







BUSINESS LAW.

Brief Digests of Recent Decisions in Courts of Last Resort.

Capital Stock a Trust Fund.

The capital stock of a moneyed corporation is a trust fund for the payment of its debts, and upon its insolvency, creditors may compel, by bill in equity, the payment of the unpaid subscriptions to the capital stock so far as is necessary for the satisfaction of their debts.—Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Principal and Agent.

Supreme Court of Ohio in the case of Miller's Executrix vs. Sullivan & Co. Where an agent enters into a contract without disclosing his principal or agency, the principal, if he takes advantage of the contract, must do so subject to all the rights and equities of which the other contracting party, who had no knowledge of the agency, might avail himself as against the agent, assuming the latter to be a principal.

Lease—Statute of Frauds.

The Supreme Court of Michigan holds that a lease may be made to take effect in the future, and the estate begins with the future period and not with the contract; an agreement by parol for a future term, not exceeding one year, is valid, and not within the statute of frauds.

Commenting on the above the Chicago Legal News says: "This opinion would seem to be contrary to the weight of authority and the spirit of the statute if not of its express letter."

Contract in Restraint of Trade.

The case of La Taurette vs. Ames et al, decided in favor of plaintiff by the St. Louis Circuit Court on March 24th, was an action brought to recover damages for a breach of contract the defendants having, in consideration of \$4,860.58, sold to plaintiff their establishment for the manufacture of "suction wood pumps" and "wood force pumps," together with all their machinery and manufactured stock, and the good will of their business, the defendants at the same time covenanting that they would not directly or indirectly manufacture or sell the same class of pumps at any place in the United States West of the 81st meridian for the period of ten years, and that they would not enter into the employment of others engaged directly or indirectly in manufacturing or selling such pumps within the period and territory previously referred to, covenanting, in case of violation, to forfeit \$2,000 as liquidated damages. The covenant was broken and suit begun. The defense was that the covenant was invalid because in restraint of trade. The judge, in his decision, said: "Contracts in total restraint of trade (that is, contracts binding a person not to engage in a particular avocation anywhere) are regarded as invalid. But contracts that merely bind a person not to follow a given avocation at a certain place or places are universally held to be valid engagements, provided the restraint imposed upon the person be in itself reasonable, and no greater than seems necessary to protect the other party to the contract in the engagement of the business or good will of the business purchased. The only difficulty in applying the rule was in determining with respect to particular cases what was a reasonable limitation."

Alleged Metallic Impurities of Tinned Goods.

Edward Davies, F. C. S., in Druggists' Circular.

My attention was recently called to a case of poisoning from eating tinned salmon, the doctor who had charge of the case having attributed the same to nitrate of tin. Of course the chemistry of the medical gentleman was, to say the least, peculiar. Nitrate of tin, either stannic or stannous, can only be formed by the action of nitric acid, either on tin or stannous hydrate for stannous nitrate, or on stannic hydrate for stannic nitrate. But there is no nitric acid in the flesh of salmon, and the formation of nitric acid from its nitrogen, in the absence of oxygen, is a chemical impossibility. Indeed, nitrates of tin are such unstable salts that they could not have endured the heat of preparing the tinned salmon, even if they had been purposely added. Whether tin can be taken up by the oil in which salmon is cooked seemed, however, a possible thing, forming a fatty salt of tin.

I have, therefore, analyzed the oil from a tin of preserved salmon, using the cheapest kind. Three hundred grains have 0.03 grain of residue on igniting the precipitated sulphides, of which a part was lead and a trace was tin. This amount is quite insufficient to cause any effect at all. Whether tin in such a form is poisonous is not known. The only salts of tin that have been known to possess poisonous properties are the stannous and stannic chloride. Stannic chloride, as usually prepared, contains free acid, and its strongly irritant effects may be thus partly accounted for, but these salts are not present in tinned meats. Tin in the metallic form is not at all poisonous, and tinned vessels have been in such constant use for cooking purposes that some cases must have been met with if they could impart deleterious

properties to the food. The lead which is always present in the tin used for tinning may be supposed to be the active agent. I have analyzed tinned beef for this metal, and found on the whole of the outside of the meat in a four-pound tin 0.07 of a grain. The interior of the meat was quite free from this metal.

