

THE OBSERVER

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MAKING EMPLOYERS LIABLE

The only thing the average man has to sell is his labor. Since his ease of existence depends largely upon the terms he is able to secure for his labor, he naturally seeks the best market for disposing of it.

In the old days before the invention of complex machinery and still more complex combinations of capital for industrial and commercial purposes, each man could trust himself to bargain for himself in the disposal of his labor. Unions were not needed. Employers were practically unorganized; hence employees needed no organization.

Then, too, the old common law was sufficient for the determination of disputes arising between employer and employee. The courts could be depended on to dispense justice between them recognizing neither the superior strength of the one nor the inherent weakness of the other.

But these times have changed. Men of capital no longer pursue business independently and in competition with their fellows; they combine. Commerce and industry are organized for greater conquests; monopoly takes the place of competition, once considered the life of trade. Mere man, fighting on his own unaided resources is helpless. His only hope is organization—and government assistance.

It is at this point that the state

steps in to aid those who would otherwise be unable to secure justice. The state assists the man with labor to sell to dispose of it under conditions guaranteeing fair treatment at the hands of those who buy the labor. In other words, the state enacts employers' liability laws, or workmen's compensation acts—two names for practically the same thing.

Both the federal government and the various state governments have gone into the matter and the result is certain to be a series of statutes, uniform through the nation, everywhere protecting the workmen against their corporate employer and the workmen's family against complete dependence in case the workman is killed in the performance of duty.

The underlying principle in all such legislation is that where an employe is injured in the course of his employment he shall be compensated for his loss of working ability irrespective of any negligence on his own part. Public opinion now demands that accidental injuries to workmen in modern industry, with its great complexity and inherent dangers caused by complicated machinery and the use of those modern forces of steam and electricity shall be borne in some fair proportion by those who have invested their money in these undertakings for their own profit.

The last congress authorized the appointment of a commission to investigate this whole problem and a report is expected early in the coming year. Any recommendation this commission may make will be considered a model for the states to follow.

The states themselves have had many difficulties in framing laws to cover the points desired without bringing them into conflict with their constitutions.

Even though an expert architect has decided that the capitol in Washington will last only a few hundred years more, some other place undoubtedly can be provided for the Lorimer investigating committee.

Mr. Hearst states that he will not run for the presidency. His past experience in sitting up for the returns has been so monotonous that it is easy to believe he has had enough.

Nelson W. F. Marten, an Indian, died recently at Mt. Clemens, Michigan. He is believed to have been the only Indian that ever sported three initials.

The honey bee can travel at the rate of a mile a minute. But the presidential bee has that record backed off the boards, this year.

The decision of the Portuguese government to sell all the jewels of the royal family, will chill the aspiring heart of many a danseuse.

If there is any significance in names it is well enough to note that Miss Russell's fourth husband to be is one Moore.

A peace banquet without the hero of San Juan hill, is like a performance of "Hamlet," with the ghost left out.

In Memory of Sunday School Worker.

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 23.—A bronze tablet to the memory of the late Herbert Moninger, who originated the system of scientific training for Sunday school teachers, was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies today in the Northside Presbyterian church of this city. The Rev. Justin N. Green of Cincinnati and Dr. Joseph Clark of Columbus delivered the principal addresses.

GOVERNOR FINDING FAULTS

Governor Blease Criticizes Commissioner of Agriculture.

Official Zeal May Be Carried Too Far, He Says.

Chicago, Jan. 23.—(Special)—Official boosting parties for cities, states and sections, which received a fresh impetus from the recent meteoric jaunt of the western governors from Chicago to New York and back again, have received a reprimand from Governor Blease of South Carolina in a letter to Col. E. J. Watson, commissioner of agriculture of that state, for his activities outside the state in its behalf. The rebuke has started a discussion of what limits shall be put upon official zeal. With northwestern state aflame with enthusiasm for their governors' triumphal journey to the complacent east Gov. Blease's letter of reprimand, after Col. Watson had borne an active part in Chicago in the organizing of the National Drainage congress, was a startling display of old fashioned ideas.

In Kansas the commissioner of agriculture won national fame for his state by his work outside of it as much South Carolina editors have taken up cudgels for Commissioner Watson, although he himself was quite mild in his reply to his superior officer. The Charlotte Observer said:

"Governor Blease complains that Mr. Watson, who makes trips to cotton congresses, good roads conferences, immigration conventions and various other meetings, has not been attending to his business; has not shut himself up in his office, put his feet upon the table, lighted a cigar and leaned back in his chair to ponder upon the movements of the people on Main street.

Whom does he expect to represent the state at those conventions usually attended by the commissioners of agriculture?"

"If there is anything the south needs it is men who will go out into the highways and hedges and present the opportunities of the south to the men who have money for investment, to show the advantages of the south to prospective farmers, to proclaim the virtues of the south to the people of the north and the west who are ignorant of what we have in the way of opportunity. The commissioners of agriculture are specially fitted to attend to this work."

VAGARIES OF THE TIDE.

Mysterious Currents, the Secrets of Which No One Has Solved.

There are as many vagaries in the waters as in the winds. Why, for instance, should great ocean currents send their warm waters across the wide Pacific and Atlantic? Other and equally mysterious currents exist in well nigh all parts of the world.

It is on record that the sea has run for weeks out of the Java sea, through the strait of Sunda and thence back again for a like period without any perceptible rise and fall during those times.

Then there is the equatorial current that flows into the Caribbean sea, the ever flowing current to the eastward around Cape Horn, the cold stream flowing from the icy regions of the north past Newfoundland and Nova Scotia and along the American coast to the extreme end of Florida, the continual current running with a velocity of from four to five knots an hour through the strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean sea, the swift current running across the rocks and shoals off the end of Billiton island, which apparently starts from nowhere and ends somewhere in the vicinity of the same place, and the current which, starting halfway up the China sea, runs from two to three knots an hour to the northeast and finally ends abruptly off the north end of Luzon.

Then we have those tidal vagaries known the world over as bores. Those that run up the Hugel and Irawadi rivers, from side to side, till they reach their limit, often tearing the ships from their anchorage, originate nobody knows where or why.

At Singapore it has been observed for days at a time that there has been but one rise and fall in the twenty-four hours.—Boston Globe.

The Seckel Pear.

The Seckel pear is one of the sweetest and daintiest fruits that grow. As another describes it, "The flesh is melting, juicy and most exquisitely and delicately flavored." That is just what it is. And the tree on which this pear grows is beautiful and vigorous, which indicates that nature has a great fondness for it. The pear is named after a Mr. Seckel of Philadelphia, on whose estate in 1817 the Seckel pear started on its happy career. Some one writing in 1847 said, "The parent tree still lives about three miles from Philadelphia."—Pittsburgh Press.

Too Suggestive.

"The health officer advised me to ask every man with whom we had domestic dealings if he was careful to boil the water he used in his business."
"Yes."
"Well, I asked the milkman first. And what do you think? He got mad and wanted to lick me."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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Four Thousand Feet of High class Photoplays.

"MANRESA"—A Spanish town. A beautifully photographed and tinted scenic picture.

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A spectacular western production.

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A great feature picture. It is a thoroughly commendable and instructive film.

"THE HOUR OF EXECUTION" Gaumont
Following very closely the famous story of Damon and Pythias, gracefully conducted and tinted.

"ONE O'NBRENO" Lubin
Every smile and laugh in this very amusing picture arises from the situation, truly a very clever picture.

Laura Green Wills, in latest illustrated song production, entitled,

"WAITING DOWN BY THE MISSISSIPPI SHORE."

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