

Brief for the State. The State of Kansas versus Joseph E. McNaught

Brief for the State in the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas. The State of Kansas, plaintiff versus Joseph E. McNaught, Defendant.

Creator: Kansas. Supreme Court

Date: 1885

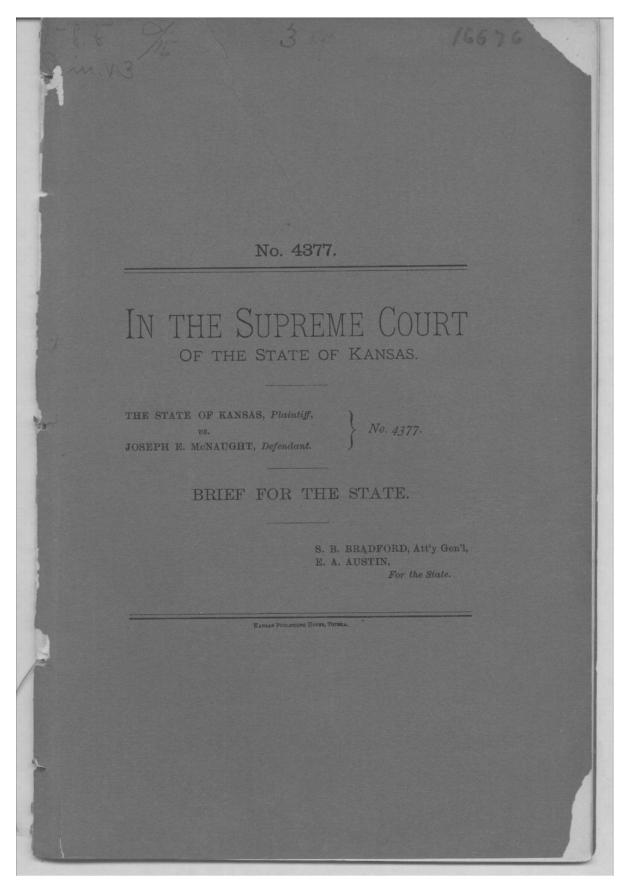
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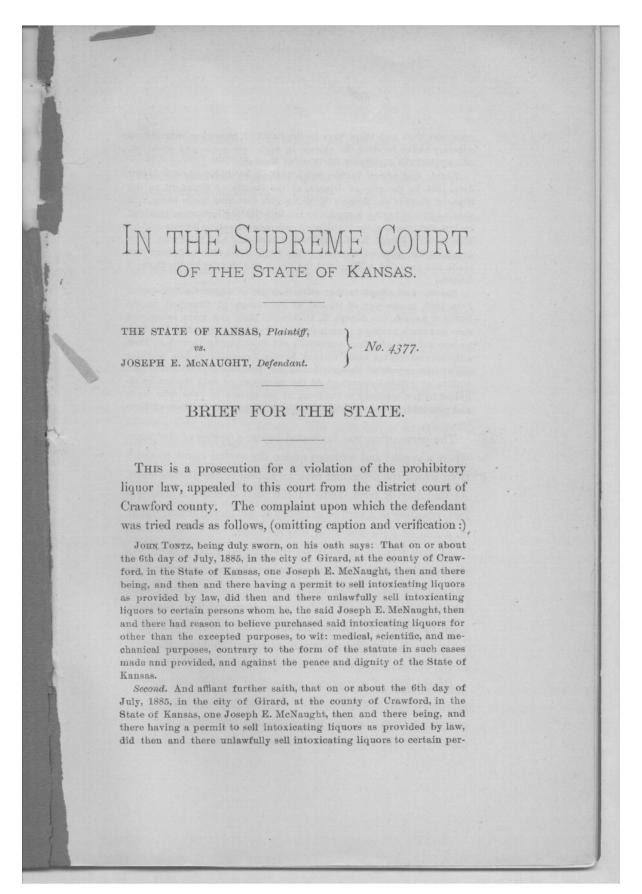
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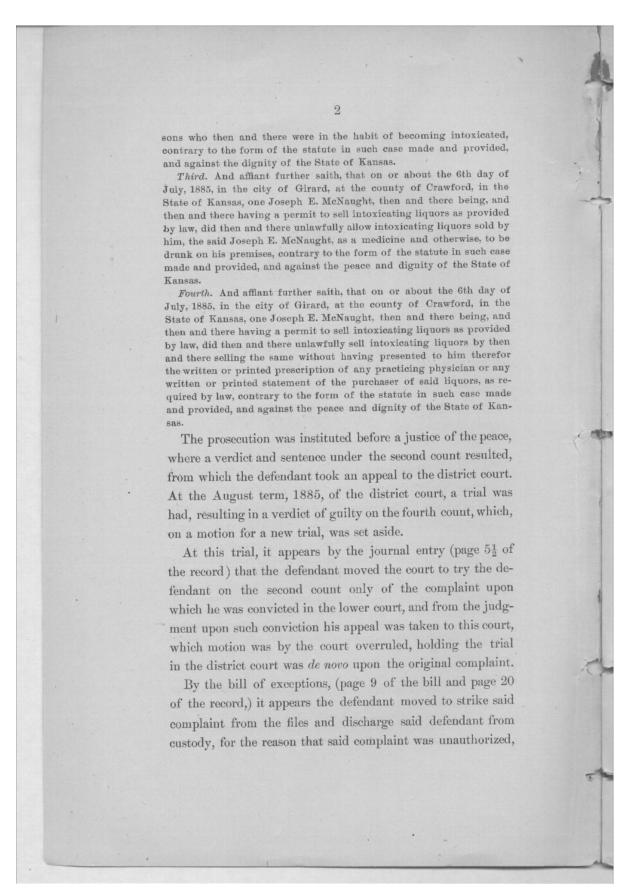




