WHERE JUSTICE GOT A BLACK EYE

Squire Timberson, recently elected to dminister justice in one of the outlying townships of a short-grass county in Kaness, is an excellent type of the frontier justice of the peace. A few weeks after he had assumed the judicial ermine, figuratively speaking, a horse thief was captured in the equire's bailiwick and was brought before him for hearing, with the expectation-a foregone conclusion, by the way-in the mind of the prosecuting attorney, that the prisoner would be bound over to the district court in proper form without a

better-half had cleared the commodious kitchen for the assembling of court, even giving the floor a good scrubbing that it might be as free from stains as the escutcheon of the great state her husband locally represented.

The prosecuting attorney was first to arrive, followed in a few moments by the prisoner, safe in the grasp of a burly country constable, and trooping behind them came a score or more of suspicious looking individuals who were clearly the friends of the accused. The defendant's attorney strode in a moment later.

Squire Timberson were a look of dignity befitting his responsible position, though down in his heart he felt a sickening qualm as to just what the occasion called for on his part and his lower arose from behind the kitchen table, a temporary judicial beach.

Now it happened that the squire knew nothing of legal lore or judicial form, his sole knowledge along the lines of authority having been derived from a worn copy of Robert's "Rules of Order" sir? and a study in boyhood days of Cushing's "Manual." His experience had ree and whys in a country lyneum.

The absence of anything in the nature of a law library was particularly notice- quired: ble in this kitchen "court of justice." he familiar sheep-covered black one ras nowhere to be men.

matable who officiated in the capacity tion. Hiff, the whi e he kept his eye on the ser and his right hand or his pistol tance of the proceduing attorney, the question?" was inspecting the papers in the case. ding the warrant with the con- de able's return thereon.

been holding a whispered consultation ney, who was trying to gain his atten-with the prisoner and his friends, and tion, repeated slowly: for an occasional resounding "All three who air in favor of the h" as an extra large ejection of motion signify by saying 'Aye'!" oco juice was emitted from between A chorus of "Ayes" came in response

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futile, for the squire insisted that the

"Ayes" had it, and "I wouldn't be on-

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all was quiet in the courtroom.

Suddenly, and without previous warnmove, which however it affected the 'Ayes' have it an' the prisoner's disequanimity of the state's attorney, at least took the squire off his guard.

The prisoner's council arose, beaming show error in the proceedings proved pleasantly; and evidently "with malice aforethought and evil intent," said:

"May it please the court, I move that this case be dismissed and the prisoner state got free!" discharged from custody."

The squire was all alert, and whatever limbs wobbled suspiciously when he had been the clouded state of his judicial mind as to what to do before, it was perfectly clear now. All the rules de fined and laid down by Roberts came fresh to memory, and he roared in a deep base voice:

"Do you make that there as a motion,

"I do," replied the prisoner's counsel. The equire glanced expectantly over been acquired in debating the where- the courtroom and failing by his glance to elicit that which should he thought should be forthcoming, he gravely in-

"Do I hear a second to that motion?" A friend of the prisoner promptly seconded the motion, and the squire The court convened promptly at 10 a. swelled with importance as he looked m., being rapped to order by the burly over the kitchen table and put the ques-

"It has been moved an' seconded that this 'ere case be dismissed an' the prishis his pocket. The squire, with the over be discharged. Are ye ready for

"Question," "question," came from a

The equire, in all solemnity, looking The attorney for the defendant had over the head of the prosecuting attor-

shed on the newly scrubbed floor, which chorus defendant's counsel led,

"All those that air opposed say 'no'!" Owing to the squire's sense of honor Only the prosecuting attorney and the in this respect the constable stalked out ing, the defense, in the person of the burly constable voted in the negative of the court room without a prisoner .prisoner's attorney, made an unexpected and the squire firmly decided: "The The Court-Crier.

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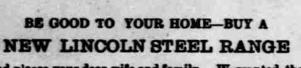
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