
Flotsam and Jetsam.

UNITED STATES DECISIONS.

INSURANCE:—The right to insurance on property destroyed by fire after an oral contract to insure, but before issuance of a policy, is held, in *Hicks v. British America Assurance Co.* (N.Y.), 48 L.R.A. 424, to be subject to the provisions and conditions of the standard policy prescribed by law, including that as to furnishing proofs of loss within a specified time.

COMPANY LAW.—The right of a stockholder to inspect books of the corporation is held, in *Cincinnati Volksblatt Co. v. Hoffmeister* (Ohio), 48 L.R.A. 732, not to depend upon the motive or purpose of the stockholder.

NEGLIGENCE.—The lack of barriers on the side of approaches to a bridge are held, in *Bell v. Wayne* (Wash.), 48 L.R.A. 644, not sufficient to make a municipality liable for injuries in case a team goes off the bank, when the roadway was wide enough for two teams to pass without difficulty and the fright of a horse was the proximate cause of the accident.

A charge to the jury that a master should instruct his employee as to the nature, force, and probable effect of the explosion of a pot of molten metal in case it comes in contact with water, and that it is not sufficient merely to instruct that an explosion is likely to follow such contact, is upheld in *Ribich v. Lake Superior Smelting Co.* (Mich.), 48 L.R.A. 649.

Whether or not an employee acts properly in obeying an order of a foreman to take bottles to an upper floor by the use of an elevator is held, in *Dallemand v. Saalfeldt* (Ill.), 48 L.R.A. 753, to be a question for the jury. A note to this case presents the authorities on a servant's right of action for injuries received in obeying a direct command.

The mere fact that an employee thinks an act is unsafe is held, in *McKee v. Tourtelotte* (Mass.), 48 L. R. A. 542, insufficient to render him guilty of negligence in performing it, if the employer assures him that there is no danger. With this case is a note on the effect of an assurance of safety given by the master or a co-servant.

The Living Age: Boston.—The *Living Age* will begin in its issue for Nov. 17, and will continue for several successive numbers, a thrilling account of "The Siege of the Legations," written by Dr. Morrison, correspondent of *The London Times* at Peking. This narrative is of absorbing interest in its descriptions of the daily life of the besieged legationers, and it is noteworthy also as containing some disclosures relating to the inside history of what went on at Peking in those stirring days, which are altogether new and of the utmost importance.