Lead poisoning from small doses does not cause sudden symptoms. Paralysis is the usual result, and not symptoms of irritant poisoning. The amount above stated is quite insufficient to produce any visible effect, and the removal of the outside would remove any that might be present.

I also analyzed a tin of tomatoes which had apparently suffered partial decomposition. Two ounces gave 0.10 of a residue when the sulphides were ignited. This was principally tin with a minute amount of lead. The tomatoes were, of course, acid, and I think acid substances should not be preserved in tin vessels; but even this quantity is so small that I should hesitate to assume that it could be injurious. The bad effects which have in a few cases resulted from the use of tinned meats are, in my opinion, due to decomposition of the meat, owing to imperfect closing or faults in preparation.

The results of my examination are that lead should be carefully excluded in the preparation of the tin plate, and that acid liquids should not be kept in tin vessels, but that no cases are known in which any injurious effects have been proved to have resulted from metallic impurities in tinned meats.

How To Make Mead.

Mead is an old-fashioned beverage, but a very pleasant one, if care is taken in making it. It is generally made over strong, too much honey being used to the proportion of water. The following is a good recipe: (1) On 30 lbs. of honey (clarified) pour 13 gallons of water, boiling hot, clarify with the whites of eggs well beaten, boil again, remove all scum as it rises, add 1 oz. of best hops and boil for ten minutes, then pour the liquor into a tub to cool, spreading a slice of toast on both sides with yeast, and putting it into the tub when the liquor is nearly cold; the tub should stand in a warm room. When fermentation has thoroughly begun, pour the mixture into a cask, and as it works off fill up the cask, keeping back some of the liquor for this purpose. Bung down closely when fermentation has ceased, leaving a peg-hole which can be closed up in a few days. Let it remain a year in the cask before bottling off. (2) To 15 lbs of honey add 6 gallons of water, clarify the honey with white of eggs, boil for ten minutes, and keep thoroughly skimmed; add a handful of mixed herbs, thyme, rosemary tops and bay leaves; boil for half an hour more. Strain the mixture into a tub upon 5 pints of ground malt, stir well together and, when lukewarm, strain through a cloth into another tub. Work it with yeast, and when fermentation is set up pour it into a cask. Suspend in the cask a muslin bag containing sliced ginger ½ oz.; ¼ oz. each cloves, nutmeg and mace, well bruised; bung up tightly when it has ceased working, letting the bag of spices remain. It should stand in the wood for a year, and then be bottled off.

Sack Mead.—To every gallon of water allow 4 lbs. of honey; boil for three-quarters of an hour, skimming well; to each gallon of liquor add ½ oz. of hops, boil again for a quarter of an hour, pour it into a tub, and let stand for twenty-four hours, working with yeast, then pour into the cask, and to 13 gallons of liquor, allow a quart of sack; close lightly until all fermentation has ceased, then bung up close. If a large cask, allow a year in work before bottling off.

American Mead is made with cider. Take 20 lbs of honey and 12 gallons of good cider, and blend them together in a tub; ferment with yeast, then pour into a cask and add half gallon of rum, half gallon of French brandy, 4 oz. of red tartar, dissolved, and ½ oz. of cloves. Bung down close when it has ceased working, and bottle off at the end of three months; it will be fit for use three months afterward.

Nicknames of American Cities.

