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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1912

STATE'S LEGAL GUIDE

Attorney General So Regarded by Officials and Public.

Hundreds of Queries Are Irrelevant to His Duties but Serious Problems. Keep Great Office Busy.

"In this place where you get legal opinions?" asked a raw-boned fellow, as he stepped into the attorney general's office. He found he was on the right track. "I'm from Kansas," he replied. "I want to know whether I can marry my girl who lives in your state." The question would have caused a smile had he not once revealed the tragedy in his life, when he exclaimed: "You know, she is in one of your insane asylums, and I don't know how to get her."

The attorney general's department is the department of opinions. To it all manner of appeals are directed for help and sympathy. This man's desires were so different from those of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of others.

These furnish the high lights in a day of serious study of big problems that affect the administration of county and state in vital points. Stead Has Had More Than His Share. Attorney General Stead has had more than his share of these big questions, but evidently in the congenial, because he has asked to be re-nominated.

Upon what he says is the law, public officers proceed until such time as the courts may decide to the contrary, which, during his term of office, has been frequent.

Clears Up Legal Law of Doubt. Among his first big opinions, Mr. Stead explained to the general assembly the system of counting ballots cast in cumulative voting for member of the house. His conclusions adopted by the assembly reduced number of contested election cases pending before it. These contests, together with Mr. Stead's opinion, furnished the basis for amendments to the Australian ballot law relating to the counting of ballots cast for legislative candidates.

Constitutional Questions. One of the first important constitutional questions submitted to him was found in a new law purporting to validate certain county tax levies which had been declared invalid by the supreme court.

Mr. Stead contended that the new law was valid. The supreme court held with Mr. Stead.

An important constitutional question arose out of an act of 1905, extending the jurisdiction of the probate court to include the supervision of testamentary estates. Mr. Stead held this act to be invalid because the constitution defines the jurisdiction of this court and the legislature could not extend it. The supreme court upheld this view.

The Illinois Central Case. Mr. Stead rendered a number of opinions in 1906 and 1907 relating to the contract between the state and the Illinois Central railroad company. These were forerunners to the great suit for an accounting by the company of its general relations with the state, a case in which the attorney general has since been sustained by the supreme court.

The act of 1905 requiring election judges to be appointed in each precinct in accordance with the vote of the last election for governor was attacked on constitutional grounds. Mr. Stead said it was valid and instituted suit against the board of judges county to compel compliance. His argument was successful in the supreme court and since then county boards have obeyed the law.

Amendments to Revenue Law. The statute which in the revenue law of 1905, seeking to exempt from capital stock assessment, the capital of manufacturing and mining corporations, was attacked by the supreme court. The act was held to be unconstitutional, and the supreme court later amended the law.

An opinion which has created wide comment was that given to the governor, upon the application of the Finance and Light company to invest a dam at Dresden, Illinois, across the Mississippi river. General Stead's opinion was sustained by the supreme court. Appeal from the decision has been taken by the state to the United States supreme court. The woman's Ten Hour Law. The woman's ten hour law, which has been passed by the legislature, is a very important one, as it is a very important one.

passed, to be void and some months later the supreme court affirmed that decision. Since then an amendment to the law, extending the scope, has been passed and court has since now pending with Mr. Stead defending the law.

An important series of opinions was rendered to the auditor relating to the acts of 1905, changing the basis of assessment from one-fifth to one-third of the fair cash value of property. They have since been affirmed by the supreme court.

Senate Asks for an Opinion. The state senate recently asked him whether the state game department had a right to expend its fees without appropriation. General Stead replied that, in his opinion, fees collected by state agencies should be turned into the public treasury and such agencies supported entirely from specific appropriations by the assembly in the regular manner.

This opinion was vitiated in a law which has since been confirmed by the supreme court.

"Liked to Be Guffed." Sir William Gull, the well-known London physician, was once the victim of an amusing piece of roborant on the part of a fellow practitioner. The occasion was a dinner party at which several distinguished medical men were present. The conversation happened to turn upon the subject of quackery, and Sir William Gull expressed his conviction that a certain amount of it was essential to success in practice, adding: "It is a certain of the old saying, 'Populus vult decipi' (people like to be deceived)."

"Quite so," said the host; "now, can any one present give an English equivalent to that?" "Nothing easier," dryly remarked a well-known physician of one of the Manchester hospitals. "The public liked to be guffed."

Fecularity of Typhoons. Typhoons increase their strength as they go north and consequently there may be quite a difference between the power of one in the southern end of the West Indian islands as compared with one in the north. It is this feature which makes the hurricanes of the West Indies more to be dreaded than the Pacific typhoons of this latitude.

Attributes of Great Goutier. The greatest general is he who knows when to retreat and dare to do it.

SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Childish Mind, Creeping in Darkness, Is Craving for Information That Is Denied It.

Every trace of useful information is carefully concealed from the very young child. A rattle, or at most a rubber doll, is its only plaything. As it grows older it is very slowly and gradually introduced to the various forms of the animal kingdom. Of the mysteries of numbers and of language it has as yet no conception. Its constant questions are for the most part answered "humorously" and hence incorrectly, or they are not answered at all. This eternal "humor" is most galling of all. Why should a human infant be such an irresistible joke? The lower animals take their young seriously and train them from the start with a very definite purpose in view. Yet their possibilities are infinitesimal as compared with those of the average baby. And we sit calmly by and enjoy the "humor" of childhood and insist that the child is enjoying itself also, even though its little soul may be thirsting for information which is laughingly denied it. And we continue to put off the inevitable day when the child will have to take life seriously and hence, according to our tradition, sadly.

One important point which is quite overlooked by the upholders of the brainless child is the fact that nonsense and silliness are just as taxing to the infant mind as useful information would be. It requires no mental effort to realize that A is A than to grasp the extraordinary fact that a mass of brownish softness is a "fussy little Teddy bear, yes it is." In fact, the letter A has a distinct advantage. And at a more advanced age it is certainly less puzzling to be told that eye and five make ten than to have one over respectable pink toes described as a series of pigs going to market or entering into the various other activities of life.—Significant Speech in Harper's Weekly.

Evil in Excess of Diversion. It is found by an Italian doctor that the excess of diversion in the lives of New York society is bound to bring upon them the miseries of neurasthenia. This disease has, according to the doctor, different ways of affecting itself with exhaustion, the pure gasconades of dull and torpid and the American is merely overstimulated and tries to get faster and faster.

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knows that even good cooking can't alone for bad meats. Why don't you order your meats here all the time and insure good meat every time? It doesn't cost any more. Call today.

Geo. J. Wenninger

Artist Through Into Train. When an automobile, loaded with a telegraph post at Trenton, North England, a few days ago and turned a complete corner, one of the occupants had an extraordinary experience, being flung high into a tree from a bough of which he hung suspended by his clothes until rescued by a motorcyclist.

Telephone Lines Kept Busy. A billion talks a year take place over the telephones of New York city.

Remedy for Blotches. Blotches that are unremoved should be treated in bathroom, the method being more satisfactory than making in cold water. The same process will effectively bleach material that have grown yellow from lack of use. Rinse well in warm water afterward and hang in the sun.—Good Housekeeping.

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