CRANKY TENANTS IN APARTMENTS.

THEY MAKE THE AGENT'S LIFE FAR FROM HAPPY.

Think Everybody Noisy but Themselves—Seek Revenge When Angered.

How Charles Dickens would have delighted in some features of a New York apartment house! It is the place, of all others, where one may come upon the unexpected in persons and conditions. To the agent of such a house, however, nothing is unexpected. He wears an air of expectancy, often supplemented by a worried look, and sometimes by one conciliatory in character. He knows that anything may happen at any hour, that tenants are apt hurriedly to enter his office and somewhat incoherently impart the information that the roof of their abode is falling in, the foundations falling out, or that the water mains have burst and the place is being flooded.

Does the agent at once call to his aid the protective machinery provided by the city, and fly to the assistance of the afflicted house? Not he! Experience has taught him many things. Well he knows that some contractor, blasting out rock from a building site, has, by using too heavy a blast, shaken the foundations of adjacent apartment houses and caused cracks to appear, here and there, from ceiling to cellar, to the great alarm of the timorous who were at once convinced that San Francisco had not taken out a patent on all first class American earthquakes. As for the "broken mains," they are sure to resolve themselves into some faucet which a careless maid had left open, permitting water to overflow and threaten destruction to the belongings of tenants on the floor below.

True, there was an occasion when landlords and tenants, alike, were at a loss to discover the source of a flood until careful search revealed that a former tenant had spitefully bored holes in the roof in order to provide the spice of some real excitement in the monotony of a life filled with constant repetitions of complaints such as most landlords lead.

PERFORATING THE BATHTUB.

Another tenant of similar calibre, but whose ambitions did not soar as high as the roof, when obliged by the landlord to relinquish his apartment, revenged himself by perforating the bathtub. This act occasioned him much labor and was fraught with difficulty, but he felt amply repaid for the trouble he had taken when he learned what the new tenant's opinion was of that style of bath and how the landlord had expressed his feelings on the subject. Moreover, he hugged himself in the knowledge that no one could prove that the bathtub had not—left to its own devices in an empty apartment—just opened up the holes of its own accord in a sheer spirit of mischief.

"Agents for apartment houses have a pretty hard time of it trying to suit all kinds of tenants, especially the kinds whom nothing will ever suit," said one experienced in such efforts. "There is wailing all along the line of landlords over the contumaciousness of some tenants and the assumption of others that they are living in their own detached cottages a good block away from the nearest neighbor. Sometimes the troubles of tenants are very real. One man complained that at 5 o'clock every morning a child on the floor above jumped over his head for an hour. He meant on the upper floor, you know, not his head. He was pretty wild about it, and I thought he'd leave the place. He wanted me to give the parents of the child a good, stiff talk. Did I? Gee! To say anything about that child to those people would be like putting a match under them—supposing they were gunpowder.

"Then there's a queer fellow in one of the houses I handle. He thinks he owes us a grudge of some kind and he takes it out of us by going on every floor of the house after 10 o'clock at night and turning on all electric lights that have been turned off in the halls at that hour.

"Apartment house tenants have a queer obsession about telephone calls to the office. They all ring us up to make complaints and charge the calls to us. Often they read the riot act to us in no unmeasured terms and with no time limit. 'Central' seems to know what's up when she hears the steady flow of language and never interrupts to ask 'Are you waiting?' or to break the connection. We hear the whole story and know just what to expect when the tenant pauses for breath and then shouts: 'And you'll pay for this message, too!' I would not like to say what a firm's telephone bills amount to where it acts as agent for many houses. Tenants never pay for 'phoning to an agent's office, and the mere suggestion that they ought to sets them wild.

"We also have trouble when gas bills are high. Tenants call to express their opinions about the gas bills and to inform us that they mean to take an equivalent out of the rent—which they do, in some way or other. It is next to impossible to convince such a tenant that we are not in league with the gas company to defraud him.

COMPLAINTS OF NOISES.

"A good many tenants complain that persons who live on the floors above them move all their futniture around and slam it down in the middle of the night upon their return home from the theatre. Now, they know very well that those people are only letting down their bookcases, desks and pianos and taking out the tucks in their bed sofas. People have to sleep somewhere! It's true that they might provide heavy rugs to deaden the sounds when they convert their living rooms into sleeping apartments, but I've noticed this winter that people in apartments have a rage for polished floors and few rugs.

