

MISSOURI SUPREME COURT.

A Decision Rendered to the Effect That the Vagrancy Law Is Uncon- stitutional.

JEFFERSON CITY, MO., June 19.—[Special.] Jo Thompson, the vagrant, who was arrested some months ago in Salt River township, Audrain county, and brought before a justice of the peace of that county and, upon trial, convicted of vagrancy, and under the law advertised to be sold in three days for a period of six months, was this morning released by court in banc upon a habeas corpus proceedings.

After an exhaustive review of the laws relating to involuntary servitude and a reference to the state and United States constitutions, the latter of which specifically provides that there shall be no servitude except for crime committed, the court gives Thompson his freedom and declares the vagrancy law under which he was sold to be unconstitutional. It is held that as the laws of this state do not declare vagrancy to be a crime any servitude imposed upon a judgment under the law upon conviction of vagrancy cannot be enforced. The weakness of the law may be corrected by making vagrancy a crime.