

WATER IN SCREEN SOUGHT BY JUDGES

Legislature Will Be Asked to Amend Law by Abolishing Minimum Sentences.

BAR ASSOCIATION IN FAVOR OF ABOLISHING MINIMUM SENTENCES

Argument Made That Courts Hearing Evidence and Seeing Culprits Are Best Qualified to Decide Punishment.

Abolition of the minimum sentence and the broadening of judicial discretion in punishment of criminals contemplated in a proposed amendment which may be prepared by the Circuit Judges of Multnomah County for presentation to the Legislature this year.

At a meeting of the Jurists yesterday presiding Judge Gantenbein appointed Judge Gatens and Tucker a committee to hold a conference with him in his chambers at noon today to consider the feasibility of preparing a satisfactory amendment in time to be passed on by the Legislature this session.

District Attorney Evans is thoroughly in sympathy with the plan, in fact, he proposed such an amendment at the recent convention of the State Bar Association when it met with virtually unanimous approval.

Judge Gatens suggested yesterday at a meeting called to consider another matter which Judge Gatens presided over this session. The proposition was welcomed.

Penalties Not Approved. The present penalties are held to be disproportionately in many instances and to leave too little to the discretion of the trial judge. The sentiment of the judges yesterday was in favor of a measure which would abolish the minimum penalties and authorize the trial judge—who hears the evidence, sees the defendant, and knows the details of the case and underlying criminal tendencies—to fix the penalty at a fine, jail, or penitentiary sentence.

There would be a maximum sentence for the chief groups of crime but no minimum sentence. The parole board would be relieved of much of its work and the power of the parole power of the judges.

The change might be in the nature of a sweeping reform of the system now in force in Oregon controlling the punishment of criminals, and the judges desire to proceed slowly in the matter of recommending the reform.

Recommendations of Judge Gantenbein yesterday would make no positive announcement of the plans, which he declares were very much in embryo, as yet.

Judges Feel Handicap. Judges of the Circuit Court have been free to assert for a long time that they have worked under a decided handicap with the present system of indeterminate sentences.

There are various ways in which the iron-bound rulings of the indeterminate sentence have been evaded by the judiciary in the past. The most familiar is to allow the criminal to plead guilty to a lesser crime, which is charged in the indictment with which he is charged is believed too severe for his case.

Often instead of sending a man to the penitentiary, a judge will parole him because he cannot well plead guilty to a lesser crime. And the parole is sometimes granted on a condition that the man would have been a deeper respect for law.

Judges Gantenbein, Gatens, Tucker, Kavanaugh, Davis and Morrow were present at the meeting yesterday, at which indeterminate sentences were considered by such an amendment was given.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

Steamer Schedule. Name. DUE TO ARRIVE. Date. ... DEPART. Date. ... Pacific Coast Shipping Notes. COOS BAY, Or., Jan. 23.—(Special).—The steamer Adeline Smith sailed with lumber from the South Fork of the Coos Bay River.

2 SHIPS TO BE BUILT AT YOP PRICE

Eastern Maritime Firm Contracts With Joseph Supple.

VESSELS TO BE OF WOOD

Shipbuilding Plant to be Constructed on East Side on Property Leased From North Bank-Experienced Designer Engaged.

Gaston, Williams & Wigmore Steamship Corporation, of New York, one of the best-known Eastern marine firms, has contracted with Joseph Supple for the construction of two wooden vessels that will be built on the East Side, on property under lease to Mr. Supple from the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railroad.

Mr. Supple is the designer of a special type of a composite vessel, wood and steel being used, while Mr. Supple has had a strong leaning toward a wooden vessel with a double planked hull.

Mr. Supple began his deep-water building on the Great Lakes and on shifting to the Pacific Coast started at San Diego, coming to Portland from there, and he has turned out some of the largest and best vessels in the inland waters in Western waters.

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BALEFOUR FLEET AUGMENTED

Company Has Five Carriers Listed for River to Work Lumber.

OLYMPIA IS TO BUILD SHIPS

Yard to be Started at Once to Handle Four Motor Ships.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 23.—(Special).—Phillip D. Sloan, president and general manager of the Sloan Shipyards company, operating in other parts of the West, where they can find sellers, and prices for new wood are slowly but surely advancing all along the line.

Not much is doing in the way of contracting east of the mountains. Buyers have been offering 25¢ cents for fine and 35¢ cents for coarser wool, but grovers are not disposed to sign up. It is figured that less than 200,000 pounds of Eastern Oregon wools have been contracted for to date.

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AT YOP PRICE

Best Valley Product Brings Forty-One Cents.

NEW CLIP MAY BE HIGH

Contract Offers East of Mountains Do Not Appeal to Grovers—Bids Are Advancing All Along Line.

Spot Market Is Strong.

What is reported to be the highest price ever paid for Oregon wool was realized by the Portland Wool Warehouse company, which has just sold 40,000 pounds of quarter and three-eighths 1916 Valley wool at up to 41 cents a pound.

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The Canadian Bank of Commerce. HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, CANADA. Established 1867.

PORTLAND BRANCH, CORNER SECOND AND STARK STREETS. F. C. MALPAS, Manager.

PORTLAND MARKET QUOTATIONS. Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc. Merchant's Exchange, noon session. Jan. 23.

Bank Clearings. Bank clearing of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows:

Portland Clearings, Balances. Portland 2,817,875.12. Seattle 3,064,910.28. Tacoma 480,884.28. Spokane 82,800.00.

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WOODLAND IS IN SERVICE

Sternwheeler's Underwater Stunt to be Probed by Inspectors.

HAWAIIAN VOYAGE BOOSTED

W. D. Skinner Thinks Garden Spot of Pacific Well Merits Patronage.

Notice to Mariners.

Local Bids Are Lowered Three to Four Cents.

TEACHERS SEE CLASSES

WORK OF JEWISH WOMEN IS AMAZING TO EDUCATORS.

CHILDREN LEARNING ENGLISH ARE VISITED IN CLASSROOM, WHILE OTHERS PLAY FOR RECEPTION AND TEA.

STEEL YARD HUMMING NOW

Majority of Union Men Resume, Mostly Helpers Being Unemployed.

ROSE STARTS NEW SERVICE

Smaller Harbors on Coast Will Have Regular Attention for Aids.

GOVERNOR TO BE AT DINNER

"Lang Syne" Society to Have Annual Gathering at Multnomah.

DECLINE IN EGGS FAIRLY CHECKED

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Union Pacific System. O-W-R-R-N. Steamer "Harvest Queen" for Astoria North Beach & Lower Columbia Landings.

San Francisco Los Angeles (Without Change En Route). S. S. Rose City. Sails From Astoria Dock 100 P. M. MONDAY, JANUARY 29.

Twin Palaces S.S. GREAT NORTHERN-NORTHERN PACIFIC. S. S. GREAT NORTHERN, San Francisco, Portland, Astoria, Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, Bellingham, Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, Tacoma,