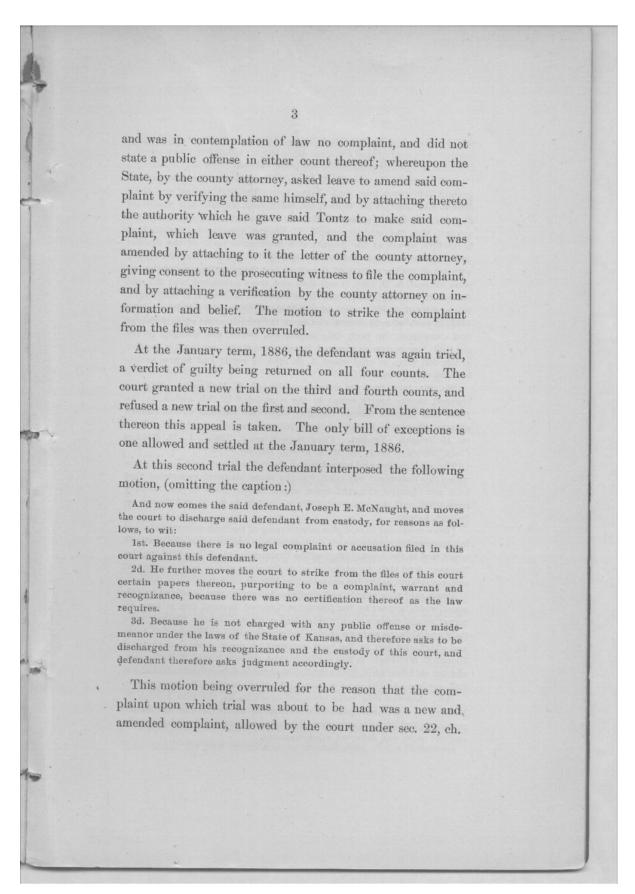




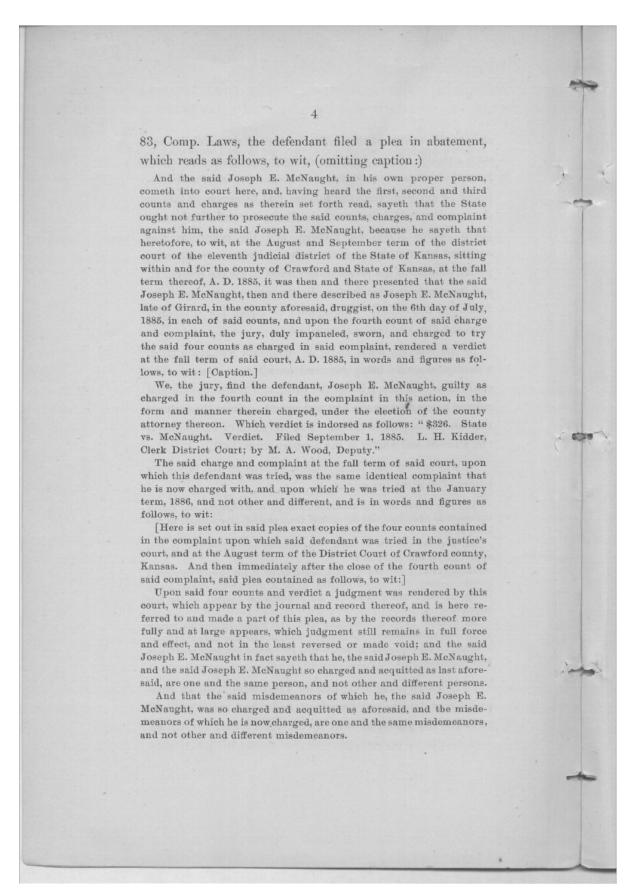




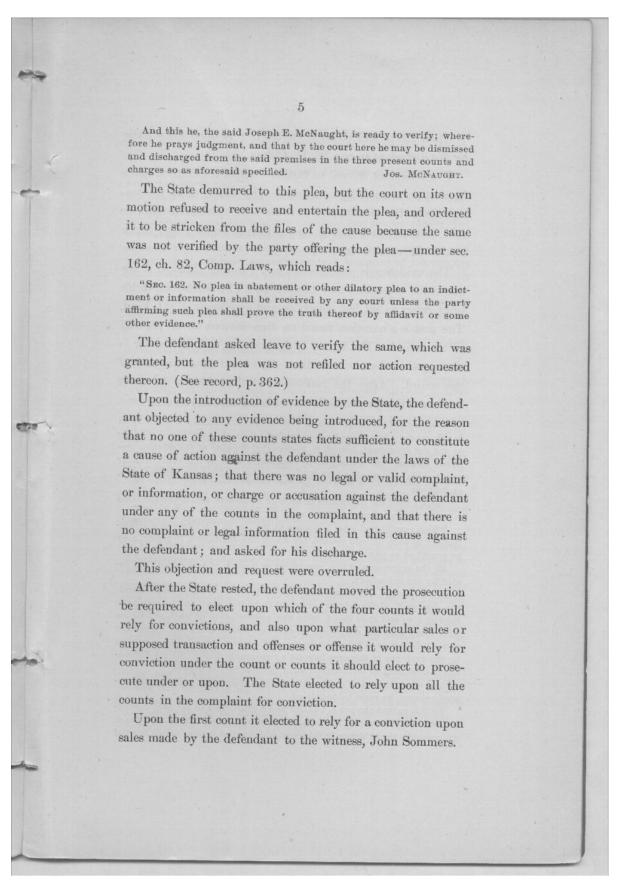










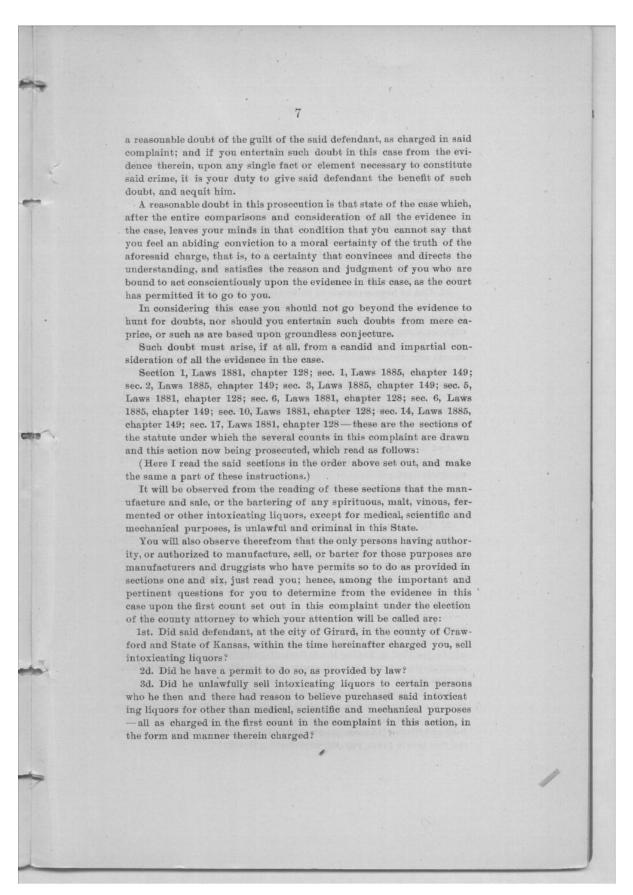




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Upon the second count it elected to rely upon sales made by the defendant to one W. H. Colean. The defendant moved to further compel the State to make its election more definite and certain, by stating what particular sale or transaction, and to name some particular sales to said Sommers and Colean upon which it would rely; which motion the court overruled. The evidence is voluminous, and running through it are numerous objections and exceptions. The defendant, in his brief, refers to but few objections and exceptions of this kind. The first is a question found on lines 20 and 21 of page 57 of the record. The second is the question, and the answer to the question, found in the lines 13, 14 and 17 of page 63 of the record. After the conclusion of the evidence the court instructed the jury as follows (omitting caption): Gentlemen of the Jury: You have been impaneled and are called upon in this cause to determine by your verdict herein the question of whether or not the defendant, Joseph E. McNaught, is guilty of the offenses imputed to him. He is charged by complaint filed in this court in four counts, this case coming into this court on appeal from justice's court, (Here I read the complaint in each of its counts, and make the same a part of the statement of this case.) Which constituted what is known in the law of this State as a misdemeanor in each of said counts, for which the defendant, if guilty, may be punished as provided by law. All the averments of this complaint as to each of said counts are denied by the defendant. Of this charge and crime, and each of them separately, said defendant, Joseph E. McNaught, is presumed to be innocent, and he may have the right to and does stand upon the presumption of such innocence until every material allegation of said complaint, and every ingredient of the offenses or crimes therein charged against defendant, are proved by the evidence in this case beyond a reasonable doubt; for the defendant is presumed to be innocent until the contrary is proved. And when there is a reasonable doubt whether his guilt is satisfactorily shown, he must be acquitted. To this extent the law is a shield and a protection to the said defendant without evidence on his part, and it so stands until broken down, or overcome by the evidence in this case, which satisfies your minds beyond



