

WILL CREATE LAWS

Effort Will Be Made to Establish Juvenile Court.

WIFE-DESSERTERS UNDER BAN

Their Crime Will Be Made Punishable by Penal Servitude, and Measure Authorizing Indeterminate Sentence Introduced.

IN COURSE OF COMPILATION.

A law to make wife-desertion a crime punishable by penal servitude.

A bill providing for the care, training and education of the idiotic and feeble-minded of the state now incarcerated in the Asylum of Oregon, and providing for suitable buildings to house each class or classes.

A statute creating a Juvenile Court in cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more, before which all offenses committed against society by minors shall be tried.

A bill providing for the creation of a state board of charities and correction, which shall have general supervision over and stand in relation of a coordinator to the public charities of the state.

A committee composed of representatives of the Oregon State Conference of Charities and Correction and of the Prisons Aid Society is at work on the drafting of a number of bills which will be presented to the next session of the Legislature for enactment.

This committee consists of Judge A. F. Sears, of the Circuit Court; Judge H. W. Hogue, of the Municipal Court; J. D. Lee, ex-superintendent of the Penitentiary; Senator C. J. Smith, of Umatilla County, and Mrs. R. H. Trumbull and Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Commissioners of Child Labor.

The committee has been at work for some time and has prepared a number of bills which will be drawn up and submitted to the Legislature, all of which will be in the nature of reform and calculated to improve the present state of society and to diminish the common abuses of today.

Perhaps the most notable, if not unique, bill which is under consideration is one which will provide punishment for wife desertion and make the offense penal and extraditable.

This measure is being prepared at the suggestion of the National Conference of Charities and Correction, which will meet in Portland in July, 1905. It is a measure that has been adopted in several states with good effect and is being explained the position of the committee on the subject last evening.

"A man can desert his wife at the present time," he said, "and can leave the state and leave her destitute with no provision for her support, but he cannot be reached and there is no way to compel him to come back and do his duty. It is desired therefore to make the offense extraditable and punishable by imprisonment."

To Create Juvenile Court.

The measure proposed, however, which would in all probability be the most far-reaching and beneficial in effect is that providing for the creation of the Juvenile Court. The bill is being introduced by Senator Lindsey, of Denver, and is in the hands of the Governor and is expected to pass both Houses without opposition.

Another measure under course of preparation is that providing for the indeterminate sentence and parole of criminals on the first offense, except in such grave crimes as highway robbery, assault with intent to kill, and assault with intent to maim, and other like nature.

This measure is also approved by the Governor and, in the opinion of the committee, is certain of passage. It will provide for the first sentence for a crime may be sentenced, but if the Judge so wills, not imprisoned. That he may be allowed to go on parole during good behavior without loss of citizenship. During the parole, however, he will be under the surveillance of the court and should be arrested for and convicted of another crime, he will be sentenced to the first sentence for both. The law would do away with the idea of a fixed term of imprisonment irrespective of reform. On the other hand the release would not be unconditional and would be subject to reform and an incentive so to do.

To Create Board of Charities.

The creation of a state board of charities will be asked for, which board will have supervision over and stand in the relation of a coordinator to the public charities of the state, as is the case in nearly every state of the Union.

An attempt will be made to get the Legislature to make some provision for the training and instruction of the feeble-minded and idiotic charges of the state. Under the system practiced in Oregon no provision is made for the instruction of such unfortunate. They are bunched together with every class of insane. In other states it has been demonstrated that the feeble-minded can be taught the simpler crafts and made of some use to the world, and it is the wish of the committee to accomplish this end here. The preliminary drafts for these measures are now being completed and the finished documents will be ready for submission by the time the Legislature convenes.

Had Experience in Storm.

H. Johnson and wife, who reside in South Portland and who took a down to Clatsop last Saturday, returned home in a hurry yesterday to escape a dreadful storm which was raging there. They hardly knew their place when they arrived and concluded that there must have

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POWERFUL APPEAL

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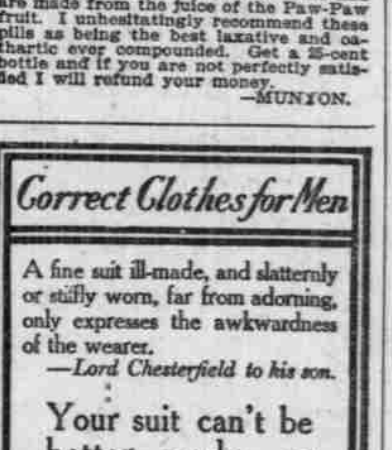
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