

REMEDY PROPOSED TO SPEED TRIALS

Correction of Court Abuses Advocated.

U. S. CRIME HELD WORST

Judge Griffiths Gives Approval to Court Unification Under Administrative Head.

PUGET SOUND BUREAU, Seattle, Wash., Nov. 18.—

To check lawlessness, to make justice more swift and sure, and at the same time less costly to persons of small means, and to correct various defects and abuses, are, in general, the purposes of the recommendations recently submitted to the justices of the state supreme court by Austin E. Griffiths, presiding superior court judge of King county. Judge Griffiths' recommendations have been made in accord with the constitutional provision, suggestive rather than mandatory, that "superior judges report to the supreme court such defects and omissions in the laws as their experience may suggest." Not many of the judges of this state have acted on this provision, and it is said that Judge Griffiths' report is more comprehensive, as well as more specific, than any hitherto offered the supreme court. In transmitting the report, Judge Griffiths writes to the supreme justices: "I conceive the purpose of this constitutional direction to be to bring to you, and through you to the governor and ultimately to the legislature, the judgment of trial judges upon the wisdom and adequacy of our laws."

U. S. Crimes Held Worst.

In discussing the prevalence of crime, the escape of criminals, the lack of power of trial courts to control procedure, the failure of many judges to be anything more than automatons on the bench, Judge Griffiths quotes from addresses and published articles by Chief Justice Taft, from the American Bar Association Journal, and the reports of the National Municipal League, the Chicago Crime Commission, the Cleveland Survey and other sources. Special emphasis is given to that section of the report of the bar association's committee which says: "The crime situation in the United States, so far as crimes of violence are concerned, is worse than that in any other civilized country. Here there is less respect for law. Certainly it is true that the criminals and not the public benefit by delays."

Reform is Outlined.

Judge Griffiths summarizes the essentials of judicial reform recommended by all the highest authorities, as follows:

First: Control by the courts, under proper rules, of procedure in actions and proceedings before them.

Second: Unification of the courts under administrative headship.

As to these essentials, he points out that the constitution and statutes of this state give a great deal of considerable power to the judges, much of which remains unexercised in the course of court routine and deference to precedent, and that the constitution gives the governor authority to assign judges. Governors of the state have very seldom exercised this authority, but Judge Griffiths sees in it the basis of a unified and administrative state judiciary.

"We have 45 superior court judges," he writes in his report. "Many of them are comparatively little to do during the year. A few judges in the big counties are overworked. The state pays one-half of the salaries in litigation in the populous centers is not only local, but is state, national and international in character. The law should require the governor to take docket reports from each superior court and assign judges to prevent docket congestion."

Speeding Up Cases Needed.

Admitting by inference that some courts do not seek to expedite trials and litigation by use of the powers with which they are already vested, Judge Griffiths notes the need of statutory amendments that will enlarge those powers and make them more specific. Some of his suggestions follow:

"Motions for new trials should be made within a very brief period to be fixed by law; the 30-day limit now allowed the superior court to decide submitted matters should be shortened by law; to check dilatory motions and demurrers and to lessen continuances in civil cases, the court should have power to impose fees to be paid into the public treasury; date for trial of criminal cases should be definitely fixed at the time of arraignment; the court should have clear authority to limit the interminable examination of witnesses, to limit the number of witnesses per class and in total, and to determine when experts shall or shall not be used; the court should have power to designate a special trial calendar, on which should be put for immediate successive hearing or trial cases shown to be of emergency or of general or public character; forms of pleadings and papers should be simplified, shortened and standardized."

Jury Evasion Discussed.

The report discusses the evasion of jury duty, and recommends that the term of service for petty jurors should be at least two months; that one-half the number of jurors summoned should be required to serve a month with one-half the succeeding panel, so as to keep experienced jurors on every panel; and that if a juror cannot, for valid reasons, serve in the month for which he is called, he be required to attend for service the next month. He would make it an offense for any employer to put obstacles in the way of an employee summoned for

Jury service, and expresses the opinion that jurors are entitled to better pay.