Toledo, Corn City; Keokuk, Gate City; Quincy, Gem City; Lafayette, Star City; Louisville, Falls City; Hannibal, Bluff City; Chicago, Garden City; St. Louis, Mound City; Pittsburg, Smoky City; Cleveland, Forest City; Alexandria, Delta City; Cincinnati, Queen City; Porkopolis; Boston, Modern Athens, the Hub; New York, Gotham; Nashville, City of Rocks; Philadelphia, Quaker City; Indianapolis, Railroad City; Detroit, City of the Straits; Denver, City of the Plains; New Orleans, Crescent City; Brooklyn, City of Churches; Baltimore, Monumental City; Washington, City of Magnificent Distances; Milwaukee, Cream City; New Haven, City of Elms; Racine, Wis., Belle City; San Francisco, Frisco; Duluth, Zenith City; Little Rock, City of Roses; Mobile, Shell City; Kansas City, Mushroomopolis; St. Paul, Gem City; Lowell, City of Spindles; Minneapolis, City of Flour; Holyoke, Mass., Paper City; North Adams, Mass., The Tunnel City; Peoria, Ill., Whiskytown; Alton, Ill., Tasselberg; Pekin, Ill., Celestial City; Madison, Wis., Lake City; Rochester, N. Y., Flower City; Buffalo, Queen City of the Lakes. Grand Rapids, Valley City.

A bill is pending in the New York Legislature which, if carried, will force manufacturers of canned goods in that State to stamp each package with the date of its preparation.

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ARTHUR MEIGS & CO., Wholesale Grocers,

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Red Fox & Big Drive Plug Tobacco,

The Best in the Market.

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Our stock of Teas, Coffees and Syrups is Always Complete.

—WE MAKE SPECIAL CLAIM FOR OUR—

Tobaccos, Vinegars and Spices!!

OUR MOTTO: "SQUARE DEALING BETWEEN MAN AND MAN."

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

THE DEAREST TOBACCO

Is a Poor, Common or Low-Priced Article, As It Gives Neither Pleasure Nor Satisfaction.

THE PUBLIC IS NOT SLOW TO LEARN THIS FACT

WHENEVER IT DISCOVERS AN ARTICLE THAT COMMENDS ITSELF TO THE TASTE AND OTHER SENSES.

—THE REMARKABLE SALE OF—

LORILLARD'S PLUG TOBACCOS

Is Ample Evidence of This. This Concern will Sell over 20,000,000 Pounds of their Favorite Brands this Year; or About

One-Fourth of All the Plug Tobacco Used in this Country!

AND AS THERE ARE BETWEEN 800 AND 900 OTHER FACTORIES IN THE U. S., IT FOLLOWS THAT THEIR GOODS MUST GIVE

Better Satisfaction or Represent Better Value for the Money

THAN THE BRANDS OF OTHER MAKERS.

"CLIMAX," with Red Tin Tag, is their Best Brand.







JAY GOULD'S INCOME.

No Less Than \$12,888 a Day or About \$9 a Minute.

Jay Gould, the second richest man of the United States, is credited with being the possessor of wealth estimated all the way from \$50,000,000 to \$75,000,000.

In round numbers the permanent investment stock appearing on Mr. Gould's schedule were 380,000 shares of Western Union Telegraph, 110,000 shares of Missouri Pacific, 140,000 shares of Wabash common, and 60,000 shares of the preferred, 50,000 shares of Kansas and Texas, 40,000 shares of Texas Pacific, and 70,000 shares of Erie.

Besides his railroad shares Mr. Gould holds five and one-half millions of Wabash general bonds. The value of these securities in \$49,495,000. Western Union and Missouri Pacific pay dividends; the other stocks do not.

The Importance of Stock Taking.

We have known of cases where a merchant would postpone from time to time, and almost indefinitely, the taking of an inventory, probably from the fear that the revelations made by that proceeding would be anything but pleasant.

The importance of the creation and maintenance of a rigid system for every business cannot be overestimated, and there is no point that should be more closely looked to than the taking, at regular intervals, of a careful account of stock.

If a man takes an inventory of his business at regular and frequent intervals he is pretty sure to be well informed as to his actual financial condition at all times. Unless he is made the victim of some fraud or deception on the part of associates or employees it cannot well be otherwise.