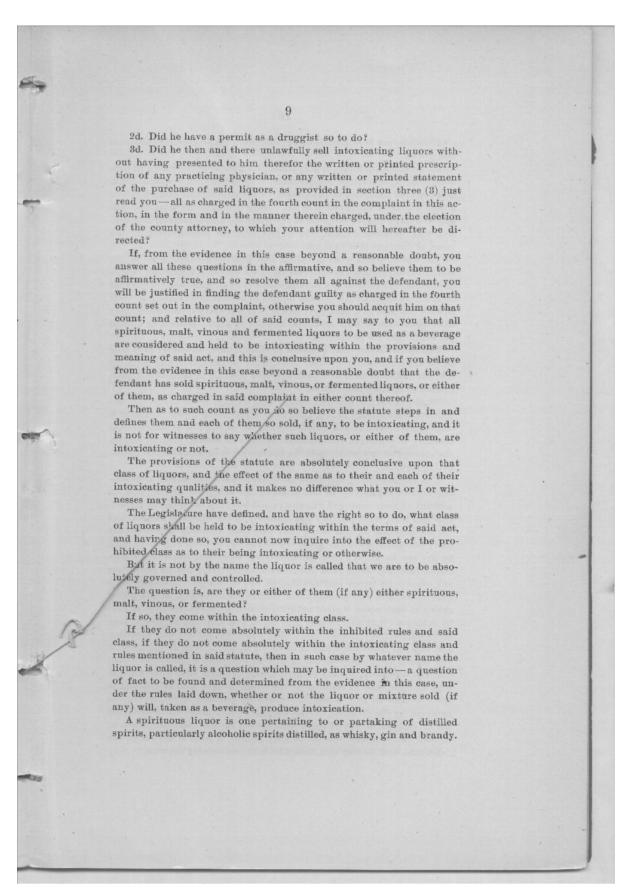




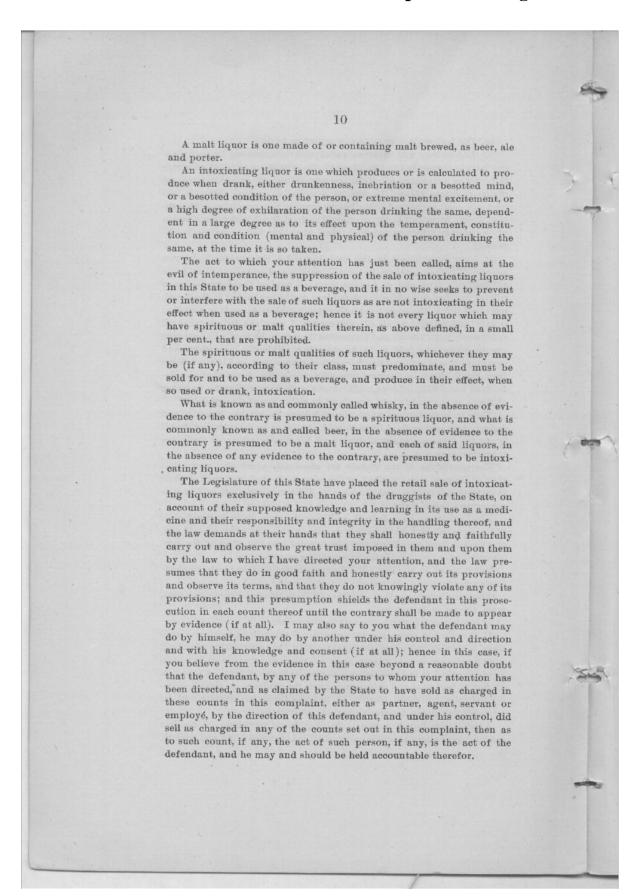
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If you answer all these questions in the affirmative from the evidence in this case beyond a reasonable doubt, and so believe them to be affirmatively true, and resolve them all against the defendant, you will be justified in finding the defendant guilty as charged in the first count set out in the complaint, otherwise you should acquit him on that count. And the important and principal questions for you to determine from the evidence in this case under and by the terms of the second count set out in the complaint are: 1st. Did the defendant, in the city of Girard, at the county of Crawford and State of Kansas, within the time hereinafter charged you, sell intoxicating liquors? 2d. Did he have a permit so to do as provided by law? 3d. Did he then and there unlawfully sell intoxicating liquors to certain persons who then and there were in the habit of becoming intoxicated as charged in the second count in the complaint in this action -all in the form and manner therein charged under the election of the county attorney, to which your attention will hereafter be called? If from the evidence in this case under the rules herein given you beyond a reasonable doubt, you answer all these questions in the affirmative and so believe them all to be affirmatively true, and as such so resolve them all against the defendant, you will be justified in finding the defendant guilty as charged in the second count in the complaint: otherwise, you should acquit the defendant on said count. And the important and pertinent questions for you to ascertain and determine from the evidence in this case on the third count in said 1st. Did the defendant, in the city of Girard, in the county of Crawford and State of Kansas, within the time hereinafter charged you, sell intoxicating liquors? 2d. Did he have a permit so to do as provided by law? 3d. Did he then and there unlawfully and knowingly allow intoxicating liquors, sold by him as a medicine and otherwise, to be drank on his premises - all as charged in the third count set out in the complaint in this action in the form and in the manner therein, under the election of the county attorney on this count, to which your attention will hereafter be called? If, from the evidence in this case beyond a reasonable doubt, you answer all these questions in the affirmative, and so believe them to be affirmatively true, and so resolve them all against the defendant, you will be justified in finding the defendant guilty as charged in the third count in the information; otherwise, you should acquit the defendant on that count. . And the pertinent and important questions for you to determine from the evidence in this case on the fourth count in the complaint are: 1st. Did the defendant, in the city of Girard, in the county of Crawford and State of Kansas, at or about the time therein charged under the rule herein given you, sell intoxicating liquors?

