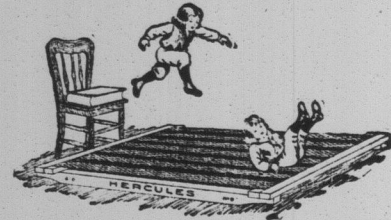


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THE GRANITE TOWN GREETINGS

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Advanced Legislation Thru Hundred Years Old

A. M. Hyndman, the veteran Socialist leader, in a letter to the London Times, points out that from the reign of Elizabeth until 1814 courts were empowered by law to fix a minimum wage between employers and employed. There was much friction over the operation of the statute, and a hundred years ago workers to the number of 300,000 petitioned Parliament to amend it. The employers in retaliation, demanded its immediate and unconditional repeal, and repaled it was; in spite of the fact that all the witnesses examined were opposed to such complete abrogation. Mr. Hyndman points out that some years before the abrogation of the law Wm. Pitt, in rejecting a demand to amend it, declared that Parliament ought to be and was "omnipotent to protect" the worker. Thus the advanced legislation of 1912, which provoked the opposition of the Conservatives of Great Britain as a revolutionary innovation, is the re-enactment, in effect, of an Elizabethan measure.

or rather a hundred years ago, there were only twenty five, and the illumination was inferior. Now, some of these have a brilliancy equal to thirty million candle power, visible for a hundred miles under proper conditions.

Big Ben is the largest clock in the world. It is on Westminster Tower, London, and was put up in 1858, at a cost of \$110,000. The great bell from which the clock takes its name, and which is made to ring regularly by the clock, hangs by 1,600 feet of chain from an oak beam bound in iron plates. It weighs more than thirteen tons and the hammer with which the hours are struck weighs four hundred and fifty pounds. It takes two and a half hours to wind Big Ben. Its 4 faces are twenty three feet across and the minute hand jumps half a foot every move.

Great Britain's Shop Act of 1912

(Correspondence of the Globe.)

London, April 26. The Shops Act of 1912, which comes into operation next Wednesday, May 1st, is a measure of the greatest importance to shopkeepers and shop assistants, and of very considerable interest to the general public. Not only does the Act consolidate, without change of substance, the provisions of the older Acts concerning the regulation of shops, but it includes the importance of new laws laid down in the Shops Act of last year, which comes into force on May 1st, as a part of the whole consolidating Act, which has recently received the Royal Assent. The new provisions of the Act of 1912 are worthy of the careful attention of those who, while unaffected directly as shopkeepers or shop assistants are interested in legislation dealing with the conditions of labor of such a large section of the commercial community as that to which the Act will so soon apply.

The Act of 1912, it can be readily imagined, is a most far-reaching and comprehensive affair, embodying the laws with which we are already familiar by experience in this country, and also containing the provisions which come into operation for the first time next Wednesday. The first of these provisions is perhaps the most important: "On at least one week day in each week a shop assistant shall not be employed after half past one o'clock in the afternoon."

There are special provisions concerning Bank Holiday weeks, these being followed by clauses rendering compulsory certain intervals for assistance to obtain meals, and providing that "the occupier of a shop shall fix and shall specify in a notice, which must be affixed in the shop assistants are not employed after half-past one, and may fix different days for different shop assistants." Section 2 enacts that, although the assistants may be employed until half-past one, "every shop shall, save as otherwise provided, be closed for the serving of customers not later than one o'clock in the afternoon."

noon on one day in every week."

Under Section 2 and subsequent sections the duties and the powers of the local authority may, if after making such inquiry as may be prescribed, they are satisfied that a majority of the occupiers of each of the several classes of shops affected by the order approve the order, make a closing order fixing a day on which shops are to be closed, but they may fix different days for different parts of the district, or different days for different periods of the year, but - "until a closing order is made by the local authority the shopkeeper can fix his own day for closing. He must, however, whether an order exists or not, close for one half day, and will naturally choose the day that will suit him best."

He must not change the day for closing more often than once in any period of three months. If the day fixed by the local authority is any other day than Saturday, the shopkeeper may substitute Saturday for such other day, and if the local authority should fix Saturday for the closing day the shopkeeper may substitute any other week day for it.

The Act is exceedingly flexible, and seeks, by scores of possible exceptions to various provisions, to adapt itself to the special circumstances of trade. For instance, in holiday resorts the local authority may make an order suspending to close on the weekly half holiday, though this must not be for more than four months in any one year. This is but one example of the many special provisions governing various sections of the Act, which, of course, are too exhaustive to mention in a brief review such as this. One important fact emerges, however. Thus: - "Although special provisions may exempt shopkeepers from the half-day closing law, every shop assistant in every class of shop must be allowed a half-holiday once a week."

Of course, there are many trades of a peculiar character which are explicitly exempted altogether from the law requiring establishments to close on one half day every week. These are shops for the sale by retail of intoxicating liquors, the sale of refreshments, including the business carried on at a railway refreshment room the sale of motor, cycle and air craft supplies and accessories to travellers; the sale of newspapers and periodicals; the sale of meat, fish, milk, cream, bread, confectionery, fruit, vegetables flowers and other perishable nature; the sale of tobacco and smokers' requisites; the business carried on at a railway bookstall or adjoining a railway platform; the sale of medicines and medical and surgical appliances, and retail trade carried on at an exhibition or show, if the local authority certify that such retail trade is subsidiary or ancillary to the main purpose of the exhibition or show.

Even in these trades, which are specifically relieved of the obligation to close, employers are not exempt from the law requiring them to give their assistants a weekly half holiday.

