

LAW LIBRARY PLAN IS JUST AND FAIR IN OPINION OF WRITER

Fee Charged Litigants for
Upkeep of Library Declared
to Be Justified.

COURTS RENDERED AID

Visiting Lawyers Given Free Use for
Space of Two Weeks; Citizens
May Have Access.

To the Editor of The Journal—The Multnomah law library was organized in 1890 at the request of the judges because the administration of justice was hampered by the lack of books at the disposal of the court. The lawyers then contributed over \$10,000. The judges appointed the balliff of the grand jury to serve as librarian in combination with his other duties. Quarters were provided in the courthouse. The courts, including the federal court here, and the district attorney's have had the use free. Only those lawyers who paid \$100 each for shares and then paid dues to maintain the library were given its use. It ran on this plan until 1907, by which time the contributions of the lawyers had amounted to about \$20,000. The dues were \$12 per year, but extra assessments were continually necessary so that the expenses ran from \$15 to \$18 per annum for each member.

More Funds Needed.
After the first few years the library could sell no new shares because old members were dying or retiring, and their shares came on the market below par. The expenses were running up in various unavoidable ways—for instance, rebinding, growing volume of new publications, and it became necessary to hire a librarian because the balliff could no longer serve.

The heavy dues discouraged membership, and only 15 men remained on the list, despite the throwing open of the membership to non-shareholders. The library fell behind the times and became inadequate to the situation.

The big litigants, like the public service corporations, and the wealthy law firms also, were inclined to put in libraries and to diminish their support. It was necessary to adopt a plan by which money could be had to bring it up to date and by which the number using it could be increased so that it would render an adequate service to the community and also by which the burden of its maintenance could be fairly distributed.

Free System Legalized.
At the suggestion of the board of directors the legislature in 1907 enacted a law such as is in effect in other states, requiring litigants to contribute a small sum. A California has had just such a law as The Journal is now assailing, ever since 1869, and thereby the excellent libraries in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Sacramento have been built up. No one appears to have questioned its constitutionality.

VEDA, THE VAMPIRE QUALIFYING WITH HER RAVISHING BEAUTY AS REAL HEART BREAKER



Left—Shirley Eastham, one of fascinating characters in society play "The Vampire." Center—Bevy of actors and actresses in one of feature movie scenes. Right—Veda the Vampire, impersonated by Ford Tarpley.

ality. Such laws are in effect in other states where they have been tested and held constitutional. See, for instance, Swann vs. Kidd, 79 Ala. 481. In Oregon the constitutional question The Journal seems to have in mind was decided against The Journal's contention in Northern Counties Investment Trust company vs. Sears, 30 Oregon, 288.

Now, as to the fairness of the plan that litigants shall contribute something to the support of the library—it is maintained primarily for service to the courts, in order that the books may be available for the use of the judges and the lawyers on the argument of points of law. The attorneys are not permitted to take the books to their offices, but only to the court rooms.

Judges Use It.

The judges have the full use of it; as has also the district attorney's office, which otherwise would have to be provided with a library by taxation. Visiting lawyers are given the use of it free for the space of two weeks. Any citizen, not a practicing lawyer, who wants to see a statute or a report of a decided case of the United States or any state in the union, or England or Canada, can have access to the books, free of charge. The library is fully

public in that sense. No one is charged for access to it except practicing attorneys who pay \$5 a year, and the law school. The lawyers have paid \$40,000 towards this library. I think they have been made to carry all the traffic would bear.

Last week The Journal complained about the requirement that a litigant must pay the same library fee in a \$10 case as in a big one. So he must, and the same jury fee and the same clerk's fee and the same trial fee. No one, however, would bring a \$10 case in the circuit court, and pay \$17 court costs besides getting stuck for the costs of the other side. If he loses, when he might have gone into the petty claims court and got the same service much quicker for 50 cents. We have good minor courts which can take care of cases up to \$500 and no library fee is asked.

Poor Man Aided.

Wealthy litigants have more cases and pay more library fees in that way. The rich man's lawyer usually has a big library of his own; and it is the

"Veda, the Vampire," has finally posed for the press, and is revealed in the pictures reproduced above as the ravishing beauty that her press notes depicted her. The havoc she has worked in the story of the society movie now nearly completed is gradually being worked out. She has "landed," so to speak, having married a perfectly nice man. He is wealthy and has social position, and now the Vampire is fast aspiring to lead the little set she so nearly disrupted. During the weather of the past week she has done everything but ride the brake-

poor man's lawyer who most needs the Multnomah law library.

As you say, the country courts get along without such libraries. People in the country have to do without a good many other conveniences of modern civilization that they would be glad to have. The country lawyers burden themselves with the purchase of thousands of dollars worth of books they would not have to buy if it were possible for them to have libraries on such a plan as we have here. You would be surprised to find out what large sums the lawyers outside have invested in their books. When the judge there comes to town to hold court he is often dependent on the books which the lawyers with the biggest libraries will lend him. If he wants to look up some question he may have to ask a favor of a lawyer in the very case he is considering. Any self-respecting litigant would gladly pay 50 cents or a dollar to avoid such a condition in his case.

Books Are Necessary.

