

COURT DECISIONS.

Notes of Cases Recently Decided, Which are of Interest to Our People.

DIGESTED BY W. B. MARTIN. (Exclusively for Virginian-Pilot.)

WINFREE V. F. N. BANK.

Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, April 6, 1899.

A HOLDER OF A NOTE AGREEING TO AN EXTENSION OF TIME ON CONDITION THAT THE ENDORSER CONSENTS, DOES NOT THEREBY RELEASE THE ENDORSER.

WHERE SUCH HOLDER AUTHORIZED HIS AGENT TO DISMISS A SUIT ON THE NOTE ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND THE AGENT DISMISSED IT BEFORE THEY WERE PERFORMED, THE ENDORSER IS NOT RELEASED.

A JUDGMENT WILL NOT BE REVERSED FOR ERRONEOUS INSTRUCTIONS, WHERE THE VERDICT WAS PROPER IF CORRECT INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN GIVEN.

This was a proceeding by motion to reverse judgment on a negotiable note made by E. B. Hughes and indorsed by J. B. Winfree. The indorser resisted the judgment upon the following grounds of defense:

(1) That the plaintiff extended the time of payment of the note on which this action is brought, by a binding agreement with the principal, E. B. Hughes, without the consent of the indorser and defendant, John B. Winfree.

(2) That the plaintiff brought this action against the said parties on the same paper on which it now seeks judgment, to wit, to the March term of the Corporation Court of the city of Lynchburg, Va., and afterwards entered into a binding agreement for a valid consideration with the maker and principal, E. B. Hughes, to extend the time of payment, and dismiss the action and not take judgment till some subsequent term, which agreement was without the knowledge and consent of the said John B. Winfree.

There was a judgment for plaintiff and judgment appealed.

It is not necessary to decide whether an agreement between the holder of a negotiable note and the principal, to dismiss a suit voluntarily instituted thereon, without the knowledge and consent of the indorser, is such an extension of time to the principal as will discharge the indorser. No such agreement as that which is established in the case at bar.

It is perfectly clear from the facts that the defendant in error made no agreement to dismiss the suit in question, except upon the terms of the letter of March 19, 1897, from the cashier to G. E. Vaughan, one of which terms was that the plaintiff in error was to consent to the whole arrangement, and evidence his consent by indorsing the note. Modification of these terms was persistently refused to the last, as shown by the telegram from the cashier to his brother.

G. E. Vaughan was a special agent, with limited authority. He had no power to dismiss the suit upon any other terms than those contained in the cashier's letter. Relying upon the assurance of Hughes that he would pay the whole note by check that evening, G. E. Vaughan transcribed his authority and consent to the suit. The defendant in error knew nothing about the dismissal of the suit until after the court had adjourned. So far as the bank is concerned, the unauthorized act of G. E. Vaughan is a mere nullity, its rights in respect to the note being in no way affected thereby.

In this view of the case, it becomes unnecessary to consider the instructions committed to him in the petition for a writ of error, for, if it were conceded that the action of the court in respect to the instructions given and refused was erroneous, it would be im-

material, for, under the facts of the case, upon correct instructions a different verdict could not have been rightly found by the jury. Where this court can see from the whole record that under correct instructions a different verdict could not have been rightly found, it will not reverse. Wright v. Bank (decided at the January term of this court).

The judgment must be affirmed.

RANCHAN V. RUTLAND R. CO.

Supreme Court of Vermont, January 12, 1899.

AT COMMON LAW A COMMON CARRIER IS LIABLE TO THE FULL EXTENT OF A PASSENGER'S LOSS OF BAGGAGE.

WHERE THE PURCHASER OF A TICKET CAN NEITHER READ NOR WRITE, AND THE TICKET WAS NOT READ TO HIM, AND HE DID NOT KNOW ITS PROVISIONS, HIS ASSENT TO A PROVISION LIMITING THE COMPANY'S LIABILITY AS TO LOSS OF BAGGAGE CANNOT BE PRESUMED.

This was an action against a railroad company by a passenger for the loss of his baggage. The plaintiff purchased a ticket and obtained a check for his baggage which he delivered to the company. The baggage was lost. The ticket contained a clause limiting the liability of the company for loss of baggage to wearing apparel, not exceeding \$100 in value. There was a special verdict showing the plaintiff's damages were \$105, of which \$113 were for wearing apparel. The lower court gave judgment for \$158 and defendant appealed.