When the hours of employment include hours from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m., an interval of not less than three-quarters of an hour must be allowed between those hours for dinner. This interval must be increased to one hour if the meal is not taken in a shop or in a building of which the shop forms part. Where the hours of employment include the hours from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., an interval of not less than half an hour must be allowed between those hours for tea.

"No person is to be employed for more than six hours without an interval of at least twenty minutes. A young person under the age of 18 must not be employed in or about a shop for a longer period than 74 hours, inclusive of meal times, in any one week. Another interesting provision is that requiring that the employer must provide seats behind the counter or in some other suitable position in every room in which female assistants are employed in serving customers. Not less than one seat must be provided for every three female assistants employed in the room.

The penalty to which shopkeepers are liable for not closing is, in the case of a first offence, 20s.; in the second, £5, and in the case of a third or subsequent offence, £10. The local authorities are made responsible for seeing that the law be observed.

Job Printing at The Greetings Office.

When Hydro pays.

Result of First Eleven Months' Operation in Galt.

Galt, Ont., May 7th. - During the first eleven months' operation of the Hydro Electric Department in Galt the financial statement shows the Department to have made \$7,510, a net profit for the town. In order to complete the ornamental and bracket lighting of the town, making extension of power and light and other services, the Hydro Electric Commission finds that \$45,000 more will be required to equip this work.

When Galt first joined the power union, a by-law for \$66,000 was carried and later another by-law for \$25,000 was voted on and carried, and now with the \$45,000 asked for, the committee expects to have the system complete. The people will be asked to vote on this expenditure at an early date and as the granting of this amount has no bearing on the tax rate, as the interest and sinking fund on the revenue of the department, the by-law should be carried with very little opposition. -Rx.

HUSBAND AS PRIZE

In Many Parts of Europe Lotteries Are Held in Which Husbands Are Offered as First Prize to the Winner.

A lottery has just been organized for its women readers by the Odessa Courier, the prize being a young and handsome member of the staff, who has undertaken to marry the winner, be she young or old, fair or ugly, rich or poor. Not only does the entertaining journal agree to pay all wedding expenses, but also promises the couple a sufficient annuity.

Similar was the offer made some years ago by a German newspaper. The prize, however, by no means came up to the expectations of the winner, who declared that the puffy, bald-headed little man who presented himself for her acceptance bore no resemblance to the portrait of the aristocratic-looking individual which had appeared in the paper.

Mr. Arnett was born in Virginia, January 12th, 1880, making him twenty-five years old. He was educated in the University of Virginia, and is in business in Kansas City. He has chestnut hair and brown eyes; his height is 5 ft. 8 in., and his weight is 10 at 10 lb. He does not use narcotics nor intoxicants, has no bad habits, and is a gentleman in every sense of the word. He has a jovial disposition, and is very popular.

Husband With \$1000 a Year. In the early forties the proprietor of the leading library at one of the chief Kentish watering-places announced a grand raffle, the first prize to consist of a young man, who, in addition to good looks, amiable manners, and unexceptionable family connections, was guaranteed to be in possession of property bringing in an annual income of \$1000. Considerable excitement prevailed, especially among spinsters—young, middle-aged and old—several of whom came from afar to take part in the event. Wonderful, then, was the dismay when, on the morning of the day appointed for the drawing, a couple of constables arrived from London and arrested the much-advertised "prize" on a charge of fraud.

Agent: "Have you got the testimonial for Dr. Dozem's Cure-All done yet?"

Woman: "I ain't used to writing, and can't make any headway, somehow. All I've got written is, 'No pen can describe my sufferings.'"

Agent: "That's all right! Now go ahead and describe 'em."

At Sixty-three Weds Own Daughter-in-law.

Toledo, May 8. - John C. Baird, sixty-three, of Zanesville, a telegraph operator, married today the widow of his own son, Mrs. Harry H. Baird, thirty-six. The laws of Ohio do not prohibit such a union.

"We shall be happy," says Baird, and in these words justifies his violation of Biblical laws.

"Both of them shall surely be put to death. They have wrought confusion their blood shall be upon them," says the Bible.

John C. Baird says: "We can see no harm in it. I always liked my son's wife and since his death and the demise of my first wife the affection has ripened into love."

Baird's first wife died a year ago, and his son Warren, his present wife's first husband, died about the same time. Since then the widow has kept house for her father in law. Mrs. Baird has 2 children.

Young Lady: - Please show me some ties.
Clerk: - A gentleman's tie?
Young Lady: - Oh, no, it's for my brother. - Phil. Blaetter.

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A GREEN DIET.

Traveller: "Oh, yes, we had many narrow escapes. In the course of one voyage we were driven upon an island where the natives were reported to be cannibals, and we gave up in despair."

Excited Listener: "But how did you escape?"

Traveller: "It turned out that the natives were vegetarians."

Excited Listener: "And so you were all permitted to depart."

Traveller: "All but one woman in our company. She was a grass widow, you see."

WHICH?
They were discussing the new lodger.

"He slips in and out of the house so quietly," said the grass-widow boarder, "that I think he must have been a married man once."

"Perhaps it is that," says Mrs. Hatcher, as a troubled look came over her face, "and maybe he is in the habit of getting behind with his board."

NOT THE ANSWER EXPECTED.
A well-known author has adopted the rule that all applicants for his autograph must furnish satisfactory proof that they have read his books. A young girl recently wrote to the novelist for his autograph. By return of post came a single typewritten line:

"Have you read my last book?"
To which the young lady replied: "I sincerely hope not."
The autograph came promptly.

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"GREETINGS"

Prize goes before a fall—so long before in some instances, that envious folk get weary of waiting for the catastrophe. - Puck.

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