JUDGES

OF THE

Supreme Court of the State of Oregon

AARON E. WAIT, elected 1859, Chief Justice, resigned May 1, 1862. MATTHEW P. DEADY, elected 1859, resigned.

REUBEN P. BOISE, elected 1859, Chief Justice, May 1st, 1862.

RILEY E. STRATTON, elected 1859.

PAINE P. PRIM, appointed 1859, (vice DEADY.)

PAINE P. PRIM. elected 1860.

WILLIAM W. PAGE, appointed 1862, (vice WAIT.)

Salary-\$2,000.

J. G. WILSON, Clerk, Fees.

Constitutional provision in reference to the Supreme Court of Oregon, article 7th, section 2d.

"The Supreme Court shall consist of four justices, to be chosen in districts, by the electors thereof, who shall be citizens of the United States, and who shall have resided in the State at least three years next preceding their election, and after their election to reside in their respective districts. The number of justices and districts may be increased, but shall not exceed five, until the white population of the State shall amount to one hundred thousand; and shall never exceed seven," &c.

SECTION 3. The judges first chosen under this constitution [1 Oregon] (239)

shall allot among themselves their terms of office, so that the term of one of them shall expire in two years, one in four years, and two in six years; and thereafter, one or more shall be chosen every two years, to serve for the term of six years.

Section 4. Every vacancy in the office of judge of the Supreme Court shall be filled by election for the remainder of the vacant term, unless it would expire at the next election; and until so filled, or when it would so expire, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointment.

Section 5. The judge who has the shortest term to serve, or the oldest of several having such shortest term, and not holding by appointment, shall be Chief-Justice.

"An Act to fix the times and places of holding the Terms of the Supreme and Circuit Courts," passed June 3d, 1859.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, That a term of the Supreme Court shall be held at the seat of government, on the first Monday of December next, and thereafter, at the seat of government, on the second Monday in December; and at Portland, in the county of Multnomah, on the second Monday in July, annually.

AND CIRCUIT COURTS. [1 Oregon

es their terms of office, so that the expire in two years, one in four; and thereafter, one or more shall to serve for the term of six years. It is in the office of judge of the Sudo by election for the remainder of would expire at the next election; in it would so expire, the governor propositement.

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CASES

ARGUED AND DETERMINED

IN THE

Supreme Court of the State of Oregon

DECEMBER TERM, A. D. 1859.

AARON E. WAIT, Chief Justice.
REUBEN P. BOISE,
RILEY E. STRATTON,
PAINE P. PRIM,

J. G. WILSON, Clerk.

DECEMBER TERM, 1859, Supreme Court of the State of Oregon.

Ordered,—that the clerk be authorized to tax, as a part of the costs against the losing party, the sum of three dollars in each cause, as fees for recording the opinion of the court therein.

PLEASANT HOWELL, Plaintiff in Error, v. STATE OF OREGON, Defendant in Error.

Error to Marion.

1. Under the statute, it is not necessary for the jury to assess, in their verdict the value of the property stolen, when the property is alleged to be of a specific value.

2. Under the statute, "in every case in which punishment in the penitentiary is awarded, &c., the form of the sentence shall be, that

[1 Oregon]

(241)

on account of moneys received by Fargo, nor is any issue found by the "answers and reply," to which the testimony would be pertinent; nor could an uncertified tax-list be given in evidence, to prove a breach of a bond, for not returning a certified tax-list. An uncertified tax-list is not proof of a certified tax-list.

The evidence ought not to have been admitted; and, having been objected to, and the ruling of the court excepted to, the judgment should be reversed, and a new trial granted.

Judgment reversed, and a new trial granted.

HENRY M. FRISBIE, Plaintiff in Error, v. STATE OF OREGON, Defendant in Error.

Error to Polk.

1. A pack of playing-cards is a "gambling device" within the meaning of the statute.

 The terms, "suffering such gambling device to be set up and used," &c., are properly used in charging said offence.

PLAINTIFF in error, at the November term of the Circuit Court of Polk County, 1859, was indicted for suffering a gambling device to be set up and used, in a certain house then occupied by him, for the purpose of gaming.

There was a trial and conviction for the offence as charged.