"There was one tenant who made a row because the janitor's daughter used to sing 'Take Me Back to New York Town' as a parting song to her young man around 12 o'clock at night. In the same house there lived a prima donna of the opera, whose fellow singers would often serenade her at 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning, after escorting her home, and nobody ever complained; some even opened windows to listen. Yet singing is singing. For my part I'd rather be kept awake before 12 o'clock by a nice, lively popular song than awakened after 2 by 'Good Night, Good Night, Beloved!' or the 'Song to the Evening Star.'

"The graphophone nuisance is another thing agents have to contend with. Some tenants don't like the vaudeville graphophone. They say all the singing in it is husky and that they can't endure listening to it; that when it comes to having 'Under the Old Apple Tree' and 'Everybody Works but Father' chanted out all day and three-quarters of the night in blatant, strident tones (that's what they call them), they won't have it. We are offered the choice of hastening the departure of the graphophone and its owner or of seeing a collection of other tenants go. It isn't pleasant to have to hurt the feelings of the graphophone's owner. He thinks its music is beautiful and is sensitive about aspersions upon it. As a general thing he is generous with it, too. One man used to connect his graphophone with the telephone so that friends downtown could share in his enjoyment. Another tenant said that there was not an hour in the day and only few in the night when his family or his friends were without this class of musical entertainment.

MUSIC ALL NIGHT.

"There seem to be persons who dislike music as much as others like it. In one place I know of, for instance, there were indignant protests from a family because their neighbors had gone out for the evening and left an electric piano playing until some time after midnight. Yet those very same persons will pay $3 or $4 a seat to go and hear somebody play the piano in a concert hall for the same length of time. But that's just the way with people. They not only don't appreciate what they can get for nothing, but they are even ungrateful enough to find fault with it."

"It is with unreasonable tenants that we agents have the most trouble," another agent said. "They expect things to be done for them on the principle of a slot machine. They drop a nickel into the 'phone and expect their orders to appear already filled the instant afterward. One woman drove me nearly frantic about her chandelier. It had been taken out on a Tuesday to be reburnished. Thursday morning my 'phone rang and I rushed to the receiver to hear this: 'Where is that chandelier? Here it is Thursday and I've had to do without that chandelier all this time! You promised to have it done right away, too! But nothing ever gets attended to in this house. I suppose that is what I have to expect—trying to live in such a poorly run house as this! Such indifference to tenants was never heard of!' That wasn't all. She worked up to a climax that was something worth while. Every morning afterward, until the chandelier was replaced, she rang us up and demanded to know, 'Where is that chandelier? Why isn't it here?'

"On another occasion we spent a good part of our time for three whole weeks at the 'phone listening to complaints about a screw that was loose in a doorknob. We were pretty well convinced there was a screw loose somewhere. The tenants wouldn't believe that it is harder to get a workman for some trifling job like that than for an extensive piece of work. In the end it appeared that they might easily have tightened the loose screw themselves instead of convincing us that the whole lock was out of order.

"When we are telephoned to for workmen to make repairs tenants appear to think that we keep a supply of carpenters and plumbers sitting in the office equipped for any kind of work and ready to start upon it by the time they hang up their receiver after giving the order. One such tenant kept telephoning in tones of amazed indignation: "Why don't the man come?" until I replied, 'Madam, if you will let me get away from the telephone long enough to telephone to the man, I will send him around.'"

CHILDREN IN FLATS.

A great howl is generally raised by the public against landlords who will not take as tenants families who have young children. It is noticeable that people who dwell in apartment houses are conspicuously absent from among the ranks of the howlers. They have had experience. They know that a constant watch has to be kept upon children who are learning to write to prevent them from adorning all the halls and doorways with their chirography. Then, too, there are often babies who cry the greater part of the day and shriek at all hours of the night. In one house lived two families with babies, a bad baby and a good one. Distraught tenants urged the landlord to send away the cause of their sleepless nights and disturbed days. While he was making up his mind on the subject one family moved out and others prepared for a similar hegira. The landlord was a bachelor. To him a baby was a baby, so he requested the family with the good baby to take their infant elsewhere, and now he is learning that a difference does exist in children, even at the teething age.

