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TIME'S UP

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GRAND JURY FOREMAN GIVES FACTS PROVING POOR FARM MISRULE

Wretched Conditions Found Are Classed as Because of Neglect or Indifference.

Pendleton, Or., Sept. 21. Editor East Oregonian: I have no desire to enter into a newspaper controversy concerning the report of the recent grand jury on which I served as foreman, but since the superintendent of the county hospital has seen fit to publish a denial of certain statements made in the formal report of the grand jury, it seems only fitting that a statement of the facts on which the jurors based their report

be given to the public for whom we gave the best in our ability in the capacity in which we were called to serve you. Therefore, I ask of the editor the courtesy of publishing this reply.

It is true, Mr. Averill was not present at the time the jury made inspection of the county hospital. He served as clerk of the grand jury, and was at that time occupied with matters devolving on him with a view to speeding up the work of the jury.

In what follows, I state only what I saw, and am entirely willing to appear before any competent board, private or public, and give my testimony as to facts. Had it been practicable, I should be glad to have made a reply in accordance with consent and opinions of the other jurors, but I am confident in what follows that I have their full acquiescence, and that they are ready as I to stand back of their report. And had it been charged to form a committee, I will add that the men on the jury were fully as independent as we two women were.

Mr. Horn implies that our inspection was superficial and incompetent.

Whether my experience and ability have fitted me to pass intelligently on what I see, I will leave others to judge, but I am sure that all will agree that the other jurors were competent, efficient and honorable.

I wish to say at the beginning, that we are all entirely aware of the sort of patients which compose the hospital's inmates, and that several of us, at least, are personally familiar with persons suffering from such maladies, and with the difficulties involved in caring for such subjects. We did not question the inmates save as to their personal history, and to ask if their being to the attention of the officials. We gave only such weight to their replies as other evidence made us assured was due it. Nothing they said was in any way the basis of our report, and the formal report in no way voiced the indignation and disgust which was felt by the members of the jury over matters which they did not see fit to incorporate in their formal report. Further, we were not instructed as to the full power residing in the grand jury regarding such matters, or we should have taken further action.

Though we no longer are jurors, I am not done with the matter, and do not intend to be until I am assured that faults are put right, and I was not impressed that any of your jurors were either favor engenders or quitters.

To reply specifically to Mr. Horn: First: You were so fortunate as to have a master plumber as one member of your jury, who looked over the plumbing, and when we judged was sufficient authority as to its condition. I saw water standing undrained from the bath tubs, and the stench from the drain pipes was sufficient evidence to me as to their condition. I am not a plumber—would it not be possible to provide some sort of screen or trap which would prevent such a condition by obviating the difficulty of which the superintendent complains? Tubs are commonly supplied with a drain pipe to prevent overflowing.

Second: The use of the word "radiator" was a mistaken term for which we were culpable as an oversight. The hot air registers were intended. The superintendent acknowledged their condition. It seems altogether possible that a little ingenuity and reasonable authority could prevent this. At any rate, their present condition seems unequalled for, as the inmates are not being furnished, is better.

Third: Some of the jurors believed the hospital should be run in a sanitary condition; therefore, we suggested sheets for it is not possible to keep beds occupied by persons afflicted with such maladies as these inmates are, in a sanitary condition without the use of sheets. We did reflect even as we made the suggestion, that such persons usually have a prejudiced against sheets, but we considered health and cleanliness ought to override their personal preferences.

I did not examine the walls of the rooms, but saw the ceilings were plaster and the walls calcimined, and judged the building was plastered, which it sorely ought to be. The women of your jury stand to say positively, with experience to back them, that there is no need of having "traps" in a hard-finished house, and

their presence is due either to incompetence or indifference. We examined mattresses that were covered with silt in colonies and whole settlements. I personally lifted the covers back from one mattress and the well-nourished crustaceans scattered for cover in alarm at such unexpected intrusion. We looked at one mattress on which their well-fed bodies had been smeared in great spots. I wonder: Are there human beings who prefer to feed their flesh to vermin who would feel torn and homeless without their companionship? and if so, ought we to spend our tax money to see that they are gratified? Perhaps the next inmate will not have the same disease as the present occupant—when assigned to that bed!

We saw a bed in which an inmate had died two days previous. It lay without even airing—waiting for the next victim.

