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DECISIONS IN COMMERCIAL LAW

BAIN V. Anderson.—The question at issue here was the duration of a contract of service. The plaintiff, Bain, was in the employment of Hay & Co., furniture manufacturers, at Woodstock. their business passed into the hands of Messrs. Anderson & Company, Bain was retained in the services of the purchasers at the salary he had formerly received, without any understanding as to a new arrangement. After the expiration of a month he was informed that if he desired to remain his salary would be considerably reduced. Having refused to accept the reduced wage, he was dismissed, and then brought an action for damages, claiming that his retention for the month was a re-engagement for another year on the same terms. It was held that where no time is limited for the duration of a service contract, whether or not the hireing is to be considered as one for a year, is a question of fact to be decided on the circumstances of the case. And as Bain was aware that the Anderson Company were attempting, by economy, to make a concern pay, that had previously been a losing one, it was not reasonable to suppose an implied contract had been entered into between them for another year's work on the same terms.

MILLER V. HAMILTON POLICE BENEFIT FUND.-In the formation of a benefit fund, it is often stipulated by the members that the fund shall not be distribued until it reaches a certain amount. This was the case in the formation of the Hamilton Police Benefit Fund. One of their rules was that "no money to be drawn from the fund for any purpose whatever until it reached the sum of \$8,000." Before the fund accumulated to this amount, George Miller, a policeman in Hamilton, and a member of the association, died. His widow and children made a death claim upon the money of the association. It was held by the Supreme Court of Canada that they were entitled to the amount claimed, so soon as the fund This is an interesting reached \$8,000. case, and may be taken as determining the general principle that wherever a member of a benefit association dies before a fund, to a share in which his heirs would otherwise be entitled, has matured to a stipulated amount, then the gratuity to the family is merely suspended, and becomes payable as soon as the amount is realized.

A subscriber in Detroit, writes: "I see what you had in last week's paper about the queer mixture of population in Chicago. But I have seen something queerer in one of our papers lately, about the same city." It says "the school census of Chicago shows that in one block in the Sixteenth ward there are but seven American born residents out of a total of 2,727, the majority being Poles. In another block there are 2,583 Poles out of a total population of 2,584, the other man being a Chinaman. The present population 1,851,588, indicates a growth of more than 70 per cent. since 1890."

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