

A judgment just rendered in England renders a Trades Union legally responsible for damages caused by a strike. As the result of an appeal to the House of Lords that Court set aside the plea that a trades union or trades society was not a corporation that could be sued, its decision reading:—

"If the legislature has created a thing which can own property, which can employ servants and which can inflict injury, it must be taken to have impliedly given power to make it sueable in the courts of law for injuries purposely done by its authority and procurement."

This is the most important judgment ever rendered respecting unincorporated associations; it brings all such bodies as trades unions within the pale of the law. In consequence of this decision the Society of Railway Servants, which organized a strike in 1900 against the Taff-Vale Railway Co., is condemned to pay \$140,000 as damages to that Company.

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The United States Steel Corporation and the Pressed Steel Car Company have entered into arrangements for enabling their workmen to become shareholders in the respective companies. The plan is for the men to pay a small instalment down and to continue paying monthly instalments until the stock is paid for. The amount unpaid on the stock allotted is to be treated as a loan at 4 or 5 per cent., the shares to carry dividends in favour of the men during the period the instalments are being paid so they would gain the difference between the 4 or 5 per cent. charged on the loan and the dividends which would be at rate of 7 or more per cent. Many of the workmen look with suspicion on the scheme, their feeling of hostility to capital causing them to feel as the men of old did, who said, "We fear the Greeks bringing gifts." It is thought such a plan would check strikes, would cause men to give better service, and take a personal interest in the business. The scheme would so work while everything went on prosperously, but, let depression come, let lower wages be proposed, let prices fall below the dividend earning point, then there would be trouble with the workmen shareholders.

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Sir William Hingston's fame as a surgeon stands so high both on this continent and in Great Britain that his judgment on matters relating to the faculty has exceptional weight. It has been widely suspected that operations of a serious nature are now made without adequate cause. Claims have, it is believed, arisen against life companies, owing to these needless operations. Sir William, in

a recent address, asked if the physician could not in some cases stay the hand of the surgeon with advantage to the patient. He said:

"The immunity with which the most formidable operations are now performed has given a confidence—might I not say a recklessness possibly—which renders the staying hand of the physician of priceless value. Especially is this true when, as it sometimes happens, the inexperienced surgeon hurriedly resorts to a tentative operation to establish a diagnosis where one more experienced would see no reason for the procedure. I have more than once observed the medlesomeness of a surgeon to be in direct ratio to the measure of his inexperience."

The latter sentence contains a severe indictment, but much the same thing was said a few months ago by an eminent New York surgeon who declared as the result of wide observations as a Coroner that, in a number of operations for appendicitis that had ended fatally, there was no such disorder in the sufferer, nor any justifying cause for a surgical operation. We are inclined to think that Sir William's allusions were to hospital practice, where the temptation is strong to young surgeons to acquire experience, for, in private practice, it is the rule to have the advice of a physician in good standing when an operation seems to be required.

FIRE LOSSES IN CANADA FOR DECEMBER, 1902.

Date.	Location.	Risk.	Loss.
Dec. 1	Thompson, N.S.,	Saw Mill,	\$2,000
" 2	Bathurst, N.B.,	Conts. Country Store,	4,000
" 3	Dauphin, Man.,	Store and Conts.,	5,000
" 5	Aylmer, Que.,	"	3,300
" 9	Brantford, Ont.,	Woollen Mill,	31,400
" 10	Larrsboro', N.S.,	Larrigan Factory,	22,500
" 10	St. Mary's, Ont.,	Flax Mill,	1,000
" 11	Quebec,	Stores and Conts.,	3,200
" 12	Vankleik Hill,	"	1,100
" 12	Prince Albert,	Stores and Dwlg.,	3,000
" 12	Gananoque,	Spring Works,	7,700
" 14	Levis, Que.,	Hotel and Stores,	2,600
" 14	Montreal,	Stores and Dwlg.,	18,200
" 15	Roberval, Que.,	Sash and Door Factory,	300
" 15	Brockville,	Beltng Factory,	2,000
" 15	Montreal,	Cigar Factory and Conts.,	65,400
" 15	Grand River, Que.,	Dwlg. and Conts.,	4,170
" 15	Dun as, Ont.,	Stores and Conts.,	5,615
" 17	Charlottetown,	Market Bldg. and Conts.,	6,500
" 23	Turcot Village,	Dwlg. and Conts.,	1,450
" 25	Toronto,	Dairy,	1,000
" 14	Quebec,	Hotel and Conts. and Adj. Bldg.,	41,280
" 24	Woodstock, Ont.,	Printing Office and Conts.,	2,643
" 24	Brampton, Ont.,	Store and Conts.,	22,700
" 24	Corwall,	Hotel and Conts.,	885
" 30	St. John, N.B.,	Whee. Stores and Conts.,	24,000
" 27	Toronto,	Planing Mills,	9,000
" 29	Almonte,	Store and Conts.,	3,500
" 23	Montreal,	Hardware Stock,	6,000
" 23	Cobourg,	Butter Factory,	1,700
" 15	Montreal,	Paper Stock,	2,300
" 23	"	Leather Stock,	2,000

\$307,543

Add 20 p.c. for unreported Losses and Losses under \$1,000. 61,508

\$369,051