Books are a necessity in the proper conduct of the business in the courts here, and there is no more reason why the lawyers should bear all the expense than there is that they should pay for the courthouse. It is as fair to charge the litigant a part of this cost as it is to charge him a jury fee or a trial fee. The expense to a litigant of a mistrial or a reversal, because the judge or the lawyer did not have access to the law, would exceed a hundred fold the pittance that the litigant pays toward the library. The public maintains through taxation a big technical library for the benefit of all the other trades and professions in town. The lawyers themselves have raised \$40,000 towards their library. What other trade or profession has done anything like that and then put it at the public disposal? If the support were thrown entirely on the lawyers, the cost of membership would become prohibitive, and the thing would go under.

There are not enough lawyers here with big incomes to support it. In New York the bar association has a library which has cost about \$300,000. To join costs \$100 and the dues are \$50 per year.

Good Value Claimed.

The average library fee that a litigant pays here is probably not over 50 cents, and he gets mighty good value for the money. Multnomah county and the people of Portland may justly feel proud of this law library. You ought to write it up in "Nothing the Matter With Portland," instead of knocking it. The public are cordially invited to visit its quarters on the third floor of the courthouse. It is as much a public institution as the board of directors know how to make it. Because it assists the courts and the district attorney's office, the public pays a part by furnishing quarters. Because litigants get a special benefit, as it exists primarily to assist in the trial of their cases, they pay a part; and the attorneys pay a part because they use it in their business. No fairer arrangement exists anywhere that I know of.

A. L. VEAZIE.

Large Snake Holds Up Passenger Train

Reptile Does the Trick All Right, but Gives Up Its Life for Interfering With Traffic.

Indianapolis, Ind., July 15.—A large snake held up the Monon railroad's fast passenger train, the Hoosier Limited, for ten minutes at Dyer, near Hammond. The snake, one of the largest ever seen in that vicinity, crawled into a switch box and cut off the electrical connection that made it possible to operate the switch from the interlocking tower.

When the trainmen investigated they found the big snake fast in the switch. It had been stunned by the current and was easily killed. The snake, it is believed, crawled from the Kanawha swamp to the tracks and wriggled its way into the switch.

Mice Color Changed.
Heathsville, Va., July 15.—Last year, after building and filling a mouse-proof barrier, R. B. Brant caught two mice and put them inside of it.

Lamb With Six Legs Strange Freak

Extra Pair of Legs Are Attached to the Ribs and Appear to Be Normal in All Other Respects.

Ogden, July 15.—A 6-week-old lamb with six legs, is the unique pet recently brought to this city by Frank Smyth, secretary of the Intermountain Land and Live Stock company, from the company's headquarters in Boxelder county.

Although freak lambs are not uncommon, shepherds contend that few of them live more than a few weeks. The freak animal owned by Mr. Smyth is said to be as frisky as any normal lamb at the age of 6 weeks and promises to develop into a healthy sheep.

The extra pair of legs are attached to the ribs just behind the shoulder blades. The limbs are somewhat crooked, the toes pointing in a variety of directions, but the extra legs do not interfere with normal use of the regular fore limbs. Mr. Smyth allows his pet to graze on the lawn in front of his house, where it has become the playmate of nearly all the children in the neighborhood.

Receives Mexican Palm.

Mrs. H. G. Crouch of 1087 East Nineteenth street north received a Mexican palm and five species of Mexican cactus sent to her from San Ysidro on the border by her nephew, O. D. Mounce of Company I of Woodburn. He was one of the first boys to enlist.

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FOREIGN MONEY AND BRAINS AT BASE OF MEXICAN INDUSTRIES

Americans and Other Outsiders
Said to Have Invested
Billion and a Half Dollars.

New York, July 15.—Financiers here estimate that \$1,500,000,000 has been invested by Americans and other foreigners in Mexican mines, oil wells, railways, ranches, public utilities and other enterprises.

Without foreign capital, Mexico would be a very primitive country. The Mexicans are helpless in developing their rich land themselves. Scarcely a mile of railroad, a single modern suburb, water works, a well equipped mine or oil well has been produced without the agency of foreign brains and foreign money.

Millions have been poured into the mines of Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila and Nuevo Leon; the great oil sections of Tampico and the rubber plantations of Tampico and Yucatan.

While the Mexican government has a majority stock holding in the National railways, the lines were surveyed, built and run by foreigners. Dividends and interest on Mexican railway securities have been absent for many years, due to constant political turmoil, and French investors have been especially hard hit.

The Greene-Canaana is one of the largest American mining enterprises in Mexico. Of the \$40,000,000 capital, practically all is owned in the United States.

The American Smelting & Refining company has three Mexican refineries, which alone have an annual metal capacity of over 1,000,000 tons. The company has \$25,000,000 invested south of the Rio Grande.

Phelps, Dodge & Co. have immense properties over the border. The Mexican Petroleum company, with a total capitalization of \$72,000,000, is controlled in the United States, although a large interest is held in Great Britain.

The Southern Pacific railway owns the road of the same name in Mexico. This once was worth \$75,000,000, but it has suffered greatly by revolutions. Lord Cowdray and his British associates have developed electric light plants, street railways and water works throughout Mexico. They have obtained great land, mineral and lumber concessions, many of which Carranza has cancelled.

Great quantities of Mexican government bonds are held here and in Europe. Huerta is said on good authority to have sold \$75,000,000 in Mexican bonds here for 15 cents on the dollar. These are undoubtedly valid, and any responsible government established in Mexico will have to pay their interest and principal.

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