

SUPPLEMENT TO
Crook County Journal

PRINEVILLE, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, NOV. 29, 1906.

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**THE GOVERNOR
VISITS SHEPHERD**

**Appeal Made for a Commu-
tation of the Death
Penalty.**

A Salem dispatch to the Oregonian says that in response to many requests for a commutation of the sentence of death, Governor Chamberlain went to the penitentiary and visited Fred A. Shepherd, who is condemned to hang next Friday for the murder of his employer, Ben Zell, in Crook county, last summer. The Governor is satisfied that Shepherd is a degenerate, but is not satisfied that he is so mentally and morally incompetent as to be irresponsible.

Shepherd admits his crime and recites the details. His story is that Mrs. Zell planned the murder, but as all the circumstances discredit this it looks like another instance of the man trying to throw the blame upon a woman. Shepherd is not worrying over his fate, but jokes about death upon the gallows, and a few days ago secured permission to visit the execution chamber. He is represented to be an ignorant man of small moral perception.

Among those who called upon the Governor in his behalf were Thomas Barnes, J. H. Geddes and Thomas Butler, of Linn county, who have known Shepherd since boyhood. Shepherd went to school to Geddes, and the latter says he was always weak mentally. The Governor has written to Trial Judge Frazer and District attorney Menefee for their opinions of the case.

Awaits Result of Appeal.

Representative Williamson, in a letter to the Oregonian, says he has no idea of serving sentence. He writes, "In The Sunday Oregonian of November 4, I notice a statement under the head lines

"Take His Medicine," in which it is stated that a report was received from The Dalles indicating that I had decided to commence serving sentence and that arrangements with that object in view are now under way.

I have thus far refrained from attempting to take my case into the tribunal of the public press, and I appreciate the fact that this is neither the time nor the occasion for me to express my views as to the attitude of the press and its bearing upon the trial of my cause. I had assumed that when the verdict of conviction was secured at the end of the third trial the prosecuting officers and the press would be content to leave the matters yet to be determined by the courts to the decision of the Appellate Courts without attempting further to prejudice my rights by publication of misleading statements. No foundation whatever for the alleged report from The Dalles ever existed, so far as I know, and whatever the motive for the publication of this alleged report or rumor may be I cannot avoid the conclusion that its publication is harmful to me by creating an impression that I did not expect a reversal. Will you grant me this opportunity to say that no thought ever entered my mind of serving a sentence unless the Appellate Courts shall decide that I did have a fair and impartial trial according to the established rules and principles of law, and I trust, and firmly believe that such decision will never be rendered.

I ask at the hands of the press that treatment which appeals to every man's sense of fairness and justice; from the courts I ask only for the fair and impartial trial to which every American citizen is entitled. It remains for the Appellate Courts to determine whether or not this has been accorded to me.

J. N. WILLIAMSON.

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