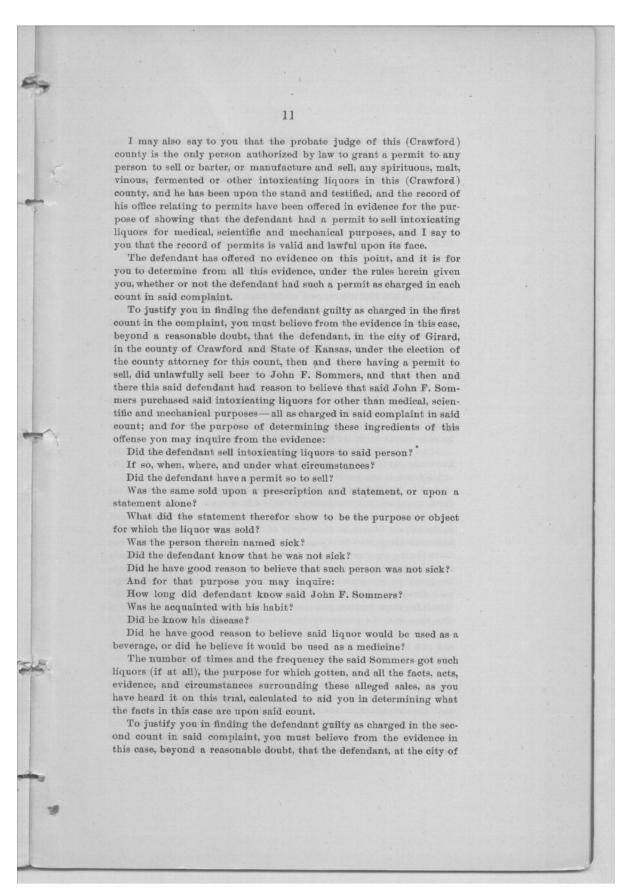




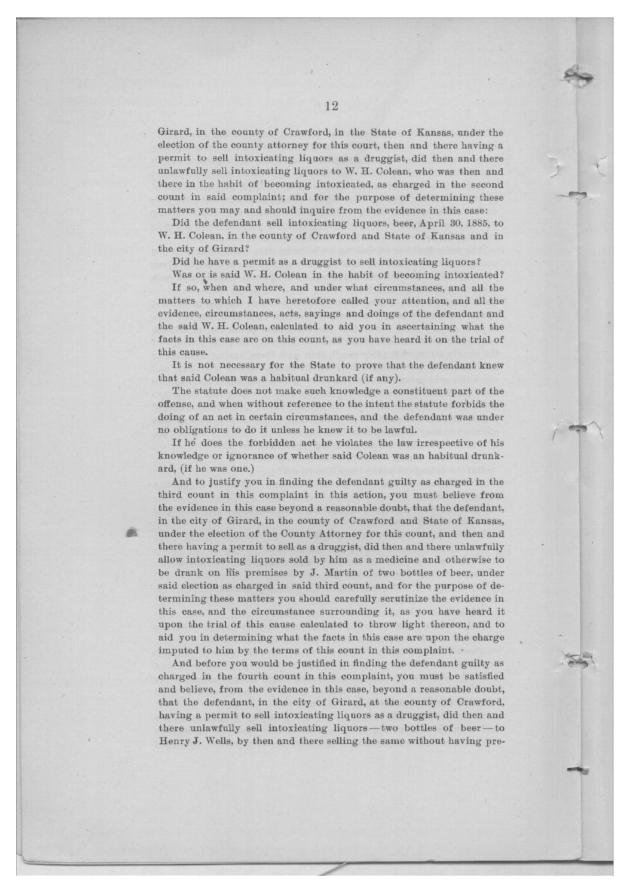




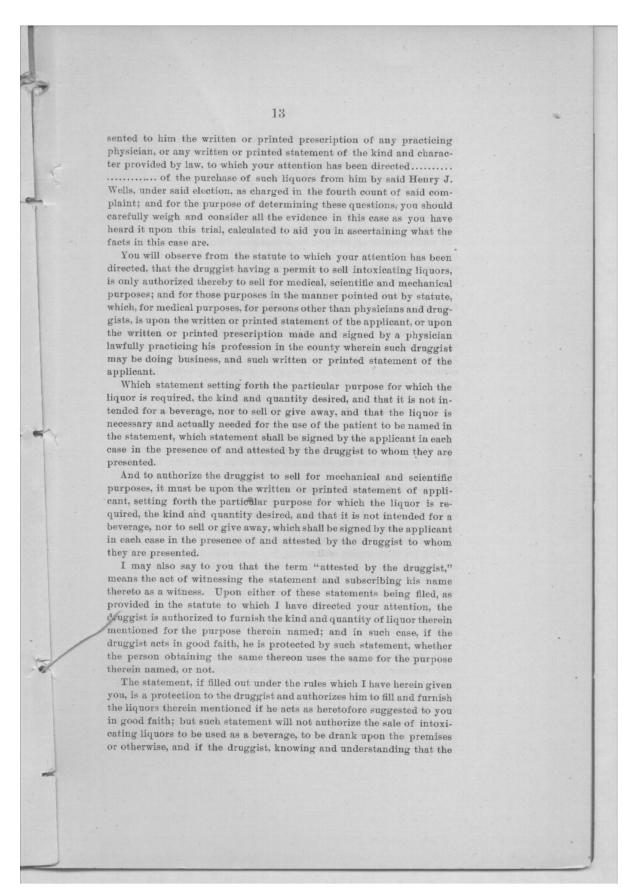




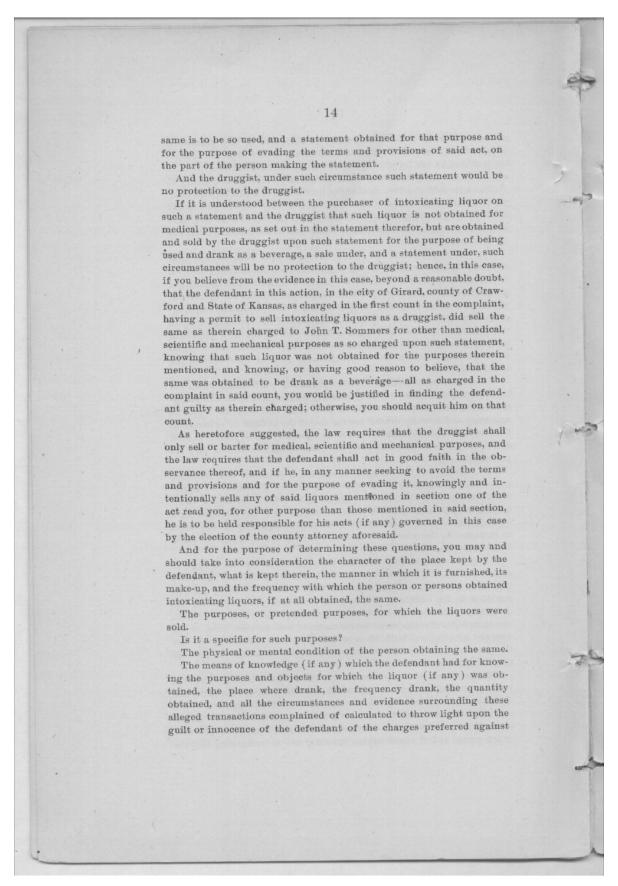




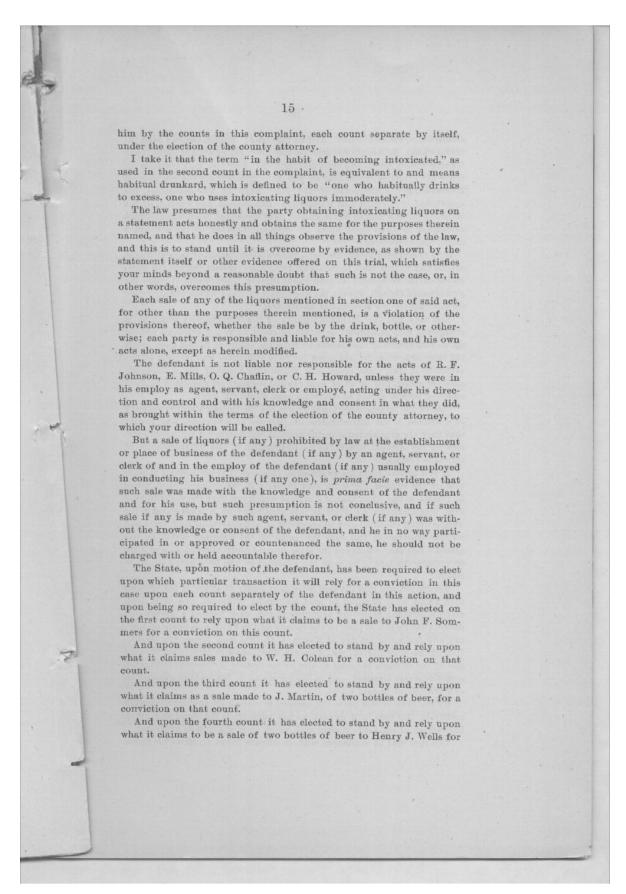




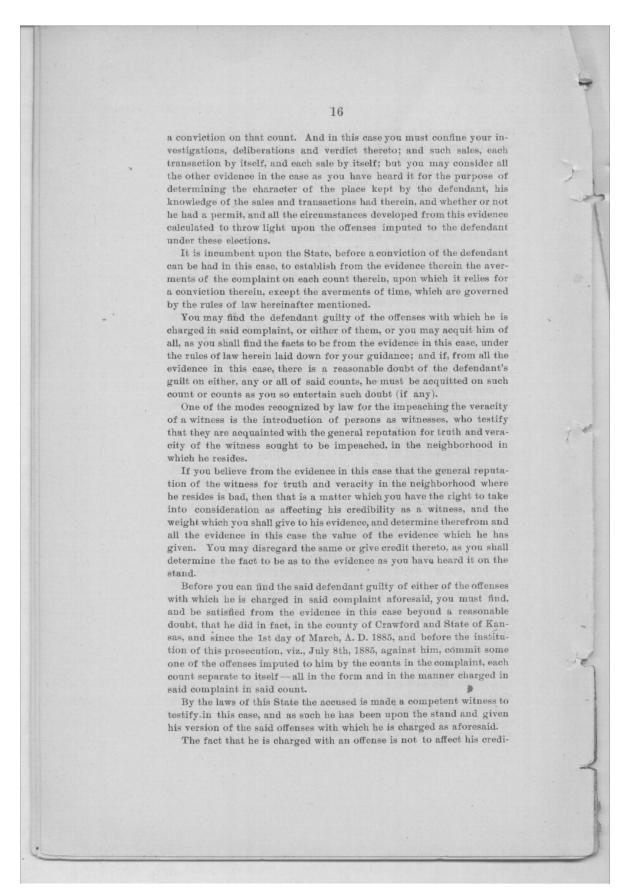




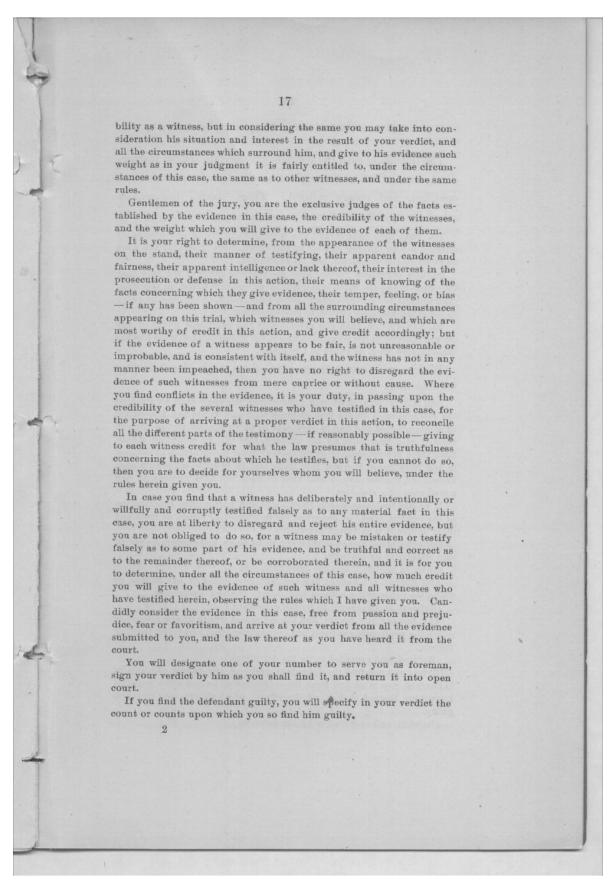










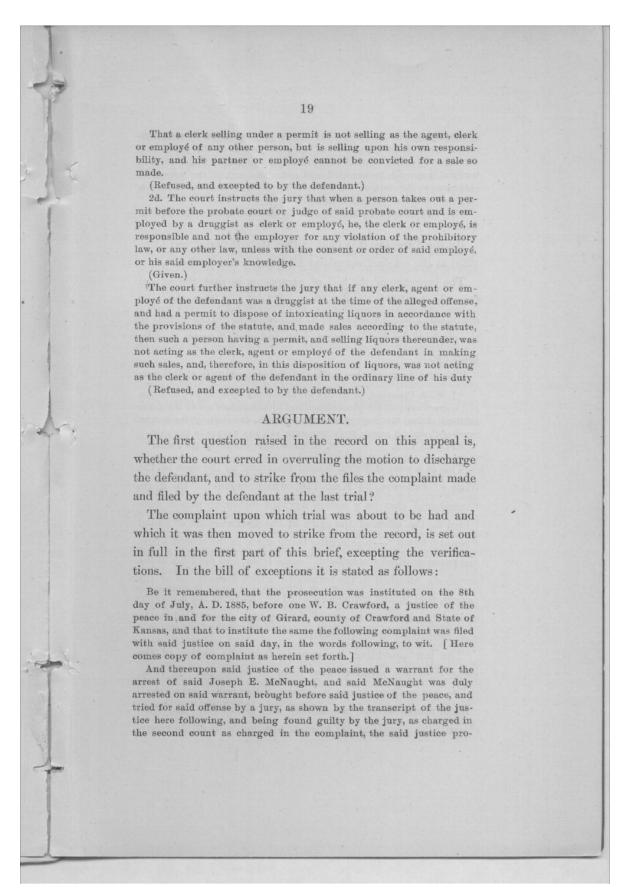




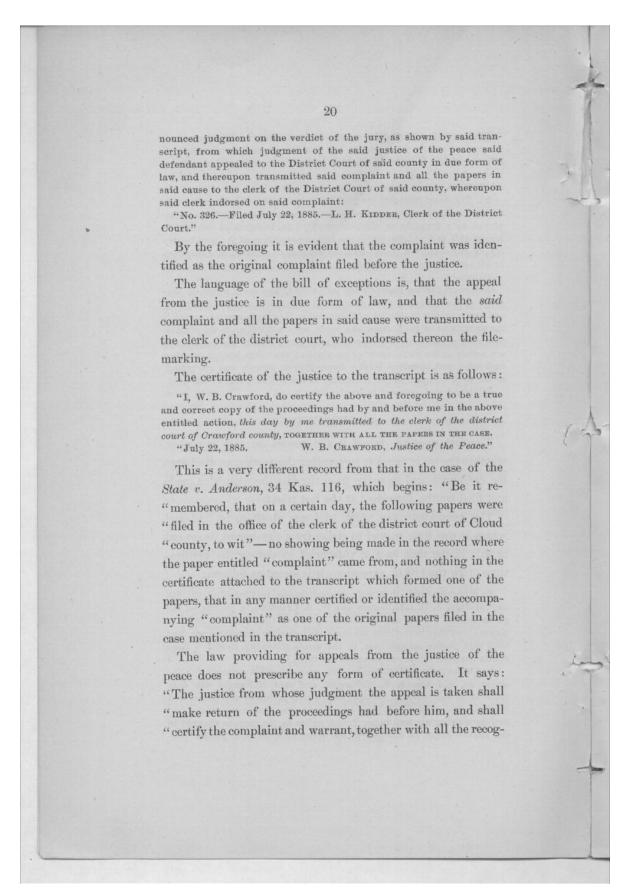
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18 If you find the defendant not guilty, you will so declare by your verdict. The defendant asks the court to give certain special instructions, some of which were given as asked, and some given as modified, and others refused. These special instructions asked for by defendant read as follows: 1st. That they cannot find the defendant guilty of any offense of which the complaining witness in this cause, John Tontz, at the time he swore to the complaint, had no knowledge. 2d. The defendant further asks the court to instruct the jury that they cannot find the defendant guilty of any offense named in this complaint unless the complaining witness, John Tontz, at the time he swore to the same, had such offense in contemplation. 