

THE JOURNAL

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AN IMPORTANT DECISION

THE Minnesota supreme court last Thursday handed down a decision which if followed by other courts will remedy, without legislation, the evil of discriminatory freight rates.

The case involved shipment of logs. The state railroad commission had established a rate of \$2, the rate paid by the plaintiff, who later discovered that another lumberman secured a rate of \$1.50.

The court holds that under the common law in the absence of legislation, charges must be equal on the same class of goods for the same distance.

The railroad company entered the novel defense that the state railroad commission had established \$2 as the legal rate, thus precluding the plaintiff from securing a lower rate.

It is a matter of common knowledge that ordinary railroads are under the management of experts, and that in a free and open struggle between shippers and carriers, the former have almost invariably lost.

Now that the doctrine of uniformity has become unassailably established, should any court say that a common carrier may still discriminate in the matter of rates, thus building up the business of its friends and ruining that of others?

Other courts holding the interests of the people uppermost should give careful consideration to this Minnesota decision.

pair, and if optimism finds refuge behind prison walls, there is yet hope that it may direct men with the open road before them.

Prisoner No. 6494, editor of Lead a Hand, must be a fine type of man, for he goes joyfully to his work. Listen to him speak of Lead a Hand:

Eight years old this month. Fine and healthy, thank you. Yes, we expect to attain a ripe old age, and will endeavor to leave our pathway strewn with seeds of good works.

What better object in life is there, inside or outside prison walls, than to benefit humanity? Read Lead a Hand and then say whether, if you had the power to pardon or parole, you would keep all those men removed from a world of opportunity for good works up to the last minute of time imposed by law that sometimes condemns the wrong person.

WHAT IS TEMPERANCE? WHILE the Roosevelt jury was defining the difference between sobriety and temperate indulgence, the appellate division of New York's supreme court was distinguishing between temperate indulgence and habitual drunkenness.

The plaintiff was the beneficiary of a member of an insurance order which contended that the insured man in representing himself to the temperate had made a substantial misstatement which vitiated his insurance.

It was a practical construction of the meaning of the terms used in the contract, and the defendant himself admitted "temperance" and using liquor "to excess" to the effect that occasional intoxication and drinking beer did not exclude a person so indulging from the category of temperate men who did not use intoxicants to excess.

RELIGION AND WAGES THE question, can a man be religious on \$1 a day? has been answered in the negative by a Chicago Methodist minister.

LEND A HAND LEND A HAND, published by prisoners in the state penitentiary, enters upon its ninth year with the June issue.

\$1 a day? Can such a man be religious when he crushes down every thing but proper ideals, and falls to crush them permanently because of their strong roots?

CURRENCY LEGISLATION THE first authoritative statement from President Wilson on currency legislation was made on public Sunday, when Senator Tillman gave out a confidential letter from the president.

Reports from Washington are to the effect that the reactionaries, aided by senators and representatives seeking party advantage, will attempt to adjourn congress as soon as the tariff bill is out of the way.

THE president has a good sized job mapped out for himself. The influences that made tariff revision necessary wish to see revision followed by hard times and stagnation.

MEXICO RECEIVES LOAN DESPITE America's refusal to recognize the Huerta administration, Mexico has received the \$100,000,000 loan required to finance the National Railways and the government itself.

Here is where a difficulty will arise, where sound and sober judgment must be exercised. It will cost money to maintain the auditorium. If possible the building should be made self-sustaining.

THE young suffragette who rudely interrupted the derby by seizing the bride of the king's horse, was an "honor graduate" and "highly educated."

Wellesley college girls have disbanded their \$5000-a-year husband club. Evidently decided that spinsters were already a drug in the Boston market, and that husbands with any old income would be preferable to none at all!

WORTHY HIS HIRE SURPRISE at the large sums paid professional baseball players is often expressed by the superficial observer. This surprise is based on the assumption that a calling which depends in great measure on physical strength does not deserve so rich a reward as a vocation requiring long mental training.

THE picking of a prize baby seems to be as difficult under the Eugenic system as it was under the old fashioned method.

Standard Oil seems to be holding its own in the market flurry, but fuel oil is still going down.

California's notion of peace is that no piece be given the Japanese. Where, or where, is the June bridegroom?

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE (Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 100 words, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.)

THE LENTS RINK CASE. Portland, June 7, 1913.—To the Editor of The Journal—The Daily News in last night's issue contained an article in regard to the injunction suit brought by O. A. Stoltz and H. Pierce, of Lents, Va Tona Ward at which in the main Mr. Word, to write a correction of the same.

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LINCOLN'S MESSAGE TO TODAY From the Philadelphia North American. While the historian with a genius for dates and cold, dead facts may trace the origin of Memorial day to the chance thought of some unknown and forgotten person, those who see things in their large relation to human progress know that the first observation of Memorial day was on the field of Gettysburg, November 19, 1863.

The calendar date has been moved to the season of nature's loveliness. But the spirit which the nation today celebrates is the same as that which hovered down upon the blood soaked soil of Cemetery Ridge and the wheat field and peach orchard, when Abraham Lincoln pronounced his immortal benediction upon that sacred ground.

Lincoln is the founder of Memorial day. His words have been the inspiration which moved the nation to set aside a day to dedicate itself each year to the memory of those who gave their lives to increase devotion to the honored dead, and to highly resolve that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom.

At the head of this editorial column The North American repeats the immortal Gettysburg speech. We ask our friends to read it reverently, no matter how many times they have read it before. It is to the religion of human freedom that the Lord's prayer is to Christianity.

In all its simplicity of language and sublimity of thought, the Gettysburg speech is unrivaled save by the most inspired of the great orators of the world. Even where we fall short of prophecy it was only to accentuate by contrast the greatness of his vision. When Lincoln said, "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here," his modesty was a masterpiece of the great, simple, apostrophized soul of common man which spoke. The world will always remember what he said there.

There he came, rugged, kind, strong, just, patient, merciful—all in heroic mold. With him on the platform was one of the most polished and scholarly orators of his generation. It was the sacred duty to make the address of the day, his address, one of the masterpieces, tricked out in all the beauties that consummate art could lend to flowing eloquence. Yet the world has forgotten that he was there.

And the brief simple consecration of Lincoln's words, the great and the true, shines through the words, the spirit that breathes in the very sentences, the promise and hope that suffuse the whole of Lincoln's words.

Lincoln was not looking backward when he spoke. He was not merely paying tribute to the heroic dead. He was peering into the unborn ages and pleading the genius of the American people to the eternal cause of human rights.

There was no new doctrine in what Lincoln spoke at Gettysburg. It had been said in other words by Lincoln in the common parlance of the day, before by another simple Man of the People who came out of Nazareth. It was the same doctrine which Lincoln taught when in the debate with Douglas he said:

"That is the real issue. That is the issue which will continue in this country when these poor tongues of Judge Douglas and myself shall be silent. It is the issue of whether the negro is a man, whether he has the same rights as the white man, whether he is entitled to the same rights as the white man."

NEWS FORECAST FOR THE COMING WEEK Washington, D. C., June 7.—Saturday will be the 136th anniversary of the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the national emblem of the United States of America. In accordance with a custom that has become general throughout the country in late years, the day will be observed as Flag day by the public schools, patriotic societies and various other organizations.