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Some will always be above others. Destroy the inequality today, and it will appear again tomorrow.—Emerson.

THE START CASE

It is on the narrowest sort of a quibble that the Oregon supreme court reverses the lower court in the Start case.

The three justices who join in the majority opinion hold that the court below erred in not instructing the jury to consider the testimony of Earl Van Hulen as that of an accomplice.

Is it the purpose of the law to keep a part of the information away from the jury? The defendant's relations with others were corroborative of the testimony of Van Hulen.

Perhaps as the majority opinion holds, the testimony as to relations of Start with others had no "logical connection" with this particular offense.

The probable effect of the decision is to permit ancient precedent and unreasonable technicality to free a criminal. If the jury in the retrial must consider Van Hulen's testimony as that of an accomplice and must not hear the testimony of Start's relations of similar character with others, there is slim show of conviction.

EFFICIENCY IN VOTING

When Governor Hodges suggested that the Kansas legislature take a long vacation and allow Kansas to catch up with laws he touched upon a vital spot of popular government.

No machinery for governing is of practical use without efficient operators. Efficient operators are secured only by careful selection.

The manufacturer buys an up-to-date machine; then hires men able to run it. If the manufacturer must experiment in hiring, he brings to his assistance generally accepted tests of efficiency.

There is something to Governor Hodges' suggestion if Kansas people have mislaid themselves into thinking that laws, however good, as abstract propositions, are of any earthly use unless administered. Letting Kansas catch up with Kansas law, is another way of saying that efficiency in government depends upon efficient officials, that efficient officials are employed by efficient voters.

Portland has an up-to-date machine in her new charter. The demand now is for efficient operators, and efficiency always includes honesty. It is up to the efficient voter.

SCOTCH THE SNAKE

Emma Goldman and Doctor Rettman, her manager, two leading anarchists of America, were arrested upon their arrival in San Diego yesterday morning and escorted, under guard, out of the city. They were not wanted in San Diego.

Patrick Quinn, organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World, was locked up in a Paterson, New Jersey, jail, having been found guilty of inciting silk mill strikers to riot. It was proved that he urged force as a means for furthering his particular ideas of socialism.

William W. Wood, millionaire head of the woolen trust, is on trial in Boston on a charge of conspiring to plant dynamite as a means for winning the Lawrence textile strike last year. Wood was required to listen to testimony against him by a fellow-defendant who turned state's evidence.

Thus, society is learning to have little patience with anarchy, whether

by the soap box agitators or by the millionaire head of the wool trust. The snake of anarchy should be scotched, whether it be the anarchy of poverty or the anarchy of wealth.

A BAD MEASURE

One fact alone should be sufficient to defeat the Huesner franchise.

As the franchise was offered Mr. Huesner by the city council, the compensation to the city for the twenty-five years was to be \$81,000. As proposed under the initiative after Mr. Huesner refused the council's franchise, the total compensation to the city for the twenty-five years is only \$37,500, or less than one half the sum required by the council.

This alone should beat the Huesner program. Yet it is only one of many similar changes Mr. Huesner has made in the franchise the council offered. The whole measure is full of similar jokers that it was hoped would escape the eye of the people.

The city of Portland will fare far better if it beats this franchise and leaves it to the mayor and commissioners to arrange. A franchise for use of the public streets is a thing of great value. It is a matter for cool calculation. Millions of money have been thrown away by cities in bestowals of just such concessions as Mr. Huesner seeks. He hopes to get the best of the city \$43,500 alone in the lower compensation under his initiative measure.

The mayor and commission can make a far better arrangement than is the franchise Mr. Huesner has fixed up to his own liking and submitted to the voters. The lowering of the compensation—from \$81,000 to \$37,500 is one of the pleasing benefits Mr. Huesner expects to derive from his initiative franchise which he submits after refusing the franchise offered him by the city council.

The Huesner program should be voted down. It is a proposal the people cannot afford to accept. It is an arrangement Mr. Huesner has fixed up to suit himself. It is a negotiation for an extremely valuable concession in which the people have not been represented.

