

THE NEWS RECORD

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1911.

REFORM OF COURTS.

Nine-tenths of the palaver about reform of courts is twaddle, and is made by those interested in no reform. The usual remedy proposed is more judges, more courts, more cost, more excuses for appeal, more delay, more buncombe.

All men know that compared to England and English colonies the administration of law in the United States is a farce and a crime. The hardest thing for an American to bear when traveling in English lands is the sneers at the miserable failure made of law administration in Uncle Sam's domains. It is hard to bear because we know it is true. Even the Canucks look upon our courts as being on a par, or even lower than those of Mexico or South America.

Why make more judges and courts? There are so many now that lawyer legislators are kept busy finding work for them to do, by devising new excuses for appeal, delays, more technical procedure, etc.

One of the common remarks often heard during trials in circuit courts is, "It doesn't matter which way it goes here; it will go up to the supreme court anyway." The cause of such remarks is a crime against taxpayers. If the case is "going up anyway," why not start it at the top and be done with it in one

trial? If true reform of law administration is desired, copy a little after that country that all admit has the best. In England there is no pompous supreme court, sitting in luxurious chambers and working, mayhaps hard, for nine months in the year, over the difference between swiddlem and twiddledee. No three! Johnny Bull wouldn't stand a minute for such dum foolishness, nor any other people except the most patient and good-natured on earth, the Americans.

In England, cases of minor moment are disposed of by local magistrates. And FINALLY disposed of, mind you. There is no appeal or review except because of new evidence or something equally vital.

Judges, corresponding to our "supreme" judges, hustle over England, 10 or 11 months of the year, going to every court town, hearing and deciding on the spot the cases of larger importance. And again there is no appeal or review except for gravest of reasons, such as new evidence. There are no lawyer delays, for the mere purpose of delay. The case is called and both sides must be ready or take the consequences. The issue is joined in the simplest, most speedy manner. Pleadings are made to arrive at an issue; not to avoid an issue as in this country. Because a juror is intelligent, reads the papers, has heard all about the case, is no disqualification in England. If he is unprejudiced, unrelated, and not interested in the case or the parties, he must be accepted by both sides. The trial proceeds on rules of common sense as well as common law, and a verdict rendered that must be accepted as FINAL, for the English courts know and act on the great truth—Justice delayed is the greatest injustice.

True court reform in Oregon would abolish our circuit courts. A county judge in each county, paid a salary of at least \$3500 a year in the smallest counties, would have final jurisdiction in all criminal actions

below a felony, and in all civil suits below \$500 in controversy.

One or more supreme judges should visit every county seat at least twice a year regularly, and of- fener for special cases of importance and requiring speedy trials, and there hear and FINALLY determine ALL cases beyond the FINAL jurisdiction of county judges. Copy and improve on English procedure for doing away with delays. Abolish all appeals or reviews except for gravest of reasons, such as new evidence that could not be produced at the first trial. And when reviews are allowed the reviewing court to be all the supreme judges assembled from their circuits for that purpose. Give those supreme judges salaries large enough to get the best—\$10,000 a year or more—and then require them to earn their pay. Two weeks vacation is 14 days more than most people get who work harder than judges, and it is all that should be allowed judges.

Abolish the present office of county judge, the new county court taking over all the judicial functions of the present county judge: boards of commissioners of three members in small counties, five in large to transact the administrative and executive business of the counties.

The foregoing is given for what it is worth. We know beforehand it will be hooted at by the lawyers who having had exclusive power of making and interpreting laws in this country for an hundred years, think their privilege is of divine origin. But all people except lawyers, but including President Taft, are now agreed they have made a bad mess of the job—almost the worst in the world. Laymen could do no worse. Anyway, let's have some reform forwards, not backwards toward the lay of the infamous Coke and the Star Chamber.

SUGAR COMPANY'S OFFER.

The proposition made by Mr. Bramwell for the sugar company to advance money to prove sober and industrious men to buy irrigated tracts, is not only of great importance to such men, but of great importance to this city and the entire valley.

There is no doubt Wallowa valley is too rich in soil and water is too abundant to be used only for grain raising. More intensive forms of agriculture and dairying are the natural uses to which the land in this valley should be put, because more profitable.

When the land in this valley, from upper Prairie Creek to Lower Valley, is put to its highest and most profitable use, ten families will make their living off it, where one family does so now.

Whether sugar beet culture is one of the highest and best uses for the land is a question that should be carefully and thoroughly investigated. Experience so far has been favorable, or else the sugar company would not be willing to make the investments it proposes, and farmers who have leased land for sugar beet culture would not be willing to renew leases.

This proposition if fully carried out would mean several times as many people living near each town in the valley and is therefore of great importance to the towns.

COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL.

The county high school is having a very prosperous year. The enrollment is pushing the ninety mark, over one-half of whom are from outside the Enterprise district. Every part of the county is represented. The scholarship is excellent and splendid progress is being made along all lines.

We believe the next step the county school board ought to take should be to equalize the expense of attendance between students in this district, who can live at home, and those from outside districts who are compelled to board. A dormitory with kitchen and dining hall, where a boarding club could be run with small expense, would do that, the outside students getting free use of building and utensils, but sharing pro rata the cost of food and its preparation.

This is similar to the proposal made by a bill in the legislature in

regard to the state normal at Monmouth.

Railroads have made low colonists rates again—\$25 from Missouri river points to any station in Wallowa county. They begin March 10, five days earlier than last year, and are on continuous sale until April 10, and on every Monday and Tuesday thereafter all spring and summer long. Wallowa county has much to offer Easterners of some means who want to better their fortunes. In fact, no section of the Northwest presents so many opportunities to a man who has \$1000 or upwards to become independent in a few years. Let us do something to spread the news of it.

With a flouring mill, saw mill, three big general stores, hotel and livery stable already on the ground or assured in early spring, and the other businesses and trades that will naturally follow this summer, it looks as if Troy would be the North end metropolis even before the railroad comes. The foresight of the county court in putting the bridge across the Grande Ronde river is already justified.

LA GRIPPE COUGHS

Strain and weaken the system and if not checked, may develop into pneumonia. No danger of this when Foley Honey and Tar is taken promptly. It is a reliable family medicine for all coughs and colds, and acts quickly and effectively in case of croup. Refuse substitutes. Burroughs & Mayfield.

Polk county will have the largest English walnut orchard in Oregon. Recent purchasers of the Hart ranch near Falls City will plant 6,000 walnut trees.

PNEUMONIA FOLLOWS A COLD

But never follows the use of Foley's Honey and Tar, which checks the cough and expels the cold. M. Stockwell, Hannibal, Mo., says, "It beats all the remedies I ever used. I contracted a bad cold and cough and was threatened with pneumonia. One bottle of Foley's Honey and Tar completely cured me." No opiates, just a reliable household medicine. Burroughs & Mayfield.

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Will Be in Enterprise Soon

I have the only lens grinding machinery in Eastern Oregon, and conduct a permanent optical office in La Grande, next door to the post office.

All leading physicians of La Grande recommend my optical work.

I do not travel, but am going to make this one trip, at the request of several persons who live in Enterprise.

See me while I am here and save an expensive trip to La Grande. All work guaranteed, the same as if you were fitted at my office in La Grande.

Are You Boss of Your Own Job?

Or is some one else assuming the responsibility for your work? The trained man is the responsible and well-paid man. The untrained man—the chap that does only the detailed part of the work at another's bidding—assumes no responsibilities and is paid just so much for his labor, and no more.

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