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THE NORTH AMERICAN SEAL COMPANY.

An important commercial suit has just been decided in the United States Court, New York. The United States had sued the North American Commercial Company, lessees of the Pribyloff Islands, St. Paul and St. George, Alaska, for \$132,189.50, with interest, for rentals under the contract, and also for royalties and taxes on 7,500 seals taken during the season ended April, 1894. Justice Wallace decided on Monday last in favor of the United States. He holds, however, that the modus vivendi with Great Britain was a breach of contract on the part of the United States with the North American Commercial Company, and therefore awards judgment for \$94,687, and says that the commercial company has a claim against the Government for about \$140,000, to be collected through the court of claims. As the modus vivendi ended in 1894, the effect of the decision will be to entitle the Government in the other suits to collect about \$200,000 yearly from the North American Commercial Company for the years 1895 and 1896.

TOO LONG BETWEEN MEALS.

An interesting case, involving the length of time an employee should be expected to work without eating, has recently been decided at Penge, Cornwall. Miss Mary Christian, a dressmaker, had compelled the girls working for her to serve more than five hours without meals, and at the trial produced a physician who swore that two meals daily, one at 11.30 and the other at 7.30, leaving thus an interval of eight hours between them, were quite sufficient to live on. The hard-hearted magistrate, however, took a different view and fined the woman 30s. and costs in each of four cases.

Of course, a person can get used to almost anything, and it may be that working girls or boys, or men and women, could by long practice be taught-that is, their stomachs could be taught-to go fasting for eight hours, instead of the usual five or six, without much discomfort. There are people, we know, who eat only twice a day, and they are exactly the kind of people who abuse other folk for not doing it also. Such exemplars would punish their neighbors for eating three meals a day, just as Puritanical people nowadays would like to have people punished for drinking beer at dinner, instead of tea or pop. But happily néither common sense nor the common law defends people who would oppress others, whether their oppression is dictated by a fanatical spirit or a penurious one. Nobody is sorry, surely, to see that this "Christian" woman was fined.

ILLEGAL WHISKEY.

George Vesina, a resident of Quebec, was convicted on Monday last on a charge of distilling and rectifying spirits without a license, and has been condemned to one month's imprisonment and a fine of \$100 and costs, or six months additional in default of payment. Having previously been convicted of having a still in his possession illegally, George was further fined \$500 and costs or one month, in pursuance of the revised statutes, which impose a fine of double of excise and license duties, amounting to \$250 each in such a case. This second lesson should prove valuable to him and all persons who are desirous of obtaining cheap whiskey in an underhanded way.

-"Well, the backbone of winter is broken now." "What makes you say so?" "The man next door has brightened up a \$3 fence by splashing \$5 worth of whitewash and spoiling a \$30 suit of clothes."—Chicago Record.

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