G. H. Williams, for plaintiff in error.

J. G. Wilson, for State.

STRATTON, J. The instructions of the court upon the trial of this case, to which exceptions were taken, were founded wholly upon the construction of our gaming act; and the question now is, was the interpretation of those statutes given

d by Fargo, nor is any issue eply," to which the testimony an uncertified tax-list be given of a bond, for not returning tified tax-list is not proof of a

have been admitted; and, havruling of the court excepted to, sed, and a new trial granted. ed, and a new trial granted.

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viction for the offence as charged.

tiff in error.

uctions of the court upon the trial ptions were taken, were founded ion of our gaming act; and the erpretation of those statutes given by the court below correct? The facts, as they appear by the bill of exceptions, are, "that witness and others met at defendant's (below) grocery in the after part of the day; made up a game of what is familiarly known as poker; half a dollar ante; played with common playing-cards on a card Defendant was in the game; he table; played all night. sometimes won and sometimes lost. Used several packs of cards; they were paid for out of the common fund."

The indictment substantially charges the plaintiff in error with suffering a gambling device to be set up and used for the purpose of gaming, &c. With this state of facts, and under the indictment, the counsel for plaintiff in error asked the court to charge, substantially:

Dec. 1859]

1st. That a pack of playing-cards was not a gambling device, as described in the indictment.

2d. That such a pack of cardo was now a gendling device within the meaning of the statute.

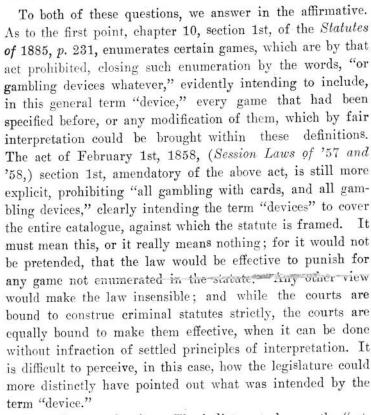
Several other instructions were asked and refused, as being too general, and not applying to the case.

The court did instruct the jury, that "if they believed from the evidence, that the defendant suffered gambling with cards in his house, it was a sufficient setting up of a gambling device to warrant a conviction. Also, that evidence showing that the defendant engaged in, and suffered gambling with cards in his house, all of one night, it would be a sufficient setting up and using a gambling device, to warrant a conviction."

To the refusal to charge as requested, and to the charge as Two questions arise in this given, exceptions were taken. case:

1st. "Is gaming with cards, in the manner as the evidence here tends to disclose, a gambling device to bring the game within the description of a gambling device, as set forth in the indictment.

2d. "If so, was there sufficient evidence of such a setting up and use, as warranted the judge in charging the jury in manner as set forth in the bill of exceptions."



As to the second point. The indictment charges the "setting up and using," in the exact language of the statute, as applicable to this game. The prosecutor might have added the words "played," "dealt" and "practiced," words of the statute, and it is not perceived that the indictment would have been better or worse for such words. Here it was the "user" which was the gist of the offence, and that is alleged definitely enough.

In the argument, much stress was laid on the words "set up," used in the indictment, as applied to a game of cards. This is a phrase of very wide latitude of meaning it is true, but quite capable of being generally understood. It does not necessarily and exclusively apply to the construction or setting up of some physical object or design, as billiard or

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swer in the affirmative. tion 1st, of the Statutes games, which are by that ation by the words, "or ly intending to include, y game that had been of them, which by fair ithin these definitions. Session Laws of '57 and e above act, is still more with cards, and all game term "devices" to cover the statute is framed. It nothing; for it would not be effective to punish for Any other view nd while the courts are es strictly, the courts are ctive, when it can be done ciples of interpretation. It , how the legislature could

ndictment charges the "setlanguage of the statute, as rosecutor might have added "practiced," words of the that the indictment would ch words. Here it was the offence, and that is alleged

what was intended by the

was laid on the words "set applied to a game of cards. titude of meaning it is true, It does nerally understood. apply to the construction or ject or design, as billiard or roulette tables, as counsel would insist; but it may, and indeed is more frequently used in a figurative sense. Thus, it is said, that a man has "set up" the business of a merchant, or the trade of a carpenter; or, that he has "set up" in life with fair prospects; and in this we think there was good reason of saying, that the plaintiff in error had set up the occupation of a gambler. This form of expression is too common to be misunderstood; and being used in the statute as descriptive of the manner in which such offences are put in practice, is deemed to have been properly used.

