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"AFTER DINNER" TRIALS.

Quick "Justice" Under the Old Criminal Code in England.

In these days of criminal trials long drawn out it may not be uninteresting to glance back at a time when, in England at least, complaint ran in the opposite direction. Such were the earlier years of Queen Victoria, when the old criminal code still survived in much of its archaic barbarity and the picturesqueness of legal procedure inadequately compensated for its cruelty, says London Tit-Bits.

The late Lord Brampton, better known as Sir Henry Hawkins, refers in his reminiscences to the scandal of what he calls the "after dinner" trials of that period. It was then the custom for the court to adjourn for dinner at 5 o'clock, at which meal there was no lack of conviviality, so that when the bench and bar returned to their duties they were in no mood for protracted toil.

In Lord Brampton's own words, "judges and counsel were exhilarated and business was proportionately accelerated." In confirmation of this he notes that these "after dinner" trials did not occupy on an average more than four minutes apiece and in illustration cites an actual case, the paltry nature of which, contrasted with the enormity of the punishment involved, throws a lurid light on the inhumanity of the times.

The case was that of a pick-pocket, in which the prisoner had inconsiderately pleaded "Not guilty," and therefore had a right to be heard. We may quote Lord Brampton's account, beginning with the examination of the witness for the prosecution by the prosecuting counsel:

"I think you were walking up Ludgate hill on Thursday, the 25th, about 2:30 in the afternoon and suddenly felt a tug at your pocket and missed your handkerchief, which the constable now produces?"

"Yes, sir."

"I suppose you have nothing to ask him?" says the judge. "Next witness."

Constable stands up. "Were you following the prosecutor on the occasion when he was robbed on Ludgate hill, and did you see the prisoner put his hand into the prosecutor's pocket and take this handkerchief out of it?"

"Yes, sir."

Judge (to prisoner)—Nothing to say, I suppose? Then to the jury: "Gentlemen, I suppose you have no doubt? I have none."

Jury—Guilty, my lord.

Judge (to prisoner)—Jones, we have met before; we shall not meet again for some time. Seven years' transportation. Next case.

Time—Two minutes fifty-three seconds. As this seems to be a record it is only fair to add that the judge's name was Muirhouse.

Romance of a Necklace.

Some years ago an old French woman died in a poor part of Dublin, and her little effects were put up for auction. Among other odds and ends was a necklace of dirty looking green stones, which did not attract much attention. However, a shrewd pair of dealers thought there might be "money in it" and decided on purchasing, clubbing together £5 for the purpose. On taking it to a well known jeweler he promptly offered £1,500, which sum they refused and sold the necklace of purest emeralds for £7,000 in London, where Lord Rosebery on his marriage purchased it for something like £20,000. The old French woman's mother had been attached to the court of France, and the emeralds had once formed part of the crown jewels.—London Answers.

Magna Charta.

It was a lucky chance that led to the preservation of the Magna Charta from destruction. The story runs that Sir Robert Cotton had one day entered his tailor's shop precisely at the moment when the tailor was about to cut up for patterns an ancient looking document whereon were attached many large and imposing seals. Sir Robert arrested the hand of the tailor, even though he did not immediately recognize the value of the document, which he purchased for a few cents. Today the priceless manuscript is in a glass case at the British museum, most carefully guarded.—Boston Post.

Neither Any Good.

A crusty tenant of a Scotch landlord pressing him to complete some piece of work which had long stood over, the landlord craved further delay, adding that he would give his word of honor—nay, his written bond—to have the thing done before a certain day.

"Your word!" exclaimed the tenant. "It's well known that will do me little good, and, as for your writing, nobody can read it."—Exchange.

BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

C. L. Reames, of Medford, has been chosen for United States Attorney for the district of Oregon.

The Mount Hood Railroad company has begun the construction of an extension of its line from Dee, into the Lost Lake country.

According to advices received by Senator Lane from Secretary Tumulty, President Wilson will not be able to accept various invitations to visit Oregon this summer.

Will R. King, national committeeman from Oregon, has been named a member of the board of appraisers for New York, and will draw a salary of \$9000 a year.

Paisley authorities have secured from the state water rights in Bear Creek and the Chewaucan river, and will proceed with a distribution system as soon as the time is ripe.

The Pendleton round-up will be held September 11, 12 and 13. This is the final decision made by the directors after considering the request of the Spokane Fair association officials not to have a conflict with their dates.

Senator Lane is being deluged with telegrams from Oregon sheep and goat raisers in protest against the proposed tariff changes in these commodities. They demand at least 20 per cent ad valorem on wool and 40 on mohair.

The mail transfer clerk at the Union depot at Albany found a gold nugget in the claw of a chicken killed for his Sunday dinner, from among his flock. He thinks the chicks picked up the nugget in a creek bed in the rear of his home.

In reply to a query from the secretary of the Oregon State Threshers' association, Assistant Attorney General Van Winkle gave an opinion that the workmen's compensation law does not include threshing machines in its provisions.

After using four charges of dynamite, which shattered the safe, windows and fixtures of the Rogue River Mercantile company at Rogue River, a cracksmen escaped with \$150, using a Southern Pacific speeder to make his getaway.

The Washington board of engineers agreed to reduce from \$100,000 to \$10,000 the bond required for maintaining the nine-foot channel from Bay City to Tillamook and an order to this effect will be sent to the Portland office immediately.

Company A, Oregon National Guard, will be disbanded about May 10. While no official notice has been sent out by the department all indications are that Baker will lose its militia. The cause is due to lack of efficiency and non-attendance of members.

Entailing a loss of \$8000, with insurance of \$4000, only on the building, the Elk Creek hotel, at Cannon Beach, the oldest summer resort hotel on that portion of the Oregon coast was destroyed by fire, owing to a defective flue. Nothing was saved from the burning building.

A movement that will be fostered by the Portland Press Club and newspapermen throughout Oregon has been started for the purpose of raising by public subscription funds for the erection of a monument over the grave of the late Homer Davenport, one of America's greatest cartoonists.

The proprietor of the Stayton sawmill, has a crew putting in a 500-foot boom three miles above town for the purpose of turning logs from the main channel of the Santiam river into the millrace of the Stayton Water Power company and the Salem Flouring Mills company, which will carry them to Stayton.

Secretary of the Interior Lane intimated to Senator Chamberlain that he has been getting reports from Oregon to the effect that the Hermiston reclamation project is a failure, and he practically said that if such were the case it would hardly be wise to lay out more money in that vicinity in a similar manner.

The president of the Deschutes Land company, who has returned to Salem, from Washington, has announced that his application for a right of way to Crescent Lake has been granted by the interior department, and that work on the project will be resumed. The application has been held up because of charges preferred with the department against the company by Governor West.

Women must tell their exact ages when registering as voters, says Deputy District Attorney Maguire at Portland. To say that they are over 21 is not sufficient, he declares, and he says that it is incumbent upon the registration clerk to ask each voter his or her age in years and that it is the duty of the voter to respond in kind, not with the phrase "over 21" or the word "legal."

Mrs. S. L. Rodgers observed that a certain barn in Turner, where she lived, had a peculiar attraction for men. She had a suspicious curiosity about the matter. Waiting for a favorable opportunity, she investigated and found three kegs of beer neatly cached. She tumbled the beer and kegs into a nearby millrace. In the course of time the kegs reached the mill and gave notice to the mill men that something had happened to their "blind pig."

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