercised in a case of that character it is an abuse of discretion.

The evidence referred to was given by three other surgeons, who had examined the leg both by the picture and by other means, such as manipulation and touch. Forfeiture Not Waived. Another vexed point of fraternal insurance law is settled in the Adams case from Douglas county. In this the evidence was that C. W. Adams had been in the habit of paying his assessments in a bunch. One day, while in Lincoln and while he was under suspension for nonpayment of dues, he sent to the financial secretary of the subordinate lodge at Omaha a money order for \$5. The clerk sent him a receipt and a blank certificate, but Adams had no intention that he was in good health at the time he paid. This never reached Adams, he had died suddenly of an apoplectic stroke the same day it was mailed.

The supreme court says that the mere receipt of the money by the financial secretary of the subordinate lodge was not of itself a waiver of the other conditions for reinstatement. There was evidence that a member of the finance committee said to a son of the deceased when the latter showed him the receipt that it was a check he would get the money, but the court holds that neither this nor the subsequent consideration of the case by the grand lodge, although a matter involving some expense to the beneficiaries, were waivers of forfeiture.

Handling Means to Handle. It cost Thomas Doody \$2,000 to carry a gun one of his boarders had left behind him from the dining room, but he was not satisfied. On the way the gun was accidentally discharged and Thomas lost a hand. He held an accident insurance policy in the National Maquo association. Under class one, as an inkkeeper, if he lost a hand in and about his customary business he was entitled to recover \$2,500; under another class, if he lost it while handling firearms he could get \$500. The question was, did he lose it while handling firearms?

His counsel contended that this clause meant if he was carrying a gun about his business of hunting or for other use. He insisted that the word "handle" was synonymous with ply, wield and manipulate. The insurance company's attorneys quoted dictionaries to prove that to handle meant "to touch with the hands." The court says that the latter definition is the proper one for this case, that Doody was handling firearms. While the words quoted by counsel were synonymous with "handle," they were not verbal equivalents, and that it was not a question of which of two definitions should be given. The court says that the word "handle" should exclude what certain authorities say it does mean.

Lincoln City Wins Suit. Marie Northcutt is not entitled, according to the supreme court decision, to recover from the city of Lincoln for damages sustained by a fall on a sidewalk on F street, between Eighth and Ninth. The district court instructed the jury for the city, and one of the complaints was that there was evidence that should have gone to the jury. Mrs. Northcutt's injury was caused by the fact that her companion stepped on one end of a loose board and she tripped over the raised portion. The walk had been defective for several years and on Halloween night before had been picked up and thrown into the street by boys. The owner repaired it, but did not make it as wide as before, leaving ends of the stringers sticking out. Mrs. Northcutt's attorney contended that she was in a legitimate one and that after she fell her injuries were caused by coming in contact with the projecting stringers. The supreme court holds that it was the loose board and not the projecting ends that caused the fall and that the latter did not contribute to her injury.

Constructive Bankruptcy Law. The case of Hackney, trustee, against Hargreaves, from Lancaster county, was reversed because of error committed by the trial judge in submitting to the jury the question of a mutual agreement between Eriehorn, a bankrupt, whose trustee he

Advertisement for St. Jacobs Oil, describing its benefits for rheumatism, sprains, stiffness, sciatica, neuralgia, soreness, lumbago, chest colds, and other ailments. It claims to be a 'magic conqueror' of pain.

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Passenger Loses Ticket. ASHLAND, Neb., Nov. 20.—(Special.)—Through no fault of his Louis Smith is temporarily sojourning in the vicinity of Ashland. He left his home at Jamestown, N. Y., a short time ago with a ticket for Spokane, Wash. On the train out of Ashland he mysteriously disappeared and his ticket mysteriously disappeared and he thinks was stolen, so he stopped here to visit an old friend, T. B. Pierson. Smith is now picking corn near here to secure the money to continue his west journey.

New Bank at Nickerson. FREMONT, Neb., Nov. 20.—(Special.)—A bank has been organized at Nickerson with a capital of \$25,000, of which \$7,500 is paid up. H. J. Sidner of Nickerson is the cashier and will manage the business. The other officers are W. J. Courtright and L. M. Keene of Fremont, president and vice president. They have secured a building and will commence business as soon as possible.

Woman Run Over and Killed. ORD, Neb., Nov. 20.—(Special Telegram.)—Mrs. D. M. Ross, wife of a prominent

DEDICATE YORK'S NEW LIBRARY

City Has a Fine Building, Thanks to the Generosity of Mrs. Woods.

YORK, Neb., Nov. 20.—(Special.)—The formal opening of the Woods public library was an auspicious event in the history of York and was largely attended. The program was very entertaining and most appropriate. Hon. E. A. Gilbert presided. Exercises were opened by prayer by Rev. John D. Creighton, followed by an address by Hon. E. A. Gilbert. An instrumental solo was played by Mrs. R. McConaughy, interesting and well addressed were made by Revs. O. W. Pifer and Cross of this city. Songs were rendered by Misses Cora Conway and Blanche Cox. Dr. D. E. Sedgewick read a report of the building committee that told about all the work done by the committee. Mr. E. B. Woods gave a sketch of the life of the donor, Mrs. Lydia B. Woods. The new library building is one of the best in the state and York citizens are proud of it. Miss Grace Hurlbut is librarian.

Home Investors Uneasy.