

A limit to the height of buildings in cities has been set by Massachusetts at one hundred and twenty-five feet. The Emperor Augustus ordained that no Roman house beside a public road should exceed seventy feet in height; so that even the restricted height is nearly double that allowed by the old Romans in the time of that Emperor and of Nero. Chicago has been emulating the Tower of Babel on a small scale by erecting houses twenty-three storeys high, and a house of thirty storeys is in contemplation. They are beginning to realize, however, that the city is built on a solid crust of only fifteen feet in thickness, below which is miry clay, and into this latter the enormous weight of building may sink. We have not, however, heard whether, for this reason, the attics of these houses command better renting figures than the ground floors. We are told there are to be earthquakes over the world in the latter days. We are not aware that Chicago is so far the antithesis of Sodom that it can hope to escape.

One State at least, Arkansas, believes in insurance companies paying their losses promptly, and, to encourage them to do this, requires them to give a bond in \$20,000 with two resident sureties. In suits on policies the sureties may be joined as defendants and judgment rendered against both company and sureties.

Wisconsin follows the lead set by other States in protecting the family of a too charitably inclined testator, believing that "charity begins at home," and limits the amount he may thus will away to half his net estate.

No longer will whites and blacks be found riding together on railways in the States of Louisiana, Tennessee, and Texas, separate compartments being now required for each. A curious commentary, this, on the boasted liberty and equality of the country over which the eagle soars. In Arkansas, every telegraph station must, on its bulletin board, have noted all passenger trains that are as much as ten minutes late, and when they may be expected to arrive. Here, too, "baggage smashing" is not encouraged, since for any damage to baggage by rough or careless handling, the company must pay to the owner, in addition to his actual loss, from \$25 to \$200, as an encouragement to long-suffering travellers to vindicate their rights by suit.

Illinois has lowered the legal rate of interest to five per cent. In South Dakota, a contract to pay a debt in gold is illegal. In case of a repeal of the silver laws, these Dakotans will be in a bad plight.

In New Mexico, any one hundred inhabitants of a district may associate as a corporation to furnish a public reservoir, for which work the county must furnish the tools, and, when the work is finished, pay a fair rent for the right of the public to use the water. Next to pure water seems to come pure butter. Minnesota has the former in Lake Superior, and, in order to obtain the latter, requires that oleomargarine shall be placed at the disadvantage of being colored pink. The English sparrow pest has reached the Mormon territory, which now offers a bounty of half a cent for each one killed within it. Returning now to business, we find that every Saturday in New Jersey has practically been made a bank holiday by paper maturing on that day not being due till the following Monday.

The legislatures are becoming very careful of the education of minors. Some