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DECISIONS IN COMMERCIAL LAW.

MEUX V. GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.-Where part of the ordinary luggage of a servant which he is taking with him as a passenger by a railway is the property of his master, and it is injured whilst in the custody of the railway company by their misfeasance—as by being negligently overturned in front of the trainthe master can maintain an action of tort against the company for the amount of the damage, notwithstanding that the contract of carriage is with the servant alone. Where a servant is a passenger by a railway that is bound to carry the ordinary luggage of a passenger free of charge, his livery is such luggage, although it is the property of his master, according to the English Court of Appeal.

NUTTEN v. WRIGHT.-A driving dam was constructed above the plaintiff's land by the defendants for the purpose of driving their logs, with the result that the river overflowed itsbanks and damaged the plaintiff's property. The plaintiff's husband had assisted in building the dam as an employé of the defendants, being at the time himself the owner of the land. Held by the Supreme Court of New Brunswick that the plaintiff was not estopped from maintaining an action for the injury to her property. Gradual and increasing damage to the banks of a river by log-driving operations, extending over a number of years, will not give a right to commit further acts of additional damage.

COMMON ROADS OF AMERICA.

The total length of the common roads in this country [the United States], good, bad and indifferent, is estimated by General Stone, of the Road Bureau of the Department of Agriculture, at something over 1,300,000 miles. The majority of these roads have been opened by common laborers, hired by local supervisors, and no engineering principles have been observed in their construction. As a result, it costs more to keep them in repair than if they were as many finely macadamized roads. Keeping these poor roads in repair and opening new thoroughfares cost Massachusetts in 1893. outside of cities, \$1,136,944, or \$66.30 per mile; New York, \$2,500,000, or \$30 per mile, and New Jersey, \$778,407.82, or \$43.25 per mile. The total expenditure for roads in that year amounted to about \$20,000,000. As a greater part of the enormous sum was spent in repairing poorly constructed roads that would need exactly the same attention next year, it is not an exaggeration to say that most of the money was wasted. Fine roads can be constructed all the way from \$400 to \$500 per mile, according to the nature of the country through which they pass, the cost of crushed stone and other engineering problems. The cost of keeping these roads in repair is infinitely smaller than that required to repair the ordinary dirt roads each winter and spring, when great gulleys and ruts are washed into them by the rains and floods.— Manufacturer.

ACCIDENT LIABILITY.

A case of Mikkelson vs. Truesdale, as Receiver, recently decided by the Supreme Court of Minnesota, is noted by *Bradstreets*. In this it appeared that the plaintiff was a wiper in the defendant's roundhouse, and was injured while assisting in coaling an engine by its being negligently moved, as he claimed, by a coemployé. The court held that he was injured by reason of exposure to the hazards peculiar to the operation of railroads, and that a receiver operating a railroad under the appointment and direction of a court of equity was within the provisions of General Statutes of 1894, section 2,701, known as the Fellow Servant Act, and was liable to an employé who is injured by the negligence of a co-employé.

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