3d. And further, that you cannot find the defendant guilty of any offense charged in the complaint unless the prosecuting witness had the same in view when he swore to complaint. Which said instructions were given, with the following modification: And relative to each of said instructions the court saith to you that the law presumes in the first instance that said Tontz had knowledge of, contemplated and had in view each of these offenses at the time he verified said complaint by his affidavit, and this presumption stands until there is a reasonable doubt thereof from the evidence in the case as you have heard it upon this trial; and in order to constitute such knowledge, contemplation and view he need not have necessarily had actual view of a violation. If he had the same partly from sight and partly from examination of the records, books or papers of the defendant, or either, or from any other source it is sufficient knowledge. Contemplation and view if he saw fit to do so, and thereon to verify said complaint by his oath. Given as modified, and the defendant excepts. And further, you cannot find the defendant guilty of any offense, of which the prosecuting witness had merely hearsay knowledge. . . . (Refused, and excepted to by the defendant.) And further, you cannot find the defendant guilty of any offense of which the prosecuting witness had only information and belief founded (Refused, and excepted to by the defendant.) Before you can find the defendant guilty of any offense of which he is charged, you must find from the evidence that he had some personal knowledge thereof, that is, of the offense of which you may find him (Refused, and excepted to by the defendant.)

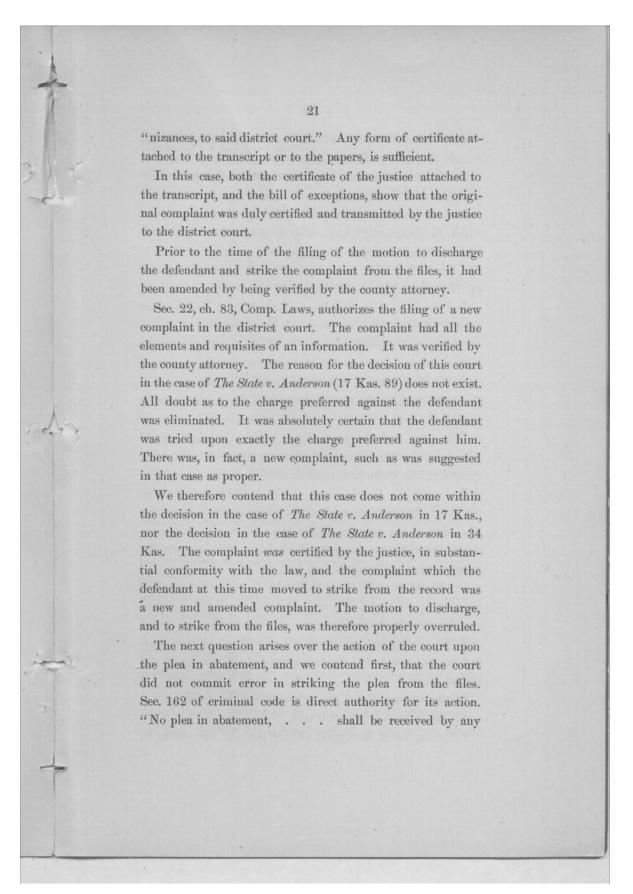














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"court unless the party offering such plea shall prove the "truth thereof by affidavit or some other evidence."

But if the action taken was not exactly the proper course, no substantial right of the defendant was prejudiced thereby, and he has no cause to complain. His plea, while termed a "plea in abatement," was really a plea in bar. All that was presented was as to the effect of a prior proceeding in the case. Upon this, (as was stated by this court in the case of *The State v. Bowen*, 16 Kas. 477,) no testimony was required, because the proceedings of record had in a case are always taken judicial notice of. It was a question of law as to the effect of a certain verdict which it was proper for the court to determine. And if the records show any variance with the allegations of that record in the plea, the court will decide the plea as the record shows and not as the pleader plead.