The court says: This attempt of the defendant to limit its common law liability as a common carrier must be considered with reference to the other undisputed facts stated in the exceptions. It is there stated that the evidence tended to show that the plaintiff could neither read nor write; that the tickets were not read to him by any person; and that he did not know the provisions of the tickets. With this testimony in the case the defendant was not entitled to have the court comply with its four requests. The defendant by its charter became a common carrier of passengers and their baggage, subject to the common law rules in regard to liability therefor. By nearly universal concurrence of decisions of courts of final resort, including the decisions of this court, such carrier may, by contract, reasonably limit and vary its common law liability, except as to its own negligence. But, it will be held to that liability until it establishes that it has limited or varied it by a contract, express or implied, existing between it and its passengers. The ordinary passenger ticket does not profess to contain the contract by which the passenger obtains his right to carriage over the road of the carrier. Whatever is printed on a passenger ticket, has usually been regarded as a notice by the carrier of its desire to limit or vary its common law liability. To affect such limitation, the carrier must show that the passenger, when he paid his money and received the ticket, did it under such circumstances that he assented to the conditions named upon the ticket. Whether such assent is established depends upon the circumstances of each case. Assent will not be presumed unless the proposed conditions and limitations were known to the passenger, and then much will depend upon whether they are reasonable or unreasonable. As the defendant took no exceptions to the charge on the subject of the special findings of the jury, it is to be presumed that the court stated the law correctly in regard thereto, and that the jury found, as the plaintiff's testimony tended to show, that he had no knowledge of the conditions placed by the defendant upon his ticket at the time he purchased it. He must have had knowledge of them at the time he paid his money. When purchasing his ticket, the passenger frequently has no opportunity nor time to read it. He has a right to understand, unless directly informed to the contrary, that the carrier's undertaking has the common law liability. It is unreasonable to hold, if the conditions printed on the ticket came to his knowledge first after he has entered upon his journey, that he should be held to have assented thereto. The special verdict does not establish that the plaintiff had knowledge of the conditions printed upon his ticket, and

his assent thereto will not be implied. The defendant rests under the common law liability in regard to the loss of the baggage. That liability entitles the plaintiff to recovery for the building loss, as for his entire loss. Reversed on another point.

BRANBLETON WARD

Miss Marion Griffin, of No. 21 Hanson avenue, accompanied by her little brother, Clarence, left Friday night for Roanoke, to visit friends. From there she will go to Scottsville to visit her sister.

Mrs. Powers, Miss Grace Powers and Miss Nellie Bayto, of Brambleton avenue, are summing up at Osborne's cottage, Ocean View.

Mrs. S. R. Brister and daughter, Miss Mamie, of Brambleton avenue, are the guests of Mrs. Powers, at Ocean View.

The many friends of Mrs. George D. Levy, of Brown avenue, who has been seriously ill for several weeks, will be pleased to learn that she is convalescing.

Mrs. Tatem, of Brambleton avenue, left last night for Washington, D. C., on a visit to friends.

Rev. W. L. Gravatt, of Charleston, W. Va., who was recently elevated to the position of Bishop (Coadjutor) of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia, was the first rector of St. Peter's Church in this ward.

Rev. Dr. W. E. Hall, of New York, will preach at Trinity M. E. Church at 8 o'clock to-night.

Rev. Le. R. Christie will preach at Spurgeon Memorial Baptist Church at 11 a. m. to-day on "Who should Parake of the Lord's Supper?" At night Rev. J. T. Riddick, the talented young pastor at Gilmerston, is expected to preach.

Mr. Jackson and daughter, of Mexico, Texas, are the guests of Miss Wright, No. 410 Park avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jones, of 410 Park avenue, are visiting in Blackstone and Farmville, Va.

Mrs. C. S. Measell and children, of East Brambleton avenue, have returned from a visit to relatives and friends in Frederick, Md.

Mrs. W. B. Gregory, of East Brambleton avenue, is on a visit to relatives in Camden, N. C.

Misses Loula and Mattie Harwell, of No. 200 Clay avenue, are visiting relatives and friends in Petersburg and Dinwiddie county, Va.

A negro vendor of bread named Wm. Brown sold a lady residing on Cecelia avenue yesterday two loaves. She gave him a \$5 bill to change. He left his basket of bread at her door and left ostensibly to change the money, but never returned, leaving minus of \$4.90. A warrant will be issued for his arrest.

Mrs. Darrles Gregory, of South Reservoir avenue, has gone to Richmond, where she will spend two weeks visiting friends.

Mrs. John Hall, of 710 James avenue, accompanied by her daughters, Lillian and Lizzie, are spending the summer months with her brother, Mr. William Diggs, at Lynnhaven, Princess Anne county.

Columbia Conclave, Heptasophs, or S. W. M., is now very busy every Monday night. They have five candidates to initiate to-morrow night, and are in a prosperous condition.

Councilman A. M. Cousins is seriously ill at his residence, No. 155 North Park avenue.

LAMBERT'S POINT.

