

was shown to be free from fault or negligence on his part contributing to the accident. Thus the new statute made a very radical change in the law theretofore prevailing not only in New York State, but generally throughout the country.

CONSTITUTION, NOT THEORIES TO BE CONSIDERED.

The case in which the decision was given was that brought by a switchman against the South Buffalo Crosstown Railway Company. He was injured while at work, and brought an action for damages, alleging in his complaint that he had been injured solely by reason of a necessary risk or danger of his employment. The Company admitted the facts, but alleged that the statute under which the action was brought was unconstitutional. The Special Term upheld the validity of the act, and it was also upheld by the Appellate Division, but by a divided court.

But the Court of Appeals, while admitting the strength of the economic and sociological arguments adduced in support of the statute, holds that "under our form of government courts must regard all economic, philosophical and moral theories, however attractive and desirable they may be, as subordinate to the primary question whether they can be moulded into statutes without infringing upon the letter or spirit of our written constitution." The Court expresses its desire to put no technical obstacles in the way of a plan for the beneficent reformation of a branch of jurisprudence "in which, it must be conceded, reform is a consummation devoutly to be wished," but as regards the change in the law by which the employer is made liable for injuries resulting from the risk of the business without his fault, the court holds that the act in this respect deprives the employer of his property without due process of law in violation of the Federal and State constitutions.

The constitutional questions which are involved in the decision are discussed at length, the decisions which bear upon them are analyzed, and the Court concludes that the statute is void in so far as it imposes upon the employer a liability when he has violated no statute, has broken no contract and has been guilty of no wrong. The provision of the statute imposing a liability under such conditions is characterized "as a taking of property without due process of law not permitted by our Federal and State constitutions and not justifiable under the police power of this State."

Notes on Business.

British Trade in Canada. The blue-book on British trade with Canada, written by Mr. Richard Grigg, the British trade commissioner at Montreal, and now published by the authorities on the other side, should do much to make the position of the Canadian markets clear to the British manufacturer, and give him encouragement to make further efforts to develop his connections. The official publication cannot but be of much service to Canada, since the description which Mr. Grigg gives of conditions here is such as to encourage continued investment and further trade expansion. Mr. Grigg describes Canada's expansion

as a permanent condition of its economic life rather than an incident in it, and he predicts a considerable period of industrial and financial growth.

World's Production of Gold and Silver.

The attached figures of the world's production of gold and silver since 1873 are those of the Bureau of the United States Mint. In view of the discussion on the "higher cost of living," due, as is asserted by some authorities, in part at least to the increasing production of gold, it is interesting to notice the great advance which has been made in this respect during recent years. As recently as 1895, the annual production of gold was under \$200,000,000 in value; and in 15 years, in spite of the set-back caused by the South African war, it has increased by 150 per cent. and last year was of the estimated value of \$454,874,000.

THE WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF GOLD AND SILVER SINCE 1873.

Calendar Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Fine ounces.	Value.	Fine ounces.	Commercial value.
1873	4,653,675	\$96,200,000	63,267,187	\$82,120,800
1874	4,390,031	90,750,000	55,300,781	70,674,400
1875	4,716,563	97,500,000	62,261,719	77,578,100
1876	5,016,488	103,700,000	67,553,125	78,322,600
1877	5,512,196	113,947,200	62,679,916	75,278,600
1878	5,761,114	119,092,800	73,385,451	84,549,000
1879	5,262,174	108,778,800	74,383,495	83,532,700
1880	5,148,880	106,436,800	74,795,273	85,640,600
1881	4,983,742	103,023,100	79,020,872	89,325,700
1882	4,934,086	101,996,600	86,472,091	98,232,300
1883	4,614,588	95,392,000	89,175,923	98,984,200
1884	4,921,169	101,723,600	81,567,891	90,785,000
1885	5,245,572	108,435,600	91,609,959	97,518,800
1886	5,135,679	106,163,900	93,297,290	92,793,500
1887	5,116,861	105,774,900	96,123,586	94,031,000
1888	5,330,775	110,196,900	108,827,606	102,185,900
1889	5,973,790	123,489,200	120,213,611	112,414,100
1890	5,749,306	118,848,700	126,095,062	131,937,000
1891	6,320,194	130,650,000	137,170,919	135,500,200
1892	7,094,266	146,651,500	153,151,762	133,404,400
1893	7,618,811	157,494,800	165,472,621	129,119,900
1894	8,764,362	181,175,600	164,610,394	104,493,000
1895	9,615,190	198,763,600	167,509,969	109,545,600
1896	9,783,914	202,251,600	157,061,370	105,859,300
1897	11,420,068	236,073,700	160,421,082	96,252,700
1898	13,877,806	286,879,700	169,055,253	99,742,600
1899	14,837,775	306,724,100	168,337,453	101,002,600
1900	12,315,135	254,576,300	173,591,364	107,626,400
1901	12,625,527	260,992,900	173,011,283	103,806,700
1902	14,354,680	296,737,600	162,763,483	86,264,700
1903	15,852,620	327,702,700	167,689,322	90,552,200
1904	16,804,372	347,377,200	164,195,266	95,233,300
1905	18,396,451	380,288,700	172,317,688	105,113,700
1906	19,471,080	402,503,000	165,054,497	111,721,100
1907	19,977,260	412,966,600	184,206,984	121,577,100
1908	21,430,438	443,006,200	203,236,861	108,711,500
1909	21,982,713	454,422,900	211,215,633	109,832,200
Total	355,009,351	7,338,694,800	4,726,294,043	7,701,854,600
1910 (Preliminary).		454,874,000		

Dominion's Steel's Extensions.

The amount of extension work lately undertaken and now being continued by the Dominion Iron and Steel Company is aptly summarised by Mr. J. Butler, second vice-president