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Monetary Times

This Journal completed its 28th Year of Publication with the issue of 28th June. Bound Volumes, conveniently indexed, are new ready. Price, \$5.50.

DECISIONS IN COMMERCIAL LAW.

LOVITT V. SNOWBALL.-In an action to re cover demurrage, under a charter party, in writing, the Supreme Court of New Brunswick held that the words, "lay days to count when the ship is ready in a proper loading or discharging berth respectively," mean when the vessel is at the port named, has discharged ballast. and the master gives notice to the charterer that he is ready to receive cargo; whereupon it is the duty of the charterer, not the master, to provide a proper loading berth. Also that the words, "usual custom of the wood trade," mean a custom which is well known to persons generally who are engaged in that business. and not a local usage of which contractors have no knowledge; and that the words, "cargo to be furnished vessel at port of loading as customary," do not mean the ordinary mode in which the charterer loads vessels chartered by him, but the general custom of the port of shipment.

In re PRESERVATION SYNDICATE.—Where, owing to a mistake, a contract for the issue of shares otherwise than in cash had not been registered under the Companies Act, "at or before the issue of the shares," but the shares had in fact been paid for, Vaughan Williams, notwithstanding the company had gone into liquidation, allowed the register to be rectified by cancelling the shares in question and reissuing them, on the terms of the shareholders making due provision for all debts and liabilities incurred by the company between the date of the issue of the shares, and the date of the motion for rectification.

THE "RED SEA."—A ship was abandoned to underwriters as a total loss. By the charterparty it was agreed that cash for the ship's disbursements at her port of loading should be advanced by the charterers, "ship paying 21/2 per cent commission including insurance.' Held by Bruce, J., that in estimating the amount of freight to which the underwriters were entitled by virtue of the abandonment, a sum advanced by the charterers under the above agreement, being advance freight, was to be deducted from the gross freight; also, that the cost of coals bought during the voyage for the purpose of the voyage, and paid for by the master's draft maturing after the date of abandonment, was not to be deducted from the gross freight.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT V. PEN-INSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.—Where a treaty provides that the British Sovereign may establish a Consular Court in a foreign state, and that all complaints against British subjects shall be heard in the Consular Court, and all complaints against subjects of the foreign state in the courts of that country, a subject of the foreign state, when bringing an action in the Consular Court against a British subject, cannot be met with a counter claim in the nature

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of a cross action, although the injury which is the subject of the counter claim had its origin in the same circumstances which gave rise to the action. The sovereign of the foreign state, though not specifically mentioned in the treaty. is not in a worse position in this respect than his subjects. The Orders-in-Council in 1865 and 1881 relating to the administration of justice in the consular courts of China and Japan. do not confer upon the British Consular Court in Japan a jurisdiction wider than was acquired by the treaty with Japan in 1858, but only prescribe the manner of exercising the jurisdiction which is exercisable under that treaty. This is a judgment of the Imperial Privy Council, but that court does not decide where the cause of action arises from the collision between a British and Japanese vessel, both of which are to blame, within the jurisdiction of the British Consular Court of Japan, what course is to be adopted in distributing the liability between the respective owners

SMURTHWAITE V. HANNAY .-- Where the language of a rule regulating the procedure of British consular courts, and giving power to a court to dismiss actions in which there has been a joinder of distinct causes of action, which are not causes of action by and against the same parties, is permissive in form; and it is provided by a subsequent rule that, in matters not covered by the rules, the procedure of the English courts is to be followed; the language of the rule with regard to the dismissal of such suits cannot be construed as authorizing their institution, nor is such a joinder of parties authorized by any rule of the courts in England, according to the Imperial Privy Council.

ROBB v. GREEN.-In a contract of service involving confidential relations, there is, in the absence of an express stipulation to the contrary, an implied promise of fidelity and good faith on the part of the servant, which is broken when the latter copies surreptitiously from his master's order book a list of his master's customers, for his own use after he shall have left, and shall set up a rival business. The servant who so makes and uses the copy is guilty both of a breach of contract and of a breach of trust, and, according to the Court of Appeal in England, the master is entitled to damages, delivery up to him of all copies and contracts made from his list by the servant, and an injunction in restraining the servant from making use of the information thus improperly obtained.

A WESTERNAMAN.

The recent victory of Mayor Hazen S. Pinreacht victory of Mayor Hazen S. Fingree at the Republican Mayoralty primaries in Detroit calls fresh public attention to one of the most notable figures of municipal politics in all the United States. Not since the day of in all the United States. Not since the day of Carter Harrison, of Chicago, has such a picturesque personality arisen in the West. Mayor Pingree has furnished not only Detroit but the entire Union with sensations since his advent on the public stage as a mayor, only a little over half a decade ago. He has driven a band-wagon, so to speak, as a fighter of monopolistic corporations. He has been at war with his own city commissioners and attorneys and with the State Legislature over the question of city rule, and he has even boycotted the press and set up municipal bulletin boards in front of the Detroit City Hall. To his credit, however, it must be admitted that he has achieved a reform in the Detroit street railway system, and his latest potato scheme, or municipal farms for the poor, gives promise of being the germ of a new relief agency in large communities with idle acres. New York. Boston, Buffalo, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Qmaha are among the cities which have adopted it, and the result of their experiments will be awaited with great interest.—Phila-delphia Record.