

The Legal News.

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It has been proposed to place an elevator in the Montreal Court-House, and provide the accommodation so urgently needed by constructing an additional floor. When this suggestion was made at a recent meeting, it was doubted by some one present whether there was any precedent for such an arrangement. It was answered, however, that elevators are in common use in the court-houses of other large cities, and we notice in a late issue of the *Boston Law Record* that it is proposed to put one in the court-house of that city. S. J. Thomas writes to the Mayor of Boston:—"If you will somehow cause to be put into the court-house a couple of elevators I am sure that not only the judges and clerks and jurors and parties and their witnesses, including the cripples and those afflicted with heart disease or asthma or other trouble which makes it difficult for them to climb, but who are nevertheless constrained to attend court, but also the lawyers, some of whom, believe me, are neither cripples, nor yet especially infirm, and whose hearts are in the right place, will thank you and hold you in everlasting remembrance as the doer of another sensible act. Please to regard this as a very earnest petition." The Mayor replies: "I heartily approve of your suggestion that elevators be provided for the present court-house."

One would expect to learn that prohibition or enforced temperance diminishes wife murders, criminal assaults, and offences of this nature. But the actual volume of crime is apparently affected in a much less degree than the advocates of prohibition pretend. For example, according to the last report of the directors and warden of the Kansas Penitentiary, crime reached a higher mark while prohibition was most effective in that State. It shows that from counties where the sale of liquors was not interfered with "have come a less number of convicts, according to their population, than from many of the counties

where the enforcement of the law (prohibition) was most rigid and complete." Thus four counties with no liquor law and a population of 117,239 supplied 95 convicts, while six counties with a rigidly enforced law and a population of 115,865 supplied 111 convicts: or, to adopt the language of the report, "from a prohibition population of 115,865 come 16 more convicts than from an anti-prohibition population of 117,239."

Mr. Justice Paxson recently gave judgment, in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, in a suit brought before the civil war by Asa Packer against his partners for an account. The judge begins an opinion, which occupies nearly fifty pages of the Pennsylvania reports, with this explanation:—"It is now over twenty-six years since this proceeding was commenced in the court below. During that time the three principal parties and several of the eminent counsel concerned in the cause have been removed by death. The paper books, Master's report, the arguments before the Master, the testimony and exhibits occupy twelve printed volumes. It was stated in the argument at Bar that the expenses of the litigation when it reached this court had amounted to over one million dollars. It involves many millions more. I mention these circumstances merely by way of apology for consuming nearly the whole of my summer vacation with the examination and study of the case."

Women who are sensitive and coy as to their age, says the *N. Y. Herald*, will learn with interest that this common vanity of their sex has a time-honored origin. In one of the Year Books of the reign of Edward III. is reported a decision in which Judge Barnsad makes this remark: "There is no man in England who can rightly tell if a woman has reached her majority or not; for many women who are at least thirty years old want to appear as but sixteen." This was in 1377—more than five centuries ago. It shows that in one respect at least the average female mind was the same then as now.

The Court of Appeal, in the judgment rendered on the 23rd inst., stands three to two on the question of the validity of the tax im-