If Mr. Huesner's proposed railroad will profit thousands upon thousands of dollars by voting down the proposed franchise and leaving the matter to be negotiated on a business basis by the mayor and new commission.

THE INCOME TAX

Protest is going up from many sources against the proposed income tax. Collier's is out against the measure; the New York Chamber of Commerce sees serious defects in the bill, and many eastern newspapers express a fear that constitutional guarantees are in danger.

As is usually the case, the constitution is invoked as a weapon by men who object to placing part of the burden of taxation on shoulders best able to carry it. Incomes under \$4000 are to be exempt from the tax. The close-construction patriots insist that this exemption is a violation of the provision that taxation shall be uniform throughout the states. They assert that five per cent of the people will be taxed for the benefit of 95 per cent, because not more than five per cent have incomes of \$4000 or more.

If the constitution is not a deadly weapon these days, at least it is a handy one. Railroads pick it up to fight reasonable rates; trusts use it to perpetuate themselves, and big business misuses it to oppress the people.

If the constitution available only to five per cent of Americans, and withheld from 95 per cent?

The New York Chamber of Commerce protests against methods for collecting the tax. "This system of deduction at source is bound to cause confusion, delay and dispute, as well as disclosures of personal income to persons other than government officials," is the argument. Congress is asked to make the tax collectible directly from individuals, with heavy penalties for evasions.

The history of personal property taxation in this country demonstrates the absolute futility of this proposal. No inquisition has yet been devised that will uncover all buried property. Personal taxes have produced a race of perjurers; America has become immoral in attempting to levy such taxes.

What better results could be expected if dependence is made entirely on individual honesty in collecting an income tax? If the income tax proposed is wrong in every other particular, it is right in going to the source of incomes.

ADEQUATE CAR SERVICE

Chicago will try the experiment of attempting to secure seats for all streetcar patrons. The council, by unanimous vote, passed an ordinance forbidding traction companies from admitting to cars more passengers than can be seated. Comfort and adequate service are involved in enforcement of the ordinance. There is complaint about car service in Portland, and with the city's narrow streets complaints are certain to multiply with increasing population. Adequate car service will of necessity be an ever-present problem.

But there is little to recommend Chicago's method of solution. People who live in cities must accept some city inconveniences. Enforcement of the ordinance will mean either long waits on street corners

or congestion of the streets with cars. Even though a traction company's earnings are sufficient to warrant more frequent service, the service proposed for Chicago would be undesirable. Multiply the number of cars, and some streets would be as serviceable to ordinary traffic as roadways used by express trains. A fair proportion of people must stand up.

But here is where abuses creep in. Traction companies care less for the comfort of passengers than they do for the nickels. Efficiency with them is measured by receipts minus operating expenses. It is cheaper to pack people into one car than to carry them in two cars.

Where the people lose is through failure of city councils to enforce reasonable regulations. The traction companies have been able to depend upon indifference to the people's rights.

But cities are establishing real standards of efficiency and fixing responsibility. There is hope that Portland's streetcar problem may be solved with fixed responsibility and capable officials under the new charter.

THE UNWRITTEN LAW

Is there an unwritten law? Is it for men and not for women?

A jury of men at Muncie, Indiana, has answered. Miss Doris Underwood, a school teacher, was tried for attempted murder. She shot, but did not kill Otis Fisher, a drug clerk, the betrayer of her younger sister.

Her apparent defense was insanity. In reality, it was what the world calls the unwritten law that she relied upon for a favorable verdict.

On the witness stand, Miss Underwood sobbed bitterly as she told of the last hours of her dying mother, of her promise to the mother to take care of the sister, and solemnly pledged her faith "to make her a good girl and woman."

Bankers, newspaper men, merchants, city and county officers testified to the defendant's good character. The jury was out but a few minutes. But one ballot was taken and the verdict, not guilty. There was a big demonstration in the court room when the verdict was read. The judge and bailiffs were unable to silence the applause.

There was an unwritten law for Miss Underwood. There have been unwritten laws for others. But it is a slender thread on which to arm oneself and go out to administer personal justice.

Except in the chivalrous South, a jury may not always be as lenient as that at Muncie.

