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JURY COMPLETES HUNT FOR CRIME

DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS
GIVEN ENDORSEMENT

Approves Action of Mr. Phelps in Employing Detective in Liquor Violation Cases--Suggests That All Officers Use Diligence in Fighting Such Crimes--Wants Cushioned Chairs for Future Deliberations.

After being in session for 11 days and breaking all records in the number of indictments returned by a Umatilla county grand jury, the first body of that kind to be called since the grand jury law was enacted, handed in its final report last evening and was discharged from further duty. A large number of witnesses were examined during the 11 days and more than 200 indictments were returned.

In making its final report the grand jury endorses the action of the district attorney in employing a detective to secure evidence of violations of the prohibition law, but intimates that this would not have been necessary if all officers of the county had been as diligent in enforcing this law as they are in enforcing others.

Among the recommendations made is that the grand jury room be furnished with cushioned chairs for the use of the members of the grand jury in future. Also that the sheriff be furnished with a list of those persons who have been fined but have failed to pay their fines and that such persons be made to pay or be imprisoned.

A Complete Report.

The following is the report in detail:

In the circuit court of the state of Oregon, for Umatilla county.

In the matter of the final report of the grand jury, September term, 1908.

The grand jury drawn and impaneled at the regular September term of this court having completed its work, requests that it be discharged.

On account of the great number of cases presented to us and requiring our consideration we have been in session 11 days and have examined a great number of witnesses and returned into court a great many true bills and a few not true bills, all of which will appear in detail from the records of the court. In addition to those cases reported to the court we have made careful examination into a great many other matters presented to us for our consideration and have called before us many witnesses, but the result of our deliberations has not been reported to the court in each case for the reason in such cases we

found there was insufficient evidence upon which to find true bills.

Local Option Law Ignored.

We found upon investigation that the local option law enacted by the people at the last election in Umatilla county has been most flagrantly violated and we therefore were required to give considerable time and attention to the investigation of the so-called local option cases. We have been greatly assisted in our investigation in these matters by special officers employed by the county through the district attorney, and we find that on account of the numerous violations of the law without any arrests being made therefore that it was very important and essential if the provisions of such law were to be enforced that some special effort be made to that end, and we have no hesitancy in recommending that should the conditions at any time in the future become similar to the condition which has existed in Umatilla county since the enactment of the prohibition law that the district attorney should employ at the expense of the county the necessary assistance to gather evidence to be used in the prosecution of the offenders against said law.

Say Officers Discriminate.

In this connection, however, we believe that if all of the officers of the county will give the same consideration to the enforcement of this law that they would to the enforcement of any other statute that there will be no necessity for employing outside assistance.

In these cases on account of the mass of testimony presented to us we have seen fit to return indictments only in those cases against these defendants where there could be no possible excuse for a trial jury to fail to convict, believing that a conviction upon all of such cases will be sufficient inducement to those persons who have made it a business to violate such law of the consideration they are apt to receive in the future if they continue to persist in defying the expressed will of the people of this county.

Office Books All Right.

We have made the usual hurried examination of the different offices in the county, but like other grand juries in the past, we have not seen fit to employ an expert to go over the different records, but we are perfectly satisfied with the conditions as they exist at this time and by reason of the recent employment by the county court of an expert to examine such records we merely gave sufficient attention to the different offices to be able to report that the records seem to be neatly, correctly and efficiently kept.

Would Collect Back Fines.

We recommend that if the sheriff of Umatilla county has not a list of the persons who have been fined in the circuit court and whose fines have not been paid and who have not served time that such list be furnished and that proper steps be taken to either collect such fines or to imprison the parties according to the terms of the sentence imposed by the court in such cases. We make this recom-

mendation for the reason that we understand in a number of cases persons have been fined by the circuit court and sentenced to pay a fine or serve in the county jail and that in some cases such fine has not been paid nor the offenders been imprisoned.

We recommend that a window or some other means to convey light be placed between the office of the county judge in the county court house.

Cushion Chairs for Jurors.

We also recommend that another large table having drawers which may be locked and suitable for the convenience of a grand jury be placed in the grand jury room before the next term of the circuit court, and that cushioned chairs be also provided for the members of grand juries.

We have paid a visit to the county poor farm where the indigent poor are kept and have no recommendations to make. We find the place well managed and the inmates well cared for.

No Demand for Statement.

We think there is no public demand that a detailed financial statement be published by the county court as is being done at the present time. We think this is an expense which might be saved to the taxpayers because each person at all times during office hours may make a personal examination of the public records of the county and ascertain for themselves just where each dollar of the county funds is spent, and we believe the officers of the county in charge of such matters will extend to any person interested information sufficient to inform him of the exact financial condition of the county at any time.

We are reliably informed that such itemized statement is published in but one or two counties in the state of Oregon and if there is no law to compel such publication in other counties of the state, we see no reason why the county court of Umatilla county should feel obliged to incur this expense. We make this recommendation not in criticism of the county court because we understand that such court is in accord with the views herein expressed by this grand jury.

Business Unfinished.

During the time we have been in session we have endeavored to give all public questions our most earnest and careful consideration. Some matters are yet pending which another grand jury will be better able to continue and conclude than we are unless we should continue in session for several days longer, and as such matters are not in our estimation sufficiently important to require immediate attention we with this report beg to conclude our labors and ask

that we be discharged. Before doing so, however, we wish to extend our thanks for the courteous attention and treatment we have received from the court and the officers thereof.

Respectfully submitted,
F. E. SHERMAN,
Foreman.

W. C. RUSSEL,
W. T. HASTINGS,
J. A. MALSTROM,
HENRY SCHMITT,
C. J. WARD,
T. J. TWEEDY.

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Another Suspect Arrested.

A. W. Jennings has been arrested by Deputy Sheriff C. A. Lidgerwood of Coquille, Wash., on the suspicion of having been implicated in the murder of Charles Thomet of Midway a short time ago. Jennings is said to have confessed to a woman. He is in jail.

Bee's Laxative Cough Syrup always brings quick relief to coughs, colds, hoarseness, whooping cough and all bronchial and throat trouble. Mothers especially recommend it for children. Pleasant to take, gently laxative. A. C. Koepfen & Bros.

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