Animal pets usually occasion as much trouble as do children in apartment houses. A certain fashionable apartment hotel in Fifth avenue endured life as a dog kennel until its costly hall furniture was defaced, the upholstery of it destroyed and carpets and rugs irremediably injured by dogs which industriously sought to prepare suitable burial places for bones, when the hotel proprietors revolted.

Tenants with little dogs poured forth complaints about the manner in which big dogs would howl all day in the absence of their fond mistresses and half the night, while their owners were away at the opera.

Although attempts are constantly being made to attain such a result, Great Danes, St. Bernards and Scotch collies have not yet been educated to modulate their voices to meet the exigencies of life in an apartment hotel. Loud as were the complaints of owners of skye terriers and miniature spaniels and poodles against the locking in of great dogs when their owners were absent, the protests of the dogs were still louder and made an even greater impression upon the hotel management. The flat went forth that they must go to some abode where dogs might howl unrestrained, and irate apartment hotel clerks were even known to mention the abode of Cerberus as being a suitable place for them. The reward of virtue became the portion of the management of this house; other tenants left because they said it made them unhappy to live in a place where dogs were not appreciated.

DOGS WILL BE DOGS.

Flat dwellers are accustomed to be awakened at night by dogs that "bay the moon," and in the small hours of the morning by those which greet the sunrise with pæans to some tendenrly remembered bone, but they wondered whether they were dreaming or really in some verdant Arcadia when, in a certain apartment house, they heard the cheerful crowing of roosters at about 4 o'clock in the morning. Coming slowly and none too sweetly out of the land of dreams, they were certain that they distinguished the answering cluck of hens. Rising to the occasion they looked out of their windows to assure themselves that they were still dwellers in Manhattan and neither dreaming nor suffering from some phase of insanity. They were greeted by an hilarious crow, which seemed to come from the neighborhood of the fire escape.

Somehow, things which afford amusement at 8 o'clock in the morning do not appear in the least entertaining at 4 o'clock. Investigations were instituted which disclosed the fact that one tenant in the house had an extra room and also a fondness for chickens. Why not raise chickens in that room, he thought. They were cheerful, companionable creatures, and would prove an addition to the table later on. The other tenants agreed with this view, but thought that the poultry should be served up without delay. The landlord was called in to settle a difference of opinion which arose on the subject, and, like most landlords, sided with the majority.

"And yet," argued the chicken fancier, "you let people with parrots live in your house. And parrots use awful language"——

"They can't help it, their early training is bad," said the landlord. "And then, if other tenants objected to their language, we'd put them out."

"You keep macaws, and you keep canaries and dogs," protested the man who raised chickens; "they are all noisy, while my chickens are perfectly quiet except for an occasional crow"——

"At 4 o'clock in the morning!" chorused the majority opposed to live chickens as neighbors.

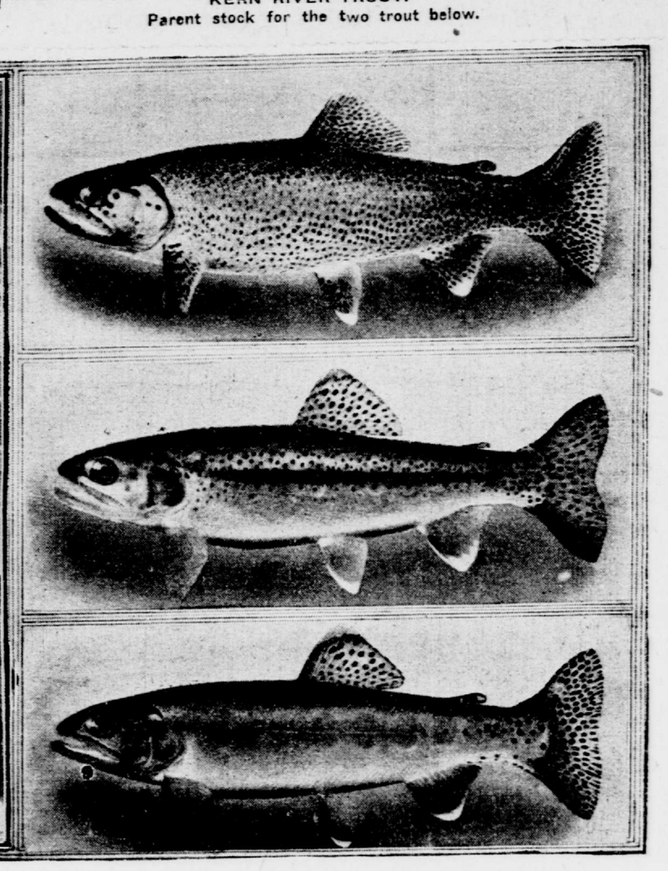
While pets often prove fruitful sources of discussion between landlords and tenants, as common a cause of dispute is the fancy of some tenants for changing dining rooms into parlors or the latter into bedrooms. This involves alteration which the tenant always insists should be made at the landlord's expense and the bill for such transpositions is rarely ever paid without altercation.