The cotton blankets on most of the beds were so foul that we preferred not to touch them, especially was this true of beds to which patients were confined.

We saw several beds which were clean and in good condition, due doubtless to the taste and physical ability of their occupants.

We found one paralytic, compelled to lie on his back. We asked him as to his ability to aid himself. He told us he would be glad if we could obtain for him some sort of trapeze or pulleys so that he might lift himself about, both for exercise and his own assistance. The matter of a couple of rods of gas pipes placed where he could reach them would help. Yet he said, he had asked for them repeatedly during the sixteen months he had been there, to no avail. A matter so trifling to relieve the torment in the life of a human being! and yet, Mr. Horn says, the county court is ready to give every needful assistance!

One inmate lies in his bed blind and deaf—helpless. We made no inquiries. His surrounding spoke circles

quently that he was not receiving proper attention.

Another inmate is almost helpless from rheumatism. He was not being decently cared for, and absolutely nothing was being done to relieve his suffering.

There is not a comfortable chair in the hospital. There were no papers or magazines—things which could be had for the asking.

I speak with much reluctance of the culinary department, lest I give an exaggerated impression. Everything was scrupulously clean throughout the entire commissary department. We noted the absence of any sort of refrigerator. We found victuals in a warm cupboard where they were liable to become unwholesome.

The inmates asked us if they could not be furnished some lightbread. We saw indication of no bread save hot biscuit, and judged their complaint was not without foundation. We found no sign of fresh vegetable or fruit supply, other than some melons. In their supplies there was not a single can of vegetables or fruit save a few jars of antiquated cucumber pickles.

This is a year of abundant and cheap supply. One who had the welfare of any such establishment at heart, either from the item of expense or health, would have a cellar with a different showing.

The jurors report said, "of a quality and variety" compatible with health. No criticism of the quantity or service was made.

I would suggest that our inspection would as nearly show the inside of things as one could catch possibly by arrangement.

I make no charges, as I know nothing of the matter, but the bills for supplies paid by the county court, would not in themselves be evidence to me as to what is served in the hospital dining room.

As to the condition of the farm, any taxpayer can see that by riding by on the road. I will not weary you with details. The trees and grass are dying. They are short on water, we were told the engine was not working well. Yet Mr. Horn says the court furnishes anything needed!

I have stated in a general way the facts on which your grand jurors based their report. I made some further personal investigations and satisfied myself on some matters brought to our attention, that, however, was after our release from the grand jury and had nothing to do with our report.

If this is the sort of institution, the citizens of Umatilla County are paying a high price to have maintained for their unfortunate fellows, it is doubtless of no avail to call their attention to it.

Possibly your county hospital suffered in our eyes, because several of us have been so fortunate as to be acquainted with county establishments elsewhere which are being run on a sanitary and business-like basis. It can be done, and save your pocket-books as well as your self-respect.

A visit to your poor farm would

have given Dickens material for a chapter. And if any of you ever wax sentimental over the old dungeons, pay a visit to your county jail, and be assured that the dark ages have not come to an end—in Pendleton at least. I am grateful to Supt. Horn for giving me this opportunity to place the facts before you.

EDITH M. FRAKER.

SWEDENBORGIANS WILL RE-VAMP BIBLE; COST WILL EXCEED \$50,000

URBANA, O., Sept. 21.—A new translation of the Bible, including not the books which, in the opinion of Swedenborg, have an inner or symbolic meaning, will be undertaken at once by the New Church (Swedenborgian) under authority of a resolution adopted by the church covenant here.

The work, which has been in contemplation for more than forty years, is made possible by the donation of sufficient funds by George Marchant, a wealthy member of the sect, who resides in Brisbane, Australia.

The task will require from five to six years to complete, and its total cost is estimated at \$50,000 or more.

"We intend to produce a slightly more accurate and scientific translation of the Bible, with all the aid which modern research can give," said Rev. William L. Worcester, president of the convention, in explaining the plan.

"The present Bible, while a very sincere and accurate translation, contains a number of words which were used because of literary style and which are not accurate synonyms of the original words."

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Columbia Starts Grid Practice



With a squad of platoon aspirants, Columbia University starts practice at Baker Field, New York. Left to right: Harry Gehrie, Jerry Kelly and Charles S. Neal.

OMAR CIGARETTES

20 for 20 AGAIN!