

JUDGE WOFFORD'S DECISION.

Just why a judge should go outside of the law to make a point against a violator of the law is not clear, yet that seems to be the idea of one of the evening papers in its persistent and malicious attack upon Judge Wofford because he construed the law according to his best judgment.

The JOURNAL has no defense to make for policy shop keepers nor for any other violators of the law, but it does feel that the judiciary should be defended from the attacks of a paper whose sole object appears to be the running of municipal affairs according to its code, regardless of whether the law sustains that code or not.

This case is simply whether the city

has a right to pass an ordinance that is directly against the constitution and laws of the state or not. Judge Wofford decided, and very properly, that it had not. In this decision the city is unfortunate, but the judge is not necessarily an aider and abettor of criminals, as the evening paper in question would have the people to understand. He rendered his decision according to his construction of the law. Because this decision runs contrary to the wishes of the paper which so suddenly turned against the policy sharps last year, that paper would besmirch an honorable gentleman who supposed that he was elected to the bench to administer the law without favor.