Judge Griffiths recommends an annual grand jury session for every county or judicial district, and remarks that it is not sound policy to leave the calling of a grand jury to the will of a judge. He also remarks that "it is not sensible to let law enforcement fall almost entirely, as it is slowly doing, into the control of prosecuting attorneys. With the recent King county controversy evidently in mind, he urges that where a grand jury inquiry may affect the county commissioners or the county prosecutor, the court should have clear authority to appoint special counsel."

System for Disputes Advocated.

This report proposes a simple statutory system for advisory hearing and settlement of disputes, thereby preventing formal litigation. Judge Griffiths would open the way to legal arbitration at the call of either side in a dispute, without affecting the rights of parties, in case of failure to agree, to seek other remedies. He would have the jurisdiction of the courts enlarged so as to declare a judgment in cases of actual controversy before damage has been sustained. He urges statutory restriction of the now unlimited privilege of demanding change of venue on affidavit of prejudice.

In conclusion, Judge Griffiths suggests that "a commission of inquiry be appointed to simplify and codify both civil and criminal practice and procedure. This is being done in the state. The majority of the commission should not be judges and lawyers. The influence of judges and lawyers upon such a commission will more than make up for their minority number."

STAGE EXTENSION DENIED

Application to Increase Service to Chehalis Is Rejected.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Nov. 18.—(Special.)—The application of the Kay-Bee Stage company to extend its Aberdeen-Centralia run to Chehalis was denied by the department of public works today. The department found an interurban line rendering frequent service, and a railroad train running daily each way. One bus line is already operating and has on file with the department an application to render 15-minute service between Aberdeen and Chehalis.

H. L. Pate was denied a freight certificate between Yakima and Grandview on the ground that the railroad and an existing station were furnishing all necessary service.

EATING OF HONEY URGED

Importance of Bee Industry Told by Washington Governor.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Nov. 18.—(Special.)—"Bee keeping is becoming a very important industry in the state of Washington," Acting Governor W. J. Coyle, said in a statement today urging the people of the state to join in observing an existing station were furnishing all necessary service.

Dental Society to Meet.

The November meeting of the Portland district dental society will be held Tuesday night, November 21, in the auditorium of the Portland hotel. The program will include a debate on the subject, "Resolved, That the amalgam restoration is more valuable to dentistry than the gold inlay." On the affirmative side will be Dr. Jean Cline and Dr. Earl Abbott, and on the negative Dr. S. Reingold and Dr. J. Barber. A lecture on some therapy will be given by Dr. E. Tracy Parker, and musical entertainment will be provided by the Pal Omega orchestra.

Contempt Order Confirmed.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Nov. 18.—(Special.)—The order of Judge Calvin S. Hall adjudging Morris Buttnick, prominent Seattle business man, in contempt of court for failing to pay \$200 a month temporary separate maintenance to Cella Buttnick, was affirmed by the supreme court today. The court found Buttnick able to pay the amount and capable of earning large sums of money, as well as having a large income from the Buttnick Investment company. The order allowing the temporary maintenance also was affirmed.



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Cornerstone of Present Building Laid in 1889 by Archbishop Alexander Christie.

MOUNT ANGEL COLLEGE, St. Benedict, Or., Nov. 18.—(Special.)—The 40th anniversary of the foundation of Mount Angel college was celebrated last Monday. A holiday was proclaimed by the Rev. Rector Father Victor. A solemn high mass was sung by the Rev. Prior Father Jerome. He was assisted by Rev. Father Benedict and Rev. Father Bede, as deacon and sub-deacon, respectively. Father Clement officiated as master of ceremonies.

This anniversary marks another great step in the progress of the institution. Rev. Adolph Oedermaier, O. S. B., founder of Mount Angel college, came over from Switzerland to America in 1873, and after eight years of hard labor

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Fine Mahogany Dining Room Suite Regularly \$972.50 **\$583.70**

This is a magnificent 10-piece suite, perfectly matched. The pieces and their regular prices are as follows: Buffet, \$215; China Cabinet, \$175; Extension Table, \$245; Server, \$100; Carver, \$50; five Diners, \$37.50 each. We have only one of these suites, therefore it is offered at a reduction of 40 PER CENT.

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The tables have 45-inch tops, and extend to 6 ft.; chairs have genuine leather seats. A splendid suite for an apartment, or for a bungalow with built-ins.

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