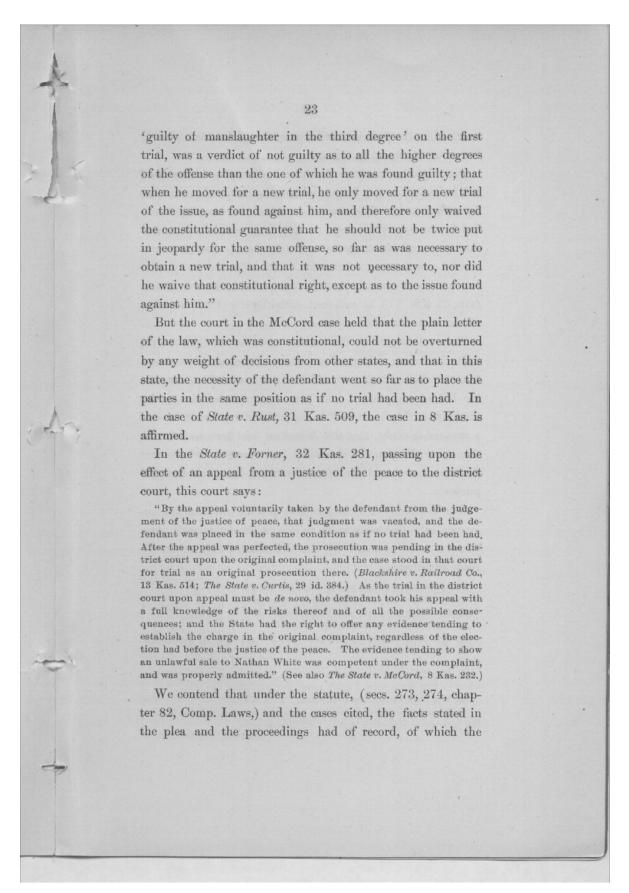
This plea, and the proceedings, which the court would take judicial notice of, showed that at a prior trial upon this complaint, the defendant, tried on all four counts, was found guilty under the fourth count, and that on his own motion the court set aside the verdict and granted him a new trial. The effect of the granting of the new trial results, as is very clearly stated in the statute itself, in placing the parties in the same position as if no trial had been had.

In The State v. McCord, 8 Kas. 232, on an information charging murder, at a first trial, McCord was found guilty of manslaughter in the third degree. He moved the court to set aside the verdict and grant him a new trial, which was done, and on the second trial he was convicted of murder in the second degree.

In the Supreme Court, the argument for the appellant was much the same as it is in this case.

"The argument in support of this position, the verdict of







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court will take judicial notice, were insufficient as a plea in bar or in abatement in this case.

The objection made to the introduction of evidence need not be noticed at any length, except to reiterate the argument heretofore made. The several counts of the complaint verified by the county attorney, do state facts sufficient to constitute causes of action against the defendant. And there was a valid complaint or information. The objection was similar to a motion to quash. And the case of *The State v. Blackman*, 32 Kas. 615, is sufficient authority for the overruling of the motion and the objection.

Now with regard to the election made by the State on the trial of this case. In the instructions of the court it is shown that the election was more definite than is elsewhere stated in the bill of exceptions. The jury are instructed that under the election they must find, to support the first count, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the defendant sold beer to John F. Sommers, and that the defendant had reason to believe that Sommers purchased the same for other than the excepted purposes.

The testimony of Sommers does not fix which of the numerous sales that were made to him at the defendant's place business were so made by the defendant. His testimony reads as follows:

John Sommers, sworn, and testified as follows:

- Ques.: Where do you reside? Ans.: Girard.
- Q. How long have you been living here? A. Four years.
- Q. What is your middle initial? A. F.
- Q. How long do you say you have been living here? A. Four years.
- Q. Are you acquainted with the defendant in this action? A. Yes, sir.
- Q. How long have you known him? A. I got acquainted with him when he first came here; I don't remember just when he came.
 - Q. You have known him ever since? A. Yes, sir.
- Q. I want to call your attention to some statements here; state to the jury whose signature that is. A. That is mine.



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	Q. What did you get on that statement? A. Beer.	
	Q. How much? A. One quart.	
	Q. What did you pay for it? A. Twenty-five cents.	
3	Q. Look at that; what did you get on that? A. Beer.	
	Q. What amount? A. Two quarts.	
	Q. What did you pay for that? A. The same as the other.	
	Q. Look at that; what did you get on that statement? A. Whisky.	
	Q. What amount? A. One pint.	
	Q. What did you pay for that? A. I don't remember.	
	Q. You paid something for it, didn't you? A. Yes, sir.	
	Q. What did you get on that? A. Beer.	
	Q. What was the amount? A. One quart.	
	Q. Paid the same for that as you did the other? A. Yes. Q. Look at that. A. One quart.	
	Q. Just look at that and see what you got. A. One quart of beer.	
	Q. That? A. Half a pint of whisky.	
	Q. Do you know what you paid for that? A. No, sir.	
	Q. What did you get on that? A. I got two quarts of beer on that,	
	and that has been changed to twelve—a figure added.	
	Q. You remember that statement, do you—ex. 80? A. Yes, sir.	
	Q. State to the jury what you got on that. A. May 12, I believe it	
	O What 313 was not on that Mr. Sammara? A Floren quarte of	
	Q. What did you get on that, Mr. Sommers? A. Eleven quarts of	
1	Q. What did you pay per bottle for them? A. I don't remember	
	what I paid for them.	
	Q. You paid for it, did you? A. Yes, sir; I did.	
	Q. (Paper handed witness.) What did you get on that? A. Two	
	quarts of beer.	1 3
	Q. How much did you get on that? A. One quart of beer,	
	Q. What did you get on that? A. Two quarts of beer.	
	Q. What did you get on that? A. Two quarts of beer.	
	Q. What did you get on that? A. Two quarts of beer.	
	Q. That one? A. One pint of whisky.	
	Q. You paid for all the beer and whisky that you got there, didn't you, Mr. Sommers? A. Yes, sir; I did.	
	Q. Where did you get this beer and whisky mentioned in these state-	
	ments? A. I got it in the east-side drug store.	
	Q. Whose drug store is that? (Objected to, and sustained as to the	
	form of the question.)	
	Q. State, if you know - do you know whose store that is? A. How-	
4	ard & McNaught's at present.	
D- /	Q. Who did it belong to formerly, before Howard went in there?	
	A. It belonged to Claffin & Potter.	
	Q. Who, after Potter went out? A. Claffin & McNaught.	
	Q. State to the jury if you are acquainted with one Harrahan, who	
	resides in Chicago, who was here about the 20th of May last? A. I am	
	not acquainted with him.	



