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GRAND JURY METHODS

If we are to retain the grand jury as an integral part of our judiciary system, the selection of names should be made in some other way than by the plan followed in most counties. A grand jury should be representative and the business should be determined by altering the manner of selection and making service compulsory. The practice in vogue is to pick members of the jury without any regard for their fitness and often with the sole thought of pressing investigation along certain lines. The only equitable way of filling the list is by lottery in the same manner that service of petty jurors is commonly supposed to be secured. The correct legal determination would be to place the names of eligible citizens in a box and then draw until the personnel is completed. This would result in giving a group of men and women who would not rest under the suspicion that they were chosen for the fulfillment of certain pledges and give wider scope to the range of investigation. For instance the choice of names depends on the chairman of the board of county commissioners and the judge of the district court. Omitting names included on the last previous venire the list is scanned and the qualifications of electors discussed. John Jones is rejected for the reason that either one of the men handling the names considers him too busy to pay proper attention to duties of a grand juror and his name is dropped in the basket. Bill Smith may come next. The chairman or judge remarks that Bill has a good job paying \$500 a day and therefore it would be manifestly unfair to ask him to serve at \$1 per diem. The next man or woman may be out of a job and deserving of public charity disguised as juror's fees and that name is taken on the spot. Other occupations may include business men, former saloonkeepers or shift bosses whose business prejudices are carefully weighed before it is decided whether it would be proper to have them on or off the jury. This course is pursued until the proper number of names suitable to the chairman and the judge is on the table and the choice is completed. This system may account for the disparity in the names of women appearing for service as it is inferred that they will be ready and willing to appear whenever the grand jury is summoned by its chairman. The grand jury list in this way may become a convenient vehicle for rewarding campaign workers or for the prosecution of special lines of inquiry without any regard for the fitness of the members to grasp the subjects before them. This system tends to prolong the age and increase the cost of the grand jury to the county for the greatest motive, with many of the juries so drawn would naturally be to prolong the inquiry and to roll up a fat fee bill. The statute authorizing district attorneys to short out the expense of litigation, by direct filing of information was designed chiefly to abate the aggravation of going through the circumlocution of a grand jury with its attendant costs. Admitting that the grand jury is invested with extraordinary powers it must also be conceded that the exercise of these functions is more conspicuous in the absence rather than the performance. Two years ago Nye county had a grand jury that made positive charges against two of the leading mining companies with a demand for restitution of certain taxes on bullion production that were alleged to be unpaid. Auditors of unimpeachable ability were engaged to sift the accounts of county officers and mining companies. These auditors had nothing at stake. They were brought in from another state where all their real and personal interests rested. They were told to go ahead and report their findings which they did with a circumstantiality that brooked no controversy. The report may be found in the public records. The bill for these services was liquidated by the county as a concession that the services were faithfully performed. The chairman of this grand jury was disqualified on the pretext that he had a personal spleen against one of the companies and was engaged in an individual reprisal. It would be tedious to follow the development through its various ramifications until it reached the climax where the investigation was tabled and a clean bill of health extended by a succeeding grand jury. This is an illustration of what happens when a grand jury functions in independent fashion without kowtowing to local influence.

At least a grand jury is partisan inasmuch as it hears only one side of the case before acting.

EMASCULATING THE MASSES

CENTRALIZATION of power appears the main incentive at Carson City. From the governor down everybody with anything to say or a bill to introduce is mimicking the chief executive in patterning after President Wilson in organizing a one-man power to rule the state. First comes the suggestion that the governor be granted plenary powers to wipe out the various boards and commissions by mobilizing them into a few bodies which will take their orders from the executive mansion. Then there was the suggestion that the judiciary be elected for life and the latest is a recommendation that elective officers of state and county hold their jobs for four years. The trend of the whole agitation seems to be to fasten on the commonwealth a bureaucracy equipped with all machinery for perpetuating itself to the exclusion of the commoners who would be relieved of all trouble except footing the bills. The four-year bill contains the provision that no incumbent of office would be eligible for succession but there was nothing in the measure prohibiting the incumbent from running for another equally lucrative office all of which would make for lifetime positions through connivance of officials in power. There is nothing new or novel about the latter system which has been exemplified time and time again in the county administration where offices were exchanged or bartered with such deft manipulation that the voter had nothing to do but to walk up to the polling place and cast his ballot for the gang that ran the election. Perhaps, if the father of this four-year bill would amend it to provide for a complete change in the politi-

cal complexion of officials there would be something appealing for the average taxpayer to grasp but that would be to invite a millennium which is too remote for contemplation. According to the political horoscope the only way to bring about a regeneration of methods would be by granting the petition of the enterprising voters and property owners of Winnemucca to remove the capitol to that city and make a fresh start in the system of government. Humboldt county is willing to pay the price and the good faith of that community is manifest by a movement to raise half a million dollars to insure success of the movement. None but Ormsby county would repine over the change which is deserving of serious consideration in spite of the fact that the proposition has been defeated at previous sessions.