Agents of apartment houses not only have troubles of their own, but troubles of many another person to carry just now. Ever since November 15 they have been learning that those banks and trust companies which are withholding payment upon checks possess a far greater number of depositors than ever the beleaguered institutions dreamed of. While landlords realize how gratifying such a state of affairs must eventually prove to the financial houses concerned, they are wondering how, if rents cannot be collected, they are to meet their own large obligations.

REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOLDEN TROUT.

ONE OF THE THREE FALLS WHICH CUT OFF THE GOLDEN TROUT FROM THE PARENT STOCK.

KERN RIVER TROUT.
Parent stock for the two trout below.



GOLDEN TROUT OF VOLCANO CREEK.

GOLDEN TROUT OF SODA CREEK.

MOST BEAUTIFUL TROUT

Bears the Name of President Roosevelt.

Pent up within the narrow confines of a Southern High Sierra Nevada mountain torrent by an upheaval of nature hundreds of years ago, with the mysterious influences of light, water and creek bed at work upon their tender sides, a brilliant species of brook trout developed and wasted its beauty on a wilderness, unknown, at least to science, until discovered a short time ago by an expedition of the bureau of fisheries of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

This trout, in the comparatively short time it has been known to anglers, has become famous among them for its beauty and gameness, and those who wield the rod for the delights of the stomach say it is wonderfully toothsome, a fact to be mentioned scarcely above a whisper in a company of "real sportsmen." It is the golden trout of the Southern High Sierras, its home is in Volcano Creek, and in the name of its home hangs the tale of its existence as a distinct species and the tragedy of nature which made its distinction possible.

Volcano Creek, a branch of the Kern River, in Central California, had reeled off a small section of eternity as a busy, peace loving stream, working its way down into the bowels of the earth, leaving above it each year an added inch or two of canyon, when the even tenor of its life suffered rude interruption in the shape of a tremendous volcanic eruption. The creek was originally populated with trout by migrations from the Kern River. Biologists and pisciculturists say this must be so, for streams have fish only when they are accessible or have been accessible at some period of their existence from the rivers into which they flow. Sometimes a mountain stream will cut itself off from communication with the outside world by chewing up its bed into impassable waterfalls. In these cases if fish are found above the waterfalls it is conclusive proof that they got there before the falls were formed.

HOW STREAM GOT ITS NAME.

Volcano Creek, however, has a much more tragic history. About seven miles from its mouth and nearly the same distance from its source, right in the elbow where the stream makes a right angle with itself, there are three burned out craters that show signs of having once been tremendously active. Some time after Volcano Creek had formed its present canyon there was an eruption and the lava flow took the course of the canyon, probably drying up the stream and killing off all the fish in the lower half of it. This lava, when it approached the Kern River became piled up in some way so that a series of three falls resulted. These form the insurmountable barrier which shuts the trout in Volcano Creek and makes it impossible for breeds to be mixed or the beautiful coloring of the sides of the golden trout to be sullied by intermingling with others.

To Stewart Edward White belongs the honor of setting in motion the forces of the federal government toward the preservation of this beautiful fish, whose brilliant markings are not exceeded by even the denizens of tropical waters. Mr. White visited Volcano Creek, caught several of the beauties and saw how the stream was being rapidly depopulated by fish hogs and pot hunters. He made his way straight to the White House. President Roosevelt became interested immediately, and requested the bureau of fisheries to find out all about the golden trout and see what could be done to preserve them. An expedition was immediately organized and Barton W. Evermann was put in charge.