A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE

There is not the slightest chance for any commissioner to be elected on first choice votes.

To be elected, he must receive more than half, or a majority of such votes. With so many candidates afield, there is no probability whatever that any candidate will receive a majority.

The second choice vote then will enter into the decision, and probably the third choice. It means that even if the voter fail to get his first choice candidate, he has a chance to get his second choice or third choice. Therefore, second choice and third choice voting is a special privilege which the voter has.

Instead of one vote for each position, he has three. In fact, it is altogether probable that his second or third choice is likely to have more to do with the final selection than will his first choice.

Any voter who goes to the polls and votes only his first choice, deliberately throws away two thirds of his voting privilege. He not only throws away two thirds of his voting rights, but throws away that very portion of his privilege which may turn out to be the most important.

Those who are advising that only first choice votes be cast are trying to rob voters of their rights. It is the selfish advice of candidates who place their own ambition above the voter's rights and above the city's welfare.

Any voter who, at the behest of some politician, gives up his second and third choice votes will exercise but one third the voting rights that will be exercised by other and wiser voters.

George Switzer began a thirty-year sentence in the penitentiary at Fort Madison, Iowa, within forty hours after slashing the throat of the chief of police. He was careless in his slashing. Had he utilized the throat of an ordinary citizen there would quite likely have been about forty months of legal sparring.

Other cities may have their roads, their stampedes and their wild west shows. But the Pendleton Round-Up will be apt to hold its supremacy as the classiest demonstration of them all. People do not travel from the other coast—yes, and from Europe—to see the more or less feeble imitations of this stirring and picturesque event.

A girl student in Missouri had her jaw fractured with a baseball while playing the national game, and a female Raffles was lately arrested at Long Beach, California, with her arms full of burgled plunder. The job of chimney sweep will soon be about the only male activity safe from the encroachments of aspiring womanhood.

In 1795, 10,000 of our sport-loving ancestors assembled in an ancient Roman amphitheatre at Dor-

chester, England, to witness the burning alive of a woman who had poisoned her husband. Could they return to earth they would doubtless regard our own poor pastimes as lacking in warmth and interest.

The German kaiser drives a new spike into the business end of his war club whenever he can wheedle a few more millions out of the reichstag. Therefore the hints from Berlin that he is seeking to establish cordial relations with England, are not apt to be received in the "tight little isle" with an unbounded degree of confidence.

William Wood has succeeded in raising a bumper crop of trouble for himself and his "tower down" associates if it be true—as is indicated by the evidence—that he arranged for the planting of dynamite in order to throw suspicion upon the Lawrence textile strikers. It was noxious seed.

Indiana's proud name as the home of poets, writers and statesmen has been defiled. Through producing a red dandelion, one of its citizens has added insult to every lawn-owner's injury.

Letters from the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in the Letters column—may be sent on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length and must be addressed to the Editor, at the Journal Building, 225 N. 17th St., Portland, Ore. If the writer does not desire to have the name published, he should so state.)

Ignorance and Poverty. The Dalles, Or., May 19.—To the Editor of The Journal—What a splendid country we have! When we stop to enumerate our natural assets it becomes almost unbelievable. An ordinary mind can hardly grasp its magnitude. It is almost beyond the bounds of belief. There is abundant cause for poverty except ignorance, in all the world. Nature has made ample provision for the needs of all mankind. But man is more willing to believe some rotten old lie than to exercise his God-given power to reason and think. And this is a crime for which humanity has always paid dearly. The penalty is poverty.

We have been taught to regard doubters with suspicion, and believe as the sons of God. We are large on prejudice, small on knowledge, because our ignorance has always been a source of profit to those who, on the pretense of divine right, call themselves our masters. The sole purpose of government seems to be to hold the people while a privileged class skins them. Go where you will, and you cannot find a government that has always been a source of profit to those who, on the pretense of divine right, call themselves our masters. The sole purpose of government seems to be to hold the people while a privileged class skins them. Go where you will, and you cannot find a government that has always been a source of profit to those who, on the pretense of divine right, call themselves our masters. The sole purpose of government seems to be to hold the people while a privileged class skins them. 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