The Oregon Statesman




## "IS CRIME a disease?"

At a recent meeting of the New York crime commission, Governor Al Smith of that state said: "I don't think a
judge should have power to sentence a man to death. Many criminals get away because a jury will not return a verdie of guilty in the first degree because it balks at the idea shuffling a man off into eternity. The jury should deter-
mine only the question of guilt or innocence. The case then mine only the question of guilt or innocence. The case the of the highest salaried men in our employ. The members and experts. They should psychiatrists, alienists, lawye each. This board should also be given the
mend the transfer or parole of prisoners."
The proposal of Governor Smith in brief is that the powe punish criminals be taken from the courts and transferre o boards composed of highly paid experts. He would per mit courts and juries to render only a verdict of judgment
as to the guilt or innocence of the accused, and upon conas to the guilt or innocence of the accused, and upon con xperts
This proposal has provoked and will continue to bring And ought to.
And ought
One writer
York is one of the most radical suggestions affecting crim
That is not true. It is the same doctrine that has bee
eld for a considerable time by every forward looking, e perienced and thoughtful prison superintendent and penolo ist in this country
Only turned the other way around, and differing as For all the people named believe in the indeterminat piece-meal and half-way indeterminate sentence, like th one in Oregon and a number of the other states. And like
that provided in the Baumes law in New York and the Lewi law in Oregon, and the same or similar thing in a number the other states.
The indeterminate sentence (absolute) means that whe out an (e of release being fixed. If he is never fit to be $\begin{array}{ll}\text { releas } & \text { is kept for INC. To be fit to be released he must } \\ \text { make : }\end{array}$ as a law abiding person in society, capable of earning hi living,
That means employposes reformatory treatment in priso education; tràining-training in both knowledge and habi
.
aving the authority to parole, or to release under som orther form of outside s
And all that brings experts highly paid or othe
rse sense.
nd he has touched the springs of discussion of the ost important matter before the people of this country For crime entails our major expense bill. And it is th than the guilty. Its costs run through private and publ property; through life and limb; through all the courts through a maze of expenses leading up to the grim prison
walls-and through the cost of keeping the men behind walls-and through the cost of keeping the men behin
locked doors. It is a long, long trail. Wt Wing. We must improve conditions and environment $t$ thing. We must improve conditions and environment top the breeding of

## For "natural born" criminals are very, very few; pro

 environment the training or lack of the right training. "Is Crime a Disease ?" which is the heading borrow from the writer mentioned above, who jumps on" Governo Smith, is used to call attention to this man's argumentagainst Governor Smith's proposal. He sets up a straw against Governor Smith's proposal. He sets up a straw man, in the shape of one representing the criminal as a ma with a disease, which he says Governor Smith must believ every cr

Ad proceeds to "knock the block off" of that straw man But this all falls down, for the reason that Governo has only a disease that must be cured by the doctors and has only
Any way, that is not the truth. Or at least disease is no a good name for what ails the criminal, in the great majority of cases. If ke has a disease; that is, if he is habitual do with him, and that way," society has but one confine him and make him gainfuily useful as possible in his permanent prison home. the torch of hope him. For his good. And for the good of society

The Salem Statesman annual edition of sixty-four pages


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## MOTHER

A Cross, Sick Child is Constipated! Look at Tongue


## FREE VOTING BALLOT

This ballot is good for 200 votes for the candidate in - moman mom

VOID AFTER MARCH 10TH, 1928 ANYONE CAN VOTE FOR FRIENDS

The careful reader has no doubt noted gradual improve
ment in the make-up and printing of The Statesman, since the arrival of the new press of this newspaper. There will ll that was promised for or expected of it. But the mechanical force had many things to learn, and has yet. And
the publishers, too. There have been necessities that were the publishers, too. There have been necessities that were
not calculated upon. Some of them expensive ones, too. There are more to follow. But the whole scheme of things is working out gradually. The new equipment is capable of great service to Salem and the surrounding country, in mak-
ing possible the publication of a newspaper worthy of the ng possible the publication of a newspaper worthy of
field, which is the ambition of the publishers. It is as good "plant" as is possessed by newspaper offices in this coun-

ry in many cities with several times the population of ry in many cos | lem. B |
| :--- |
| Salem. |

If you will get the full perspective of the certainty of the rapid development of our flax and linen industries, and many others here, and do not come to the conclusion that Salem is certain to have 100,000 people before very long,
to have your head examined. And the process of that growth is going to mean many things in the fortunes of those who get the proper perspectives and visions of what all this is going to mean. A growing and progressive city industrious man

Not the least of the benefits that are being gained by the proper employment of prison labor in Oregon is the founda-
tion being laid for more free labor. Outside the walls of the on being laid for more ind even on the inside, the number of free laborers will necessarily rapidly and largely grow.
Again In Death, Portland
$\qquad$ roven for 60 years by chlildhoo
romance and bonds of matrimony
 at $6: 15$ o'clock this morning, fol-
lowing night. His denith came but a fee
hours later then
lelsen


National Thrift Week

## Will be Observed

 in SalemSEE TUESDAY'S STATESMAN

A SECTION OF THE PAPER

WILL BE ENTIRELY DEVOTEDTOTHRIFTWEEK

Don't Miss This Paper