HOW NAMES WERE BESTOWED.

Several months were spent in a thorough investigation of the whole Kern River region. With the expedition was Charles B. Hudson, a painter of fishes, and he made for the use of the President and the bureau of fisheries pictures of several specimens of trout just as they were taken from the streams. Of these two are called golden trout, one from Soda Creek and the other from Volcano Creek. That from Soda Creek is less strongly and less beautifully marked than its neighbor from the other side of the Kern River canyon, but it is similar and is now as completely segregated as the Volcano Creek species.

To the Volcano Creek species Mr. Evermann gave the name Salmo Roosevelti, and that from Soda Creek he named Salmo Whitei, in honor of Mr. White. Both will bear Mr. Evermann's name as the one who first classified them or discovered them scientifically. The trout of the Kern River had been classified by Dr. David Starr Jordan in 1893. This fish is a beauty, but its colors are less brilliant and entirely different from those of the golden trout. It is thickly spotted, while the golden trout has few spots.

"This is the most beautiful of all the trout," said Mr. Evermann, in speaking of the Volcano Creek species. "The brilliancy and richness of its coloration is not equalled by that of any other known species. The delicate golden olive of the head, back and upper part of the side; the clear, golden yellow along and below the lateral line, and the marvellously rich cadmium of the under parts fully entitle the species to be known above all others as the golden trout.

"In form it is no less beautiful. Its lines are perfect, the fins large and well proportioned and the caudal peduncle is strong, all fitting it admirably for life in the turbulent waters in which it dwells. It is a small fish, however, the largest example collected by us being only 11¼ inches long and the heaviest weighing 10 ounces. It is probable that it never attains a greater length than fourteen inches or a weight of more than a pound in Volcano Creek. The golden trout is native to Volcano Creek alone, and occurs throughout the entire length of that stream. Although we obtained a specimen at the foot of the first fall, it is doubtful whether many individuals venture so far down.

Mr. Evermann does not pretend to explain why the trout in Volcano Creek should be so radically different from their forefathers in Kern River. It may have been due, authorities say, to the character of the bottom, the minerals in the water, the conditions of light in the canyon, or even the prevailing foliage. None of these, however, account for the radical coloring, and it must be put down, Mr. Evermann says, as one of the mysteries of nature whose solution can be no more than guessed at. It is known, however, that trout segregated in pools with muddy bottoms have much less brilliant coloring than others in the same stream living over gravelly or rocky bottoms.

The chief difference, aside from a variation in shape, between the Soda Creek specimens and those from Volcano Creek is in the number and arrangement of black spots. The fish named for Mr. White has the whole top of the body, from nose to tail tip, thickly covered and apparently imposed on the delicate red and olive gold of the body. The species bearing the name of the President, however, is bare of spots except on the tail, a few an inch or two up from it and on the dorsal fin. The Kern River trout is tinted in pink, pale blue, old gold and olive, with fine yellow or lemon specks. It does not look as though it were any nearer related to its beautiful offspring than perhaps as mother-in-law, if that much.

NO WONDER.

Recently a Washingtonian in conversation with "Ollie" James, the gigantic and genial Congressman from Kentucky, made certain inquiries with reference to a mutual friend whom he had not seen for a number of years—a Colonel P., of the state mentioned.

"And how does my old friend, the colonel, spend his declining years?" asked the Washingtonian.

"Beautifully, sir, beautifully," answered James. "He has a fine farm, sir. And a string of trotters, sir. And a barrel of whiskey sixteen years old, and a wife of the same age, sir."—Lippincott's.

SHOT, SKINNED AND NAILED UP TO DRY.
—Chicago Record-Herald.

LEGISLATION FOR INDUSTRIAL PEACE.

CANADIAN ACT TO SETTLE LABOR DISPUTES.

Satisfactory Results Secured by Conciliation, Investigation and Publicity.