Judgment is affirmed.

SAMUEL HORNER, Plaintiff in Error, v. STATE OF OREGON, Defendant in Error.

Error to Lane.

- 1. Under the statute, imposing, in certain offences, a punishment by "imprisonment not more than one year," &c., which is silent as to the place of imprisonment, a sentence, inflicting punishment by "imprisonment in the penitentiary for one year," is error, and must be represented. be reversed.
- 2. Criminal statutes are to be strictly construed; and not beyond their literal and obvious meaning.

This was a prosecution for malicious threatening, with intent to extort money, under the 34th section of the third chapter of the statute defining crimes and regulating criminal proceedings. A verdict of guilty was rendered in the court below, and the prisoner sentenced to imprisonment in the penitentiary for one year.

- J. Kelsay, for plaintiff in error.
- G. H. Williams, for State.

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At a Suprime Court begun and held at the Court Room in the village of Salem, the Leas of Comment, in and for the State of Orgon, in Monoay the 5"day of December AD1859. Infor the Avol.

Chair fustice, and Reuten P. Prim, associate fustices, the following proceedings were had in Henry M. Frishe.

No 54-

State of Organ Corner Colle _

This day this cause came in for hearing upon the error assigned in the news and proceedings in the Court blow - and after argument by Williams of Council for Defendant in Error, the Court finds that there is not any error as alleged - It is then for ordered and adjuste that the progression that the Defendant in Error, have and recover against the Defendant in Error, have and recover against the plaintiff in Error the Sum of Fine hundred dollars fine herstofon arressed, and the Costs in this cause in the Circuit Court taxed, and the Since of There of There are the Since of There are the Court taxed, and the Since of There are the sure than Court taxed, and the Since of There are the court taxed, and the Since of There are the court taxed, and the Since of There are the court taxed, and the Since of There are the court taxed, and the Since of There are the court taxed, and the Since of There are the court taxed, and the Court, and have to center there in the court taxed.

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State of anegow & Circuit Court 3° Sudient Wenty M Firishing of Jall State of angon Henry M. Frishie is accused by The Grand Jung of the County of Polle, Stall of Onegow by this indictment of the offence of Suffering a gambling devise to be tet up and used for the purpose of gaming Committed as follows The Laid Henry . It Tristice on the horst day of November AD, 1859 at the billage of Dallas in the County of Pall unlawfully did Supper a gambling device to wit; a pack of playing cards, to be let up and used for the purpose of gaming in a building by him then and there accupied contrary to the Statules in Such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the Stall of Onegow Daled at Dallas, in The County of Pall the 17th day of November AD 1859 Stephen Staats Foreman of the Grand I G Widson Indictment for Suffering gambling deuce tothe Henry M Frished The purpose of gambling a true bill Stephen Staats Foreman of Witness & G. Was do The Grand Jun Mr H Jack Dow, & Me Giles, Feled Nov 1741859 of Ho Hutchinson clerk

Harrison P. Godo, John Gyron, William Sebring, J. B. Smith, Abraham Balijast Benjamin Griffish, & & Myte, John 4, Davidson, Cole and Ground & David Dipson twelve good and lawful men who being empounded and Swoon To Mry Said Couse and the Said Sung after hearing the evidence of witness the argument of Coursel under charge of the Court, retired under charge of the proper sword officer to consider of Their berdiet and after a short obsence returned into court the following verdect, to wit; " Stale of Onegow, Henry M Frisher me The Dury find The defendant Builty in the above case as charged in the inspectment Foreman, and Theneupon on motion of Il Wilson that Dudgment be passed upon the prisoner, it was ardened That The prisour be adjudged to pay a fine of five hundred dollars Stend Committee to The County Sail of Palle County until Said pune and coals are discharged on he be otherwise discharged by due Carse of law

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his attorney ance having been duly assaigned as charged in the said inselectment enter pleaded not Smilter whereupen came a June lowit Davielsen, Harrison, P. Look Carrison Leinville, John Me Bames, Abraham, Davier Libson, John B. Smith, Munso, Miller, and lawful when who being eluly and Swam to tree Said Canse, and the Said Just after hearing the evidence of Mitmesses the examinent of Coursel and the charge the Court gettined under change of a prope Swom officer, to consider of their bereict the fallowing proceedings were had to wit, tate of Onegen 2 Quelictment for selemis Spirituous legion without Veening Ma Frisber & lecense This day came h Gle Molson, Grosecuting attorney einer in his own proper freson at well as by Miliams his attorney, buse the Burg heutofete unpan= = Melled and Swam in this care returned mile court the fallowing verdect to wit State of Oregon The the fees fines the defendan in this care lively as charged in the inflictment

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Mitners my have and the seal of Sain Court offices at Dallas this Ith day of December AD1859't

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This document is a <u>draft version</u> of the Oregon State Constitution's preamble and bill of rights. It was written in 1857.