Four simple rules, the observance of which would save time, annoyance, loss and injury of goods, add greatly to the proper execution of labor, and expedite the transaction of business in every department, are commended to every business man.

Messrs Libby, McNeil & Libby, the Chicago canners, commenced business April 1, 1868, and the first year they did not employ more than five men, the total sales of product amounting to only \$60,000.

Calkins Bros., wholesale and retail dealers in gun goods and fishing tackle. Agents for gun and blasting powder, fuse, etc.

How He Figured It.

A merchant clothier in a town about the size of Big Rapids failed a few years ago and called a meeting of his creditors. An investigation showed that his liabilities were \$4,000 and his assets \$1,000.

"It appears," said one of the creditors, "that you can pay twenty-five cents on the dollar."

Patents Issued to Michigan Inventors.

The following patents have lately been issued to Michigan inventors:

- Mary Bartlett, Detroit, clothes line pole. Theo. Burdick, Kalamazoo, mattress support. Wm. Campbell, Detroit, tire tightener. Alfred Freschl, Detroit, application of fabrics to a background. Jonathan Harris, Grand Ledge, curtain roller fixture. Wm. H. Lintz, Constantine, hay and grain rack. Thos. McDonough, Benton, fire escape. Charlie E. Mark, Flint, car coupling. Chas. H. Parschall, Detroit, lubricator, also a crank pin oiler. Frank G. Sears, East Saginaw, door check. John S. Smith, Jackson, feeder for tile and sewer pipe machines. Robert Stevenson, Muskegon, fire escape. Thos. S. Tew, Big Rapids, locomotive.

A Novel Swindle.

A swindler has recently been extensively operating in Chicago, Detroit and elsewhere, and has secured a large sum. His plan of operation is novel. He would ascertain in what bank a merchant had a deposit, and would then represent himself as a United States secret service agent, and state that hearing the cashier of the merchant's bank was circulating counterfeit money, he desired to obtain evidence against him.

Some people seem to think that every barrel of pork should have tacked to the head a clean bill of health of the deceased inside—the attending physician's certificate and finding of a coroner's jury to the fact that he did not die of natural causes.

The Detroit Times credits Grand Rapids with being the seat of a butterine factory. This is an unexpected honor; but unfortunately, the statement has no foundation in fact.

The window of a Jackson dry goods store is made attractive by a complete model of a steam engine of the walking-beam pattern, built of laces, ribbons and light goods.

Elk Rapids claims to have seventy tons of freight to ship a day, which a railroad would increase to 100 tons, and consequently is very indifferent about offering a bonus.

Aaron Dickerhoof, formerly in general trade at Adamsville, Cass county, has removed to Mottville, St. Joseph county, and engaged in the same business.

William Verhocks has sold his interest in the general store of John W. Verhocks & Co., at Grand Haven. The firm name will remain the same as before.

"I beg a thousand pardons for coming so late." "My dear sir," replied the lady, graciously, "no pardons are needed. You can never come too late."

At a charity fair in Peoria was hung up the motto, "Remember the Poor," and some wag wrote under it on the wall, "It Costs You Nothing."

A. J. Provin & Co., of Cedar Springs, will add a line of agricultural implements, having erected a warehouse for that purpose.

The old firm of Thompson & Barnes, Quincy, has sold out his grocery stock, and hereafter it will be known as Wilcox Bros.

John Dildine succeeds Isaac Gibson & Son, dealers in dry goods and groceries at West Campbell.

Sliter & Lovejoy succeed B. V. Hartupce in the furniture business at Cedar Springs.

The largest flax oil mill in the world is being erected at Sioux City, Iowa.

J. M. Wells, for thirty years a groceryman at Niles, is dead.

East Jordan expects to get a large stave factory.

MICHIGAN COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS' ASSOCIATION. Incorporated Dec. 10, 1877—Charter in Force for Thirty Years.