APPEAL TO CHRISTIANS FOR SELF GOVERNMENT

(By Associated Press)
NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—An appeal to the Christian public of Great Britain to support the principle of self-government of all peoples qualified for it has been sent from this city to the leading newspapers of Great Britain and Ireland by the national committee on the churches and the moral aims of the war. This committee has been conducting a campaign through the American churches in support of President Wilson's policies in prosecuting the war, international justice and a league of nations.

The appeal is signed by former President William H. Taft, Lton B. Parker, Hamilton Holt, the Rev. Charles S. Macfarland and the Rev. Sidney L. Gulick and others. They assert in their appeal that foremost among the moral aims of an American church is "the principle of self-government, self-determination and in the due and fit end, independence for all peoples with reference to their development, their training in self-government and their final and complete self-direction. "We believe," continues the appeal, "that this policy should be applied to all the acquisitions of any of the allies, lands, islands and peoples, not yet advanced in social organization, government, or a capacity for an articulate expression of their de-

sires may require control, direction and education. Such should be kept in tutelage until they are able to speak for themselves and act on their own account; but this should be done solely for them, for their development, and for their free and self-governing future, and not under pretext: whatever to provide the world with their products and furnish profit for others.

"In reorganizing, reuniting and raising from long oppression and division, lands and peoples, the same principle should be followed. Lands enjoying an autonomous independence in the past should not lose this hereditary privilege to round a frontier or provide for some greater power. No treaties, secret or open, new or old, no pet colonial ambitions, and no traditional claim or policy, no commercial desires and no colonial plans must be permitted to bring any land or people under any flag or rule save for its own development and its structure, independence, pledged by its colonial rulers.

"This is now our own settled national policy, recognized by all political parties. We confidently appeal to the conscience of our fellow Christians and to each and all of their churches and communities to adopt, to support and to urge this principle, this practice and this policy."

FUNERAL SERVICE ON U. S. CRUISER

(Correspondence Associated Press)
TOKIO, Dec. 15.—A funeral service was held December 14 on board the United States cruiser Brooklyn in Yokohama harbor in memory of the men who succumbed to burns suffered in an explosion while coaling the ship on December 9. The dead were all firemen. The service was led by Bishop Harris of the Methodist mission and the Rev. E. M. Strong, chaplain of the English church in Yokohama. Present, besides Admiral Rogers, commander in chief of the United States Asiatic Squadron, were the American ambassador, Roland S. Morris, and Mrs. Morris, Consul General G. H. Sedgore, the commander of the French cruiser Kerisaint, and leading citizens of the American community in Yokohama.

No further deaths have occurred among the thirty-seven men who were burned in the explosion, though at first it seemed that twenty must die of burns. Dr. Fontenoy of the American naval hospital in Yokohama and the several young women of the American community immedi-

tely responded to his call for volunteer nurses. The work of these girls aided the injured men to endure their days of suffering.

MINERVA TUNGSTEN PLANT SUSPENDS

The Minerva Tungsten company, which only recently completed a splendid new plant at its property in the Minerva district has been compelled to close down for the reason that there is absolutely no market at the present time for tungsten products. The plant is a model in every way, and was run long enough to give it a fair try-out. The company has a large tonnage of ore on the dump, and also many thousands of tons of ore developed in its workings, but is compelled for the present to cease operations because of a total lack of market. It is certainly to be hoped that congress will pass laws putting a tax on tungsten products shipped into the country from the Straits Settlements, China and all other countries and laying cheap duties against 80% of American companies cannot hope to compete. This country is now using more tungsten than ever before in its history, and was using it before peace came and with a little protection the industry which is now idle, could be restored and would be the means of giving employment to many men.—By Record

CANTEENS DOING WORK

The Red Cross canteens in Elko and Mesquite are doing a great work. Every train that passes through the two towns is met by a team of volunteer workers with sandwiches, soups, rolls and coffee, and the soldiers and sailors are served with a variety of homemade dainties. During the month of December 2541 were served by the two canteens. Because of the small population of Mesquite the work, mostly in small quantities for the women workers.

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