Mrs. William Morris and mother, Mrs. Chester, of Bowden's Ferry Road, are spending their summer vacation at the hotel, Buchroe Beach.

Rev. George H. Spooner, of the M. E. Church, has been granted a month's vacation. He left Friday morning for Culpeper Courtthouse, where he will remain for ten days, and then go to Charlottesville and Anheiser counties.

The Bridgeport Silverplating Mill baseball team appeared for the first time at White House, Norfolk, Va., Brown's Hotel, Portsmouth, Va.

The high character of the G. O. Taylor Whiskies has been maintained for nearly a quarter of a century. In future there will be no departure from the plan to supply the public through licensed dealers everywhere, in sealed bottles, under the brand of G. O. Taylor, that will meet the requirements of the physician of the invalid. Refuse substitutes for G. O. T. If your druggist or grocer cannot supply, or wants to substitute something else, refuse to buy, write the name of the brand of G. O. Taylor Whiskies, Chester H. Graves & Sons, Boston, and they will see that you are supplied.

For sale at White House, Norfolk, Va., Brown's Hotel, Portsmouth, Va.

the first time yesterday in their new and handsome uniform. They are getting ready to cross bats with some of the amateur teams of Norfolk.

Miss Hackett, of Baltimore, is visiting the Misses Cooper, on Tanner's Creek.

Mr. William Jones, of Clarke street, has returned from his visit to Bedford Springs, Va.

A party of twenty gentlemen, residents of the Point, went up to Norfolk last night to join a fishing party on a two days' cruise off Ocean View and the Capes.

Rev. E. Bouldin, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, will hold service at the church at 8 o'clock to-night.

Justice Lotter had a very quiet day in his court yesterday. Not a single case was brought before him.

Mr. J. Q. Hoizer is erecting a handsome double brick tenement on West Pechabontas avenue.

ATLANTIC CITY WARD.

Mr. W. P. Shultz, who has been ill at the Norfolk Protestant Hospital for several weeks, was reported slightly improved last night.

Rev. E. E. Indley has returned from Hampton, where he has been conducting a successful revival of religion.

"Duly Feed Man and Steed." Feed your horses, also, if you would have them strong. Blood made pure and rich by Hood's Sarsaparilla is the only true nerve food. Be sure to get Hood's. It never disappoints.

HOOD'S PILLS cure constipation. Price 25c.

C. & O. Route \$1.00 to Richmond, or Williamsburg round trip Sunday, July 30th. Steamer Louise leaves Portsmouth, 9:30; Norfolk, 7:00 a. m. sharp, connecting with train at Newport News, arriving in Richmond at 10:45 a. m. Returning, leave Richmond at 8 p. m.; arrive in Norfolk at 11 p. m. J. E. HERMAN, Manager. Jy21.22.23.27.28.29-61

All in sight of monument. "Newest Discovery" extracts teeth painlessly. N. Y. Dental Rooms, Ennes only, 324 Main street, corner Talbot.

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BUYING FARMLAND.

A WESTERN SYNDICATE LOOKING AROUND NORFOLK.

There has been noticeable activity in real estate transactions in this immediate section for the past few months. The value of the farm lands contiguous to Norfolk is known far and wide, as evinced by recent negotiations of Western capitalists looking to the establishment of big dairy farms near here. It is stated that a Columbus, O., company, represented by Mr. O. D. Jackson, of Norfolk, formerly of Ohio, has acquired the Phillip farm, about three miles southeast of the city, and will operate thereon a large milk farm, besides the raising of truck for the market.

It was also rumored that the Ballentine farm had been sold to Ohio parties, presumably the same company that bought the Phillip farm, but a Virginian-Pilot reporter saw Captain Thomas Ballentine yesterday, and he positively denied that there had been any sale. He said, however, that a party was negotiating with a company or syndicate, for its sale.

Injuries Resulted in Death. An inquest in the case of Joseph Brown, the colored brakeman who died at St. Vincent's Hospital Wednesday night, as the result of injuries received on the Ocean View railroad, was held at 5 o'clock Friday afternoon. After hearing the evidence the jury reached a verdict that the deceased came to his death from internal hemorrhage, caused by his falling from an Ocean View train while stepping from one car to another.

Property Transfers. A deed was recorded in the clerk's office yesterday transferring from J. L. Webster to O. G. Webster, four lots fronting 25 feet each on the north side of Olney road, and extending back to Hamilton avenue; \$5,000.

We are making a special run on FINE QUALITY DIAMONDS. Learn our prices for first-class goods. THE GALE JEWELRY CO.

Colored Y. M. C. A. Rev. P. L. Grooms, who has spent several years in missionary work on the western coast of Africa, will speak at the men's meeting of Colored Y. M. C. A. at 5 o'clock this afternoon. His theme will be "What I Saw in Africa."

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