On Monday night, December 16, at the banquet of the National Civic Federation, held in this city, President Eliot of Harvard University, in the course of an address, styled the Canadian industrial disputes investigation act, which went into effect on March 22, "the best piece of legislation ever adopted to promote industrial peace." As a result of the operation of this law several disputes between labor and capital, involving the operation of railroads, coal mines and steamship companies, which would have resulted in strikes or lockouts disastrous to the interests of the public, as well as causing losses to both capital and labor, have already been settled, in a number of cases without the cessation of operation for a single moment.

The act is novel in that no settlement is compulsory, and strikes or lockouts are permitted only at the end of a given period. The methods by which results are obtained are conciliation, investigation and publicity. The industries to which the act applies are all mining properties and all agencies of transportation or communication, including railways, however operated; steamships, telegraph and telephone lines, gas, electric light, water and power works; in other words, public utilities and industries whose continuance in operation is a public necessity.

The Minister of Labor for the Dominion of Canada has the general administration of the act, and the Governor appoints a registrar of boards of conciliation and investigation, who conducts correspondence and keeps records of proceedings under the act.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ACT.

In an article in the current number of "McClure's Magazine" President Eliot describes the characteristics of the act. Its most striking feature, he says, is that whenever a dispute arises between an employer and any of his employes, and the parties involved are unable to adjust it, either of the parties to the dispute may make application to the minister for the appointment of a board of conciliation and investigation, to which board the dispute is to be referred under the provisions of this act, if applicable. The minister must appoint the board within fifteen days. Every board consists of three members, one being a person recommended by the employer, one a person recommended by the employes, and the third a person nominated by these two. The minister has power to make appointments on his own initiative when names are not presented within five days. The Department of Labor is authorized to provide any board of conciliation and investigation with a secretary, stenographer and other necessary clerical assistance, in order to secure complete publicity for the inquiry.

"In making application for the appointment of a board," says Dr. Eliot, "the party which desires the inquiry must set forth the parties to the dispute, the nature and cause of the dispute, including any claims or demands made by either party upon the other; an estimate of the number of persons likely to be affected, and the efforts made by the parties themselves to adjust the dispute. The application must be accompanied by a declaration that, failing the adjustment of the dispute under the act to the best of the knowledge and belief of the declarant a lockout or strike will ensue. The party making application for the appointment of a board must transmit by sure means to the other party to the dispute a copy of the application and of the accompanying statement and declaration."

The object of the board, once constituted, is to endeavor to bring about a settlement of the dispute. An inquiry is set on foot. If a settlement is reached before the board's inquiry is completed a memorandum of the settlement must be drawn up by the board, signed by the parties and forwarded to the Minister of Labor. If no settlement is reached the board makes a full report to the minister, including its recommendation for the settlement of the dispute according to the merits of the case. This recommendation must state in plain terms what, in the board's opinion, ought or ought not to be done by the parties concerned. This report is to be sent, free of charge, to the parties to the dispute and to the representative of any newspaper published in Canada who applies for it, and the minister is authorized to distribute copies of the report in such manner as seems to him most desirable as a means of securing a compliance with the board's recommendation. Moreover, the report and recommendation of the board and any minority report are to be printed, without delay, in "The Labor Gazette," a monthly issued by the Canadian Department of Labor.

INVESTED WITH COURT POWERS.

Every board of conciliation and investigation has all the powers of summoning witnesses, administering oaths and of requiring witnesses to give evidence and to produce books and papers which are ordinarily vested in a court. Any party to the proceedings is competent and may be compelled to give evidence as a witness. In railroad cases witnesses summoned by a board are entitled to free transportation. Any member of a board may, without any other warrant than the act, enter any premises which have been the subject of a reference to the board. The proceedings of the board must be in public, unless the board itself direct that certain of its proceedings be conducted in private. The board may, with the consent of the minister, employ experts to examine the books or official reports of either party to the dispute, but is not permitted to disclose the reports of these experts without the consent of both parties. Members of a board are paid a moderate amount for each day they are occupied in the investigation, and are prohibited from accepting any perquisite or gratuity of any kind from any corporation or individual interested in a matter brought or about to be brought before the board.