HAZELTINE, PERKINS & COMPANY, WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS,

42 and 44 Ottawa St., and 89, 91, 93 and 95 Louis St., Grand Rapids, Mich.

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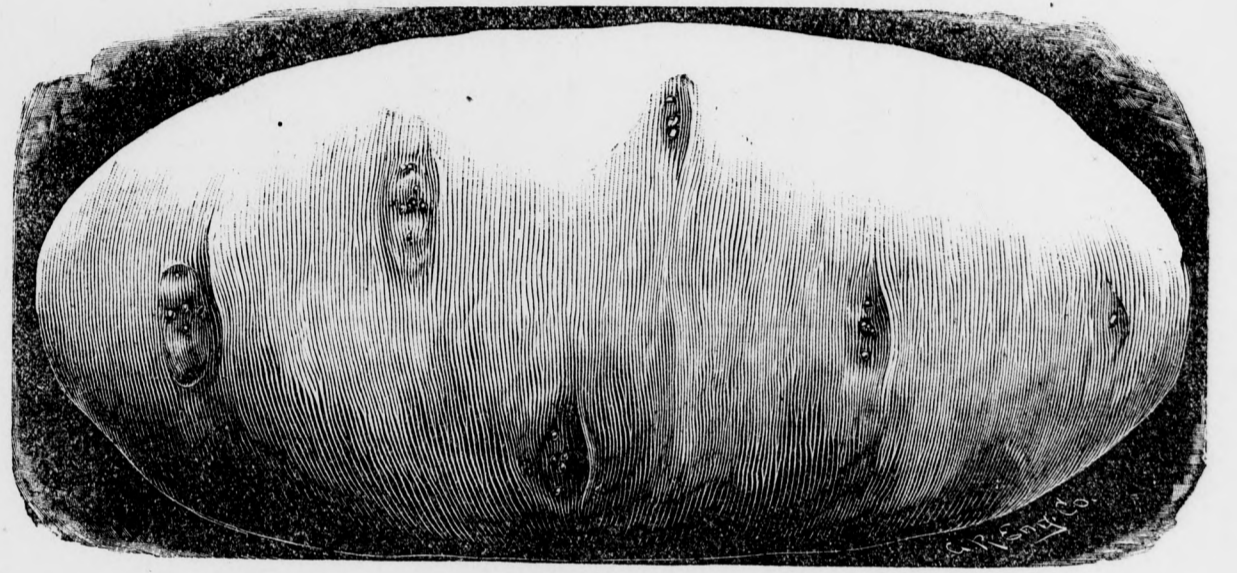
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And Druggists' Sundries. Also Manufacturers of

Fine Pharmaceutical & Chemical Preparations.

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"WHITE STAR"



POTATO.

To Gardeners and Farmers.

About two years ago, Mr. Marshall Buchanan, Postmaster at Ensley, Newaygo County, Michigan, sent to D. M. Ferry & Co., the well known seed firm of Detroit, for one-half bushel of the celebrated White Star potatoes, for seed purposes.

YIELDING FAR BETTER THAN ANY OTHER VARIETY KNOWN

to this section of the country, never troubled with blight, and very seldom showing a bug of any sort. Such is the universal testimony as to the merits of the White Star Potato, all agreeing that they have never met its equal for endurance, productiveness, and fine eating qualities.

We will furnish the White Star Potatoes at the rate of \$1.00 per bushel, and will allow a liberal discount to dealers. We will also furnish, at cost prices, all barrels sacks or bags, or patrons may send their own, addressed to Ensley & Son, Maple Hill, Mich.

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SAMPLES TO THE TRADE ONLY.

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All Ducks and Stripes Kept Constantly on Hand.

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Flower Pots and Hanging Vases

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HAND OR MACHINE MADE POTS FOR SALE BY THE PACKAGE OR RE-PACKED TO ORDER.

Sold at Manufacturers' Prices. Send for Price List at once for the Spring Trade.



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