After defeating motions to organize a state constitutional convention in 1854, 1855, and 1856 due to fears that statehood would bring higher taxes, the electorate of Oregon Territory shifted direction in 1857 and voted overwhelmingly in favor of drawing up a state constitution. This change in attitude stemmed from growing concerns over the slavery question, which Chief Justice of the Oregon Territory George H. Williams called the "paramount issue" in Oregon at that time. Democrats hoped to consolidate their power despite splits in the party over slavery, while anti-Democrats sought to avoid having slavery forced upon them by the federal government in the wake of the disturbing events in "Bleeding Kansas" and the U.S. Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision.

In August 1857 delegates from across the territory met in Salem to draw up a new state constitution. The draft of the constitution reproduced here, modeled on the constitution of Indiana, does not address slavery or the exclusion of free blacks from the state. Rather than let slavery and "negro exclusion" dominate the discussion and paralyze the convention, the delegates decided to submit these questions directly to the voters. The delegates did agree to vote against extending suffrage rights to women and non-white men, however. The suffrage committee recommended language stating that "No negro or mulatto shall have the right of suffrage;" the delegates later added "Chinaman" to this list. Women of all races were also denied voting rights.

The constitution, together with the slavery and free black exclusion clauses, was submitted to the voters of Oregon on November 9, 1857. The territory's electorate, consisting of white men over the age of twenty-one, voted in favor of the constitution 7,195 to 3,195. An even larger majority voted against slavery, and a still larger majority voted against allowing free blacks to reside in the state. Justice Williams later wrote that although many who voted in favor of the negro exclusion clause were actually against it, "it was considered necessary to throw this tub to the whale of the proslavery party to secure the success of the free state clause of the constitution."

The U.S. Senate quickly ratified Oregon's constitution, but the U.S. House of Representatives was split. After a bitter debate, they voted to accept it by a close vote on February 12, 1859. Two days later President James Buchanan signed the law that made Oregon the thirty-third state in the union.

Further Reading:

Carey, Charles Henry, ed. The Oregon Constitution and Proceedings and Debates of the Constitutional Convention of 1857. Salem, Oreg., 1926.

Johnson, David Alan. Founding the Far West: California, Oregon, and Nevada, 1840-1890. Berkeley, Calif., 1992.

Williams, George H. "Political History of Oregon from 1853 to 1865." Oregon Historical Quarterly 2, 1901: 1-35.

Written by Cain Allen, Oregon Historical Society, 2006.

In 1912, Oregon women won the right to vote; for the first time, they could also serve as members of a jury. <u>Dr. Marie Equi</u>—to the right of Mrs. Henry W. Coe, who is sitting under the light bulb—a well-known suffragist and advocate of a woman's right to use birth control, was among the first group of women in Oregon to register for jury duty.

This marked the beginning of Oregon women's full participation in the legal system. Not only were women now able to own property, sue and be sued, vote in school elections, and be admitted to the bar — all rights they had won earlier — they were also able to vote in primary and general elections and help decide cases as members of a jury.

In addition to woman suffrage, the controversial Dr. Equi was notable for her other causes as well. Decorated by the U.S. Army for humanitarian work, she also was targeted by her opponents for offering birth control and abortions to both working class and wealthy women — one of only a few Portland doctors who would do so — and for her anti-war stance and condemnation of capitalism.

She was arrested several times in association with her political work, once, in 1916, with Margaret Sanger and again in 1920 when she was sentenced to serve three years in San Quentin for her outspoken anti-war views. Afterward, she returned to Portland. Equi raised a daughter there and on the Oregon coast and continued to support the IWW. Equi died in 1952.

Written by Trudy Flores, Sarah Griffith, © Oregon Historical Society, 2002.