Under this act "it is unlawful for any employer to declare or cause a lockout, or for any employe to go on strike on account of any dispute prior to or during a reference of such dispute to a board of conciliation and investigation." The act also requires employers and employes to give at least thirty days' notice of an intended change affecting conditions of employment with respect to wages or hours; and in every case where a dispute has been referred to a board, neither of the parties nor the employes affected may alter the conditions of employment with respect to wages or hours, or be concerned, directly or indirectly, in anything in the nature of a lockout or strike until the dispute has been finally dealt with by the board. "If, in the board," however, says the act, "either party uses this or any other provision of this act for the purpose of unjustly maintaining a given condition of affairs through delay, and the board so reports to the minister, such party shall be guilty of an offence" and be liable to fines.

PENALTIES MAY BE IMPOSED.

Any employer who declares or causes a lockout contrary to the provisions of the act is liable to a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $1,000 a day while the lockout exists. Any employe who goes on strike under the same conditions is liable to a fine of not less than $10 nor more than $50 a day while on strike. And any person who incites, encourages or aids an unlawful lockout or strike is liable to a fine of not less than $50 nor more than $1,000.

"The main points covered by this act are, therefore," says President Eliot, "no change in wages or hours without thirty days' notice; no lockout or strike without a previous investigation of causes and demands by an impartial public authority, which secures complete publicity; and therefore no lockout or strike unless it has been carefully considered by the parties most nearly concerned through a period which can hardly be less than two months, and has been publicly debated for a period which, under ordinary circumstances, will not be less than one month, and may easily be more."

President Eliot enumerates the following advantages which this Canadian law has over any legislation existing in the United States:

1. There is no arbitration in it, compulsory or other.
2. It prevents sudden blows aimed by capital at labor or by labor at capital.
3. It prevents the sudden cessation of industries which have to do with such necessaries of modern life as fuel, the means of transportation and communication, the lighting of towns and cities, and water and power supplies.
4. It makes it necessary for the aggressor in an industrial dispute to have a well-considered case which will bear thorough publicity.
5. It informs the public, which ultimately bears, in higher prices, the burden of all industrial warfare, about the causes and issues of every industrial dispute.
6. At the same time it leaves unimpaired the right of any group of men to combine for mutual advantage, and to lock out, or strike, after full public inquiry.
7. It tends to prevent or restrict secret machinations on the part of both employers and employes, because both know that publicity must come at last.
8. It gives opportunity, through the intervention of an impartial public authority, for reasoning, conciliation, the removal of misunderstandings and an amicable settlement.

Dr. Eliot says that there is every reason to believe that strikes would have taken place in Canada in the course of the last spring and summer in many instances, had it not been for the influence of this measure compelling public inquiry.

VEGETARIAN SUCCESS.

Record of Prolonged Experiments at Brussels.

By Irving Fisher, in "Science."

Mlle. Dr. J. Ioteyko, head of the laboratory at the University of Brussels, and Mlle. Varia Kipiani, student in science, have published a monograph of seventy-seven pages: "Enquête Scientifique sur les Végétariens de Bruxelles." In this monograph the question of vegetarianism is studied by several methods. The authors have become convinced that the vegetarian régime is for the most part a more rational one than the highly nitrogenous diet ordinarily prevailing in Western Europe and America.

In the brief introduction general considerations in regard to diet are mentioned and special emphasis given to the subject of toxins. The authors quote in behalf of their conclusions the eminent French dietitian, Armand Gautier, "who, without himself being a vegetarian, praises the good effects of the vegetarian régime." The authors quote Gautier as follows:

"The vegetarian régime, modified by the addition of milk, of fat, of butter, of eggs, has great advantages. It adds to the alkalinity of the blood, accelerates oxidation, diminishes organic wastes and toxins; it exposes one much less than the ordinary régime to skin maladies, to arthritis, to congestions of internal organs. This régime tends to make us pacific beings and not aggressive and violent. It is practical and rational."

MEAT AS "MEDICAMENT."

The authors, while apparently classifying themselves as advocates of vegetarianism, admit that in certain cases it is necessary to prescribe meat as a "medicament"—"just as one prescribes sometimes alcohol and other poisons." The authors also observe that the transition to a vegetarian diet should be gradual.

The personal history is traced of forty-three vegetarians of Brussels. Among other interesting observations is the following:

"For the most part, the vegetarians appear younger than their age; notably, the ladies are distinguished by their clear and fresh complexion."

