

THE OREGON SCOUT,

UNION, OREGON, DEC. 12, 1884.

TRIALS OF JURORS.

Among the evils surrounding the jury system in the district of Columbia which demand condemnation. Attorney General Brewster includes the unnecessary hardships imposed on those who are compelled to serve. He calls attention to the extraordinary fact that service as a juror in the district means an enforced attendance at court and almost total abandonment of private business for one fourth of the whole year, a hardship and injustice that is not imposed on the citizens in any other place in the United States, and would not be tolerated in any community where the people have a voice in framing their own laws. A very limited number of men can be compelled to serve, and the service is so burdensome and disagreeable that clean men, and men who have other business to perform, avoid serving as jurors by every possible means. But the trials of jurors are scarcely less severe in many other cities. In olden time it was thought that the vigilance and judgment of jurors could best be secured by the absolute deprivation of the comforts and even the necessities of life, and they were thus deprived of food, drink, heat and light. But modern enlightenment has adopted a more human theory, and no longer allows a wretch to be hung that a jury may dine. Yet in practice in many courts a more refined torture is devised by the confinement of jurors in stone or brick-walled cells and with inadequate oxygen to preserve health, far less sound and clear mental action. Under these conditions jurors cannot be in a judicial frame of mind. In the first place they are fatigued by long and tedious hearings in the court, and then confined in close rooms where the atmosphere is soon rendered noisome. A suitor would not willingly trust his own decision in an important matter when oppressed by headache, nausea or indisposition caused by foul air. Yet he is forced to submit his interests in litigation to men thus affected, who are often sorely tempted to rush through a verdict without deliberation in order to escape from the torture of their confinement. It is not surprising that jury duty is evaded and often carelessly discharged. On the other hand, it is commonly and very justly regarded as an honor for either party to a suit, or the lawyers on either side to show any personal favors to a juror during the trial of a case, in some states such things are expressly prohibited by statute, and when they are done the court is requested to set aside the verdict. In California, however, jurors may be "handsomely treated," according to a recent decision of the supreme court, without invalidating their verdict. It appears that during a criminal trial in that state the prosecuting attorney was conspicuously lavish in his friendly attention to some of the jurors when they were off duty. He "treated" two or three of them several times; invited one out to dinner, "presented him with a bottle of bitters and after dinner escorted him homeward, and

"entertained" another "at an oyster supper." It was also "the practice" of the lawyers on the other side to "interchange courtesies by treating and drinking with some of the jurors." The prosecuting attorney was the most successful in his attention to the comforts of the jury, and a verdict of guilty was rendered against the prisoner. A motion was made to set this verdict aside, but the supreme court refused on the ground that "the acts of drinking and the entertainments were all done in the recess or adjournments of the court;" that it did not appear that the jurors and the counsel conversed about the case, and that "acts of ordinary and neighborly kindness or of hospitality to jurors do not justify an inference that the jury was influenced by them in making up their verdict."—Ex.

The art of wood working is the oldest means whereby man gratified his vanity or his eye, and the one which, even among savages, still maintains its excellence. The New Zealander's club and the ancient Aztec's gods, the Hydah Indian's pipes and the paddles of the Polynesian canoe man, are marvels of carving, executed with the rudest tools. In the Kaffir country, of Central Africa are entire villages composed of wooden houses, elaborately carved on post and pillar. Until the fear of fire led to the use of iron and stone as building material, such towns were common in Europe. Beams, brackets door-heads and gable ends were effectively hewn with grotesque images of demons, heraldic devices, and those fair, saintly faces which still look down on us with a glance so benign.

The effort of certain wealthy cattle men to secure a lease of nearly all the best portion of the crown reservation for a stock range is calling out much opposition from the people of Eastern Montana. Several public meetings have been held, and delegate Maginnis is already in Washington in the interests of his constituents working against the scheme. These lands should be thrown open to the occupation of the people, and not be permitted to fall into the grasp of a few cattle kings.

The Oil City Derrick wants to know what a "pelerine" is. Such ignorance in the editorial profession is deplorable. A pelerine is an article of dress worn by the female sex, and differs from the perilsse, and the redingote, and the fclau, and the satinnervilloux polanaise, and those things. We supposed everybody knew what a pelerine is.

According to the language of the eye, "Black eyes show a passionate, lively temperament." The signification of a black-and-blue eye is not given. Perhaps it is not necessary, as it generally shows a quarrelsome, poke-your-nose-in-to-other-people's-business disposition on the part of the owner.

A circus clown who died in Chicago recently, spoke all the modern European languages fluently, but died poor. The people who attend circuses don't care much for the modern languages. What they want is a modern joke now and then.

A pork packing establishment is to be started at Ashland.

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Union, Oregon.

Notice Of Final Settlement.

Notice is hereby given, that the undersigned, having this day filed in the County court of Union county, state of Oregon, a final account of his administration of the estate of Charles B. Swisher, deceased, and praying for a discharge, and distribution of said estate, and that Tuesday, the 6th day of January, 1885, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. of said day, the same being a day of the regular term of said court, has been appointed for the time, and the court house in Union as the place, for hearing objections to said account, and for showing cause, if any there be, why an order be not made discharging the undersigned from further duty as such administrator, and releasing his sureties from further liabilities on their undertaking.
You will further take notice, that this notice is published by order of the Hon. A. C. Craig, Judge of the County court of Union county, Oregon.
Dated, this 20th day of November, 1884.

A. AUGUSTUS, Administrator.

J. R. RITES, Attorney.

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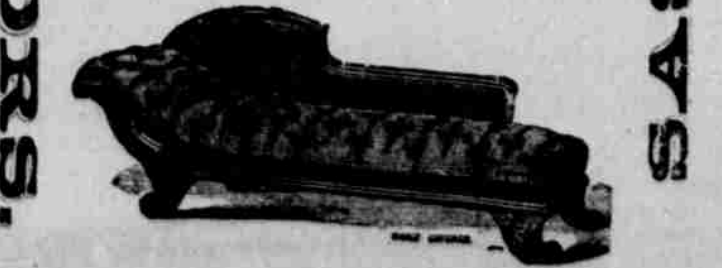


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