

POLICE JUDGE JOHNSON NOT
DESERVING OF ABUSE.

It is the Province of a Judge to Decide
According to the Law and the
Facts Regardless of Editorial Dictation.

The combine organs are hounding Judge Johnston just now for his decision in the policy cases. The Judge decided that the city ordinance framed to deal with the policy shops was unconstitutional because the penalty provided was not in harmony with the state law on the subject.

Wednesday, three defendants were discharged under this decision and seven more cases on the docket will go the same way.

A gentleman discussing the matter at the city hall this morning said: "They ought to place a machine on the bench in the police court, then all they would have to do would be to put their complaint in the slot and roll out a judgment."

Another gentleman said: "The judge must have some discretion, and it is unfair to abuse him for exercising his judgment and discretion."

Ex-City Attorney Tom King claims to have beat a case once on similar grounds, to wit, want of harmony with the state law.

The policy decision has set all the old timers to talking about police court judges. Senator Teasdale tells a good one about Ham Finney. One time an agent wanted to sell him a patent affair to use at night to keep his pants from bagging at the knees. "But what would my dog sleep on?" queried the judge, and that settled the agent. He hadn't the heart to talk a man out of taking his dog's bed away from him.

Dan Grover, who used to be on the bench, is declared to have been somewhat of a constitutional lawyer, and many good stories are told of him.

Those who are politically inclined recall the fact that Joe Davenport when police recorder went counter to the wishes of the police and was repaid by an election to the mayoralty and ever after accorded the privilege of being "mentioned" for that office. These gentlemen say that Judge Johnson has struck the same path only it starts from the other side of the house—the democratic side.

A good many people say the policy law will now follow the Newberry law, which prohibited the placing of pool or gaming tables in saloons and the Sunday closing of saloons law into innocuous desuetude.