The experiments conducted by Mlles. Ioteyko and Kipiani are restricted to vegetarians who have been such for several years. The experiments were for the most part comparisons of strength and endurance. So far as strength is concerned very little difference was discovered between vegetarians and "carnivores." In endurance, on the other hand, a very remarkable difference was found, the vegetarians surpassing the "carnivores" from 50 to 200 per cent, according to the method of measurement.

MEASURING ENDURANCE.

This result agrees with the experiment on nine Yale students described in "Science." These subjects, by dint of thorough mastication, gradually lost their taste for flesh foods. At the end of five months, while not becoming vegetarians, they had reduced their consumption of flesh foods to one-sixth of the amount to which they had originally been accustomed. Their strength remained practically stationary, but their endurance, according to the gymnasium tests, was increased on an average by over 90 per cent.

The method of measuring endurance used by the Belgian investigators was by means of the Mosso ergograph. One of the fingers is used to raise a weight as far as possible. As the experiment proceeds and fatigue sets in the height to which the weight can be raised is gradually reduced until no further contractions are possible. If a curve be constructed representing the height of the successive contractions it is called a "curve of fatigue," and it is found that this curve is "different for different individuals, but is constant for the same individual from one day to another, and even after an interval of several years, if the conditions of the experiment remain the same."

VEGETARIANS THE STRONGER.

The authors compared the endurance of seventeen vegetarians, six men and eleven women, with that of twenty-five "carnivores," students of the University of Brussels. Comparisons for the right hand differed somewhat from those for the left, the superiority of the vegetarians being greater for the latter than for the former. Comparing the two sets of subjects on the basis of mechanical work, it is found that the vegetarians surpassed the "carnivores" on the average by 53 per cent.

Comparing the two groups on the basis of the number of contractions—or, what amounts to the same thing, the length of time during which the ergograph could be continuously operated—it was found that the vegetarians could work on the ergograph two or three times as long as the "carnivores" before reaching the exhaustion point.

This last result corresponds to conclusions of the present writer in an experiment in which forty-nine subjects, about half of whom were flesh-eaters and half flesh-abstainers, were compared. It was found that the flesh-abstainers had more endurance, as measured by gymnasium tests, than the flesh-eaters, to the extent of from two to three fold.

The Brussels investigators found also that the vegetarians recuperated from fatigue far more quickly than the meat-eaters, a result also found in the Yale experiment.

WHERE TWINE PIECES COUNT.

How One Ball Serves a Busy Postal Employe Seven Years.

Though it handles some thousand million dollars a year the United States government is not unappreciative of the value of small things, such, for example, as a piece of secondhand twine. Perhaps the ordinary ragpicker wouldn't regard it as a good business principle to stoop for a discarded twelve-inch string when he is hurrying through the city at dawn in keen competition with all classes of ragpickers for what there is of commercial value in the ash barrels and scrap heaps, but that may be due wholly to his inability to foresee some of the future possibilities in the practice of noticing such trivial things. Similarly it may be that a certain government employe who attached himself to the New England Division of the United States Railway Mail Service six or seven years ago did not pin much faith in little dingy string pieces, for he was some grades above the trained ragpicker in the social scale, yet he stooped to pick up such string pieces as came under his observation in the ordinary routine of his business, and it resulted in the bestowal upon him of a distinction which has not come to his companions of less economical tendencies. How much it counts toward his promotion in the service is problematical, but it has carried his name and fame with favorable comments to the attention of the United States Postoffice authorities, says "The Boston Transcript."

When this man reaches the next step up and his salary is increased accordingly he will have some difficulty in dissociating his luck from the little string pieces he has picked up in his years of service, and his mind may be coached by a little justified pride in the following official paragraph clipped from the most prominent position in this week's "General Order" of the New England Division of the United States Railway Mail Service, over the signature of his superintendent:

"A clerk in this division, appointed in 1901, with the exception of having been furnished with one ball of twine, has never made a requisition for an additional supply, having reused the twine which he saved from packages received by him."

AMBIGUOUS.

"Don't you find the dinners here invariably dull?"

"Well, I couldn't say 'invariably,' when this is the first time you have ever taken me out."—Life.