

WOULD ABOLISH WHIPPING POST FOR OREGON WIFE BEATERS

New Plan is to Make Them Break Rock and Pay Families Their Wages.

LEGISLATORS TALK OF THE NEW SCHEME

Some Think It Is Good Plan and Others Declare It Is Not Practical—Will Be Presented to Legislature for Action.

A plan to do away with the whipping post as a punishment for wife beaters and to substitute therefore a term of hard labor, with cash payments to the family of the criminal during his term of confinement, will be presented to Oregon's legislature when it convenes next January.

The plan has already been embodied in two bills by County Judge Webster of Multnomah. These bills will be turned over to the legislative committee of the Portland Bar association and by it will be introduced in the legislature. These bills deal with two crimes, assault and battery on the wife and failure to support the wife and children. They provide for punishment at hard labor on the county roads for from 90 days to two years time with remuneration to the family of \$1 a day.

Representative L. H. Adams, for example, is of the opinion that the wife beaters do not get what is coming to them, while Mr. Beveridge is afraid that the new plan would prove a source of family support among a certain class of people. Most of the others interviewed on the subject, however, are of the opinion that such a law would be a good thing provided it was hedged around with limitations sufficient to keep out any chance of fraud or burden to the counties.

"I am afraid from what I have heard of the movement," said Representative Beveridge, "that we would be inviting trouble for ourselves should we pass such a law. It appears to me that some of the illiterate classes would rather beat their wives and thus allow them to earn \$1 a day while they lived off the county than they would to get out and make an honest living in the first place. I am afraid that we would have wife beating cases every one in a while."

Burns Doesn't Believe It. Representative D. C. Burns is of an opposite opinion. "If the law were passed and the officers would make the wife beaters earn the dollar a day and their board besides, so that the county would not be put to all the extra expense, I think it would be a good measure. I would not be in favor of burdening the county with extra expense, but know that the compulsory support law in Europe is a success. There a man is arrested and forced to work hard for the support of his family even if he deserts his wife and children and is not guilty of otherwise missing them. It has worked well there and I believe such a law here would be a success."

Frank F. Freeman, another member of the lower house, was for the repeal of the whipping law. "I do not believe that the whipping post has served its purpose or done any good," he said. "It has certainly been of no benefit to the women who have been beaten by their husbands. Even if it were a good measure, it has not been invoked enough to tell what would be its effect. I am in favor of any law which would prove a benefit to those unfortunate women who are compelled to suffer the abuse of inhuman husbands. I would not wish to see any extra burden placed on the county, however."

Knocks for the Post. "I have always thought the whipping-post law was a step back on the part of the state, and a retrogression into the practices of the dark ages," was the way Senator Dan J. Maloney spoke on the subject. "I think it should be repealed, but as to other propositions I have not considered it, and so do not like to make any statement until I have been able to make some investigation."

Senator S. C. Beach thinks the whipping-post law a good one, and should be enforced. "I think the whipping is good medicine," said the senator, "and as far as am informed at this time would not be in favor of repealing the law now in force."

Senator N. Wheelon of The Dalles is in favor of the law proposed by Webster and thinks such a plan would be a good thing and worthy of the serious consideration of the legislature.

"We don't whip 'em enough," is the stand taken by Representative L. H. Adams. "He holds that the whipping post is a deterrent to wifebeaters, and thinks the courts should enforce the law now on the books."

The Journal secured interviews with the Multnomah county circuit court judges, whose duty or privilege it is to impose the whipping-post penalty. Judge Frazer's ideas. "My opinion of the whipping-post law," said Judge Frazer, "is best expressed by my own acts in sentencing two wifebeaters to be whipped. And they were whipped. I am of the opinion that, while it is brutal, it has had a good effect. I have been informed that threats by the abused wife that she would have her husband whipped have made more than one man of that class more careful what he did. The whipping-post is simply a penalty which is imposed at the discretion of the court. It is an additional power. As to the other plan, I doubt its practicability. For experience has proved that when a man is sent to jail or to the penitentiary it costs more to keep him than his labor is worth. Money paid his family would not represent his earnings, for he would be earning nothing."

Judge Sears said that in his opinion the law is all right now. "Of course," said he, "it is right that the time a man puts in should be devoted to the support of his family, but there are so few cases of wifebeating that I see no special reason for changing the law."

Judge Cleland said that he did not know how the present law could be improved. "I don't believe it has been in force long enough for any one to form an intelligent opinion as to its efficiency. I don't know what is better to do than to give it a real trial."

Judge Genshler expressed the opinion that the whipping-post law is simply an addition to the powers of the circuit judge, and with it he is able more than formerly to make the punishment fit the crime. He had no improvements to suggest.

