

510.

Counsel for Plaintiff in Error.

determined by degrees of evil or exercised in cases where detriment is specially experienced.' *Armour & Co. v. North Dakota*, 240 U. S. 510, 517." Moreover, we pointed out that "the deference due to the judgment of the legislature on the matter" had "been emphasized again and again. *Hebe Co. v. Shaw*, 248 U. S. 297, 303." *Dominion Hotel v. Arizona*, ante, 265.

Necessarily the legislature of the State did not think, and the courts below did not think, that individuals and municipalities stood in the same relation to the evil aimed at or that a public body charged with the care of the interests and welfare of the people would need the same restraint upon its action as an individual, or be induced to detrimental conduct.

Judgment affirmed.

GILLIS, ADMINISTRATRIX OF GILLIS, v. NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN & HARTFORD RAILROAD COMPANY.

ERROR TO THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

No. 296. Argued March 26, 27, 1919.—Decided April 21, 1919.

In the absence of manifest error, concurrent action of state trial and appellate courts in finding no evidence of defendant's negligence sufficient to go to the jury, in a case under the Federal Employers' Liability Act, will not be reëxamined by this court.

224 Massachusetts, 541, affirmed.

THE case is stated in the opinion.

Mr. James J. McCarthy, with whom *Mr. Daniel M. Lyons* and *Mr. Thomas C. O'Brien* were on the brief, for plaintiff in error.

Mr. John L. Hall for defendant in error.

MR. JUSTICE MCKENNA delivered the opinion of the court.

Action under the Employers' Liability statute, 35 Stat. 65. Plaintiff in error's intestate, on November 3, 1912, while in the railroad company's service in interstate commerce, was killed, through the negligence, in whole or in part, it is charged, of one of the company's officers, agents or employees.

The defenses of the company were denial of the declaration and averments that the intestate's injuries and death were due to and caused by his own negligence and besides "were the result of acts, conditions and circumstances the happening of which was assumed" by him.

The case was tried to a jury. At the conclusion of the testimony, upon motion of defendant and over the objection and exception of plaintiff, the court ruled that upon all of the evidence the plaintiff was not entitled to recover and directed a verdict for defendant. It was stipulated that the case was to be reported for the determination of the full court and that if the ruling and direction should be held to be right, then judgment was to be entered for defendant. "If the case ought to have been submitted to the jury, then judgment is to be entered for the plaintiff in the sum of forty-five hundred (\$4500) dollars." The case was so reported. The full court reviewed the testimony quite elaborately and concluded from that review that "the only person who was negligent was the deceased and the judge was right in directing a verdict for the defendant," and cited *Great Northern Ry. Co. v. Wiles*, 240 U. S. 444.

That case repeated the established principle that when the evidence justifies it it is competent for a court to direct a verdict for a defendant. The principle is not

attacked by plaintiff. The contention, however, is that the courts below, one of which tried the case, were wrong in their estimate of the evidence and that plaintiff was entitled to the judgment of the jury upon it. We are unable to yield to the contention. Nor do we think it necessary to give a review of the evidence. It will be found in the opinion of the court and we have verified its correctness. The case turns, therefore, upon an appreciation of the testimony and admissible inferences therefrom, and even if the conclusions of the courts were more disputable we should have to defer to them. *Baltimore & Ohio R. R. Co. v. Whitacre*, 242 U. S. 169; *Erie R. R. Co. v. Welsh*, 242 U. S. 303.

Judgment affirmed.

UNITED RAILROADS OF SAN FRANCISCO *v.* CITY
AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ET AL.

APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

No. 282. Argued March 25, 1919.—Decided April 21, 1919.

A general law, in force when a street railroad franchise was granted by a city, provided that in no case must two railroad corporations occupy and use the same street for more than five blocks; and the franchise ordinance, referring to the law, expressed a like limitation on the power of the board of supervisors, as to the streets covered by the franchise. *Held*, that the limitation was not intended to affect the city when constructing a street railroad of its own under a later amendment of the law and of the state constitution. P. 519. *Held*, further, that the grantee took the risk of this judicial interpretation of its franchise and of the city's railroad being run in the same streets on either side of its own, and that any damage inevitably resulting was not a taking of its property requiring resort to eminent domain. P. 520.