Tariff Changes at Discretion. "The act to regulate commerce authorizes the commission in its discretion, and for good cause shown, to permit changes in tariff rates on less than the statutory notice. It is believed that this authority should be exercised only in instances where special or peculiar circumstances really justify it. Confusion and complication would result from indiscriminate exercise of this authority. Applications for permission to change tariffs on short notice are received on indefinite and informal occasions over the signatures of many local officials. Some telegraphic requests are received which make no mention of verified copies, and which are not followed by verified copies, as per rules previously made by the commission."

The commission, therefore, announces that application for permission to change tariffs on less than statutory notice shall be addressed to the interstate commerce commission in form specified by the commission under date of September 17, 1906, and must be over signature of the president, vice-president, general traffic manager, general freight agent, or general passenger agent, specifying the title.

Biggers' Big Roll Follows Little One. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Pendleton, Or., Nov. 15.—Following the principal event in the gambling case in which Dr. Biggers, formerly of La Grande, as he alleged, was banded out of \$400 in cash and a certificate of deposit for \$1,000 issued by a La Grande bank and on which Biggers speedily ordered payment stopped, it develops that, quick as he was, Roy Stewart, one of the three men charged with participation in the buncoing, was considerably quicker. It is now stated that the certificate had been presented to the First National bank here and that after due inquiry of the La Grande bank that issued it the First National honored it. The certificate had been properly indorsed, and Stewart, it is said, collected it in person. Biggers, accordingly, is the sole loser in the transaction. His only recourse is upon Stewart, who was placed under arrest and who is in evidence and subject to proceedings. Stewart's companions, a man named Endicott, and an alleged Swede, name unknown, have completely disappeared.

An Earned Degree. From Tid-Bits. Ian MacLaren tells an amusing story with regard to bogus degrees. A sweep prosecuted a debtor in the suburbs of Edinburgh for debt. The presiding judge called the sweep to give evidence, and the first question he asked him was: "What is your name?" "Jamie Gregory, LL. D., sir."

"What? Doctor of Laws? And where on earth did you get that distinction?" "Twas a fellow fra' an American university, and I swept his chimney three times. 'I canna pay ye cash, Jamie Gregory,' he says, 'but I'll make you an LL. D. and we'll call it quits. And he did."

Temptation. "I have been abused so much by reform papers," said a millionaire today, "that I am tempted to slap my own face."

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Reason for His Being Examined Is Not Given and No Report of Work Done During Past Week Has as Yet Been Made. Municipal Judge George J. Cameron testified before the grand jury just before its adjournment yesterday afternoon. The substance of Judge Cameron's testimony was not divulged. District Attorney Manning, when asked about it, said:

"Judge Cameron's testimony did not relate to himself nor to anything of importance. After hearing the testimony of Judge Cameron at the grand jury adjourned until 9:30 o'clock Monday morning. No report of the work done by them during the past week was made. It was rumored at the courthouse that proceedings were to be instituted against attorney Henry McGinn on account of his uninvited entrance into the grand jury room last Monday. Wednesday the grand jury presented to Judge Sears a hypothetical question as to what offense could be charged for the forcible entry into the grand jury room of a person not summoned to appear before them. They were informed that it would be in the nature of a proceeding for contempt of court. District Attorney Manning was asked yesterday who would investigate such a proceeding. He replied:

"The grand jury, if any is brought. "Has any action been taken with reference to it?" "I can only tell what is already known—that the grand jury asked information of Judge Sears concerning it. He told them what they could do. And I think they will do it," he added as he disappeared into the grand jury room. J. A. Wesco and George W. Black, handwriting experts, testified before the grand jury yesterday the inquiry into the alleged swindling operations of Walton H. Taft. An indictment charging Taft with forgery has been returned, and others are expected to follow the testimony given yesterday.

Wish You Would. Look in for yourself and see our line of hats and garments adapted to all figures and at prices more popular than other merely ready-made garments and then one fifth off all this week. Le Palais Royal, 375 Washington street.

Big Ticket is Sold. M. J. Cloney, together with out-of-town associates, has purchased from P. P. Dabney and I. W. Baird the 52 acres of land adjoining Fulton Park on the west. The price paid by Mr. Cloney and associates, \$40,000, indicates a considerable rise compared to former prices in this section of the city.

Police Judge Cameron Testifies Before Body. Reason for His Being Examined Is Not Given and No Report of Work Done During Past Week Has as Yet Been Made. Municipal Judge George J. Cameron testified before the grand jury just before its adjournment yesterday afternoon. The substance of Judge Cameron's testimony was not divulged. District Attorney Manning, when asked about it, said:

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