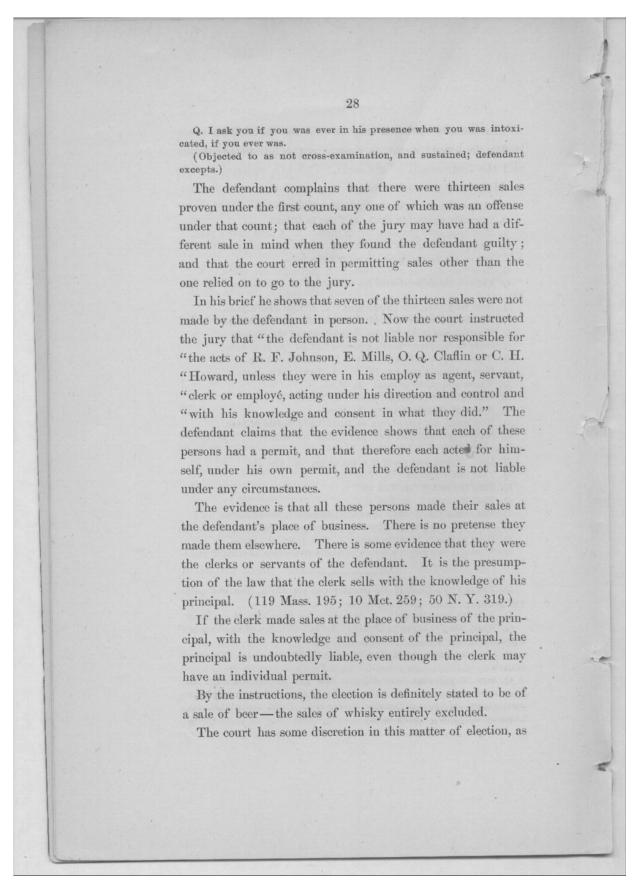
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	Q. Do you know a gentleman by the name of Hannahan? A. No,	
	sir.	
	Q. A friend of Higgings? A. No. Q. State whether or not you went on a fishing excursion on about	
	the 20th of May? A. Yes, sir.	1
	Q. Who was with you at that time, Mr. Sommers?	
	(Objected to, overruled, and defendant excepts.) Q. State who composed that party beside yourself? A. I don't re-	
	member who all was along.	
	Q. Name some of them. Was George Priestly one? (Objected to,	
	overruled, and defendant excepts.) A. I don't remember whether George Priestly was along.	
	Q. Frank Higgings? A. I don't remember; I could not tell you.	
	Q. Harrahan? A. Not that I know of.	
	Q. T. W. Taylor? A. Not that I know of. Q. H. Afsit, the under-sheriff here? A. I don't remember.	
	Q. Do you remember anybody that was along besides yourself? A.	
	I remember there was a party of us; but who they were I don't remember.	
	Q. That was in May, 1885? A. Yes, sir.	
	Q. Along about the 20th? A. Sometime last May.	
	Q. State whether or not these eleven quarts of beer were obtained for that excursion?	
	(Objected to by the defendant.)	
	Q. State what it was obtained for? (Defendant objects, overruled,	(
	and defendant excepts.) A. I got it for my own use and benefit. Q. State where you took it?	
	(Defendant objects, overruled, and defendant excepts.)	
	Q. Where did you take it? A. I took it with the parties I was with.	
	Q. What was it in—in bottles? A. Yes, sir. The testimony of other witnesses, the statements returned	
	by the defendant to the probate judge, the appearance of the	
	witnesses and their manner while testifying, make up the proof	
	under this count. Under this testimony, and under the rule	
0	laid down in State v. Crimmins, 31 Kas. 376, the election	
	shown by the record and the instructions to have been made,	
	was undoubtedly sufficient.	
	"To have required the county attorney to make his election as defi- nite and certain as the defendant in each case desired, would have re-	
	sulted in the discharge of both the defendants, although they were each	
	unquestionably guilty, and each guilty of several offenses instead of	
	merely one. Such a result should not be brought about if it could well be avoided That a court may exercise some discretion in re-	
	quiring elections to be made in such cases as the present." (State v.	
	Crimmins, supra, and cases there cited.)	



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Substantially the same may be said on the election made under the second count, as shown by the bill of exceptions and the instructions of the court. Colean's testimony reads as follows: W. H. COLEAN, sworn, and testified as follows: Q. Whereabouts do you live? A. I live in Girard. Q. How long have you been living there? A. A little over a year. Q. Where did you live immediately before you came to Girard? A. I lived on my farm, about six miles from here. Q. How long did you reside there? A. Not quite two years. Q. Are you acquainted with the defendant in this action? A. Yes, Q. How long have you known him. A. A little over a year. Q. Do you know where his place of business is? A. Yes, sir. Q. Whereabouts is it? A. On the east side of the square. Q. State to the jury whose signature that is. A. It is mine. Q. What did you obtain on that? A. A bottle of beer. Q. How much did you pay for it? A. Twenty-five cents. Q. Whose statement is that? A. Mine. Q. What did you obtain on that? A. Beer. Q. Whose statement is that? A. Mine. Q. How much did you obtain on that? A. A bottle of beer. Q. How much did you pay per bottle for this? A. Twenty-five Q. Look at that, and see if it is the same. A. Yes, sir. Q. That one the same? A. Yes, sir. Q. That the same? A. Yes, sir. Q. That the same? A. Yes, sir. Q. The same? A. I think the same; there are two of them. Q. What did you pay for that? A. Twenty-five cents per bottle. Q. What is that? What is that? A. One quart, the same. Q. What did you pay for it? A. Twenty-five cents is what I recol-(Cross-examined.) Q. You say you lived in the country two years? A. Yes, not quite . Q. How far from Girard? A. It is six miles from here to my house. Q. When did you move to Girard? A. The 15th day of last October a year ago. Q. Do you know when McNaught came to this place? A. No, sir; I Q. Now, about what time did you first get acquainted with Mc-Naught so as to personally know him? A. About the time I moved here; about the 15th of October a year ago. I got acquainted with him directly after I moved here.







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seen by the cases above cited; and the discretion should not be exercised so rigidly against the State as to cause a failure of justice. To avoid any injustice to the defendant, the court further instructed the jury that they must confine their investigations, deliberations and verdict thereto (to the sale elected by the State to rely upon for conviction), "but that you consider all "the other evidence in the case as you have heard it, for the "purpose of determining the character of the place kept by "the defendant, his knowledge of the sales and the transac-"tions had therein, and whether or not he had a permit, and "all the circumstances developed from this evidence calculated "to throw light upon the offenses imputed to the defendant "under these elections." In respect to the second count by the instructions the kind of liquor and the date of the sale is fixed-April 30th, and there is only one statement of that date-(p. 153,) and the instruction with reference to other sales and circumstances excludes possibility of prejudice under that count. Under the instructions the first objection urged is against the third question which the court says arises in the case for determination by the jury. To fully understand how the question was stated, the entire paragraph of the charge in which it is found should be considered. Hence among the important and pertinent questions for you to det rmine from the evidence in this case upon the first count set out in this complaint under the election of the county attorney to which your attention will be called are: 1st. Did said defendant, at the city of Girard, in the county of Crawford and State of Kansas, within the time hereinafter charged you, sell intoxicating liquors? 2d. Did he have a permit so to do as provided by law? 3d. Did he unlawfully sell intoxicating liquors to certain persons whom he then and there had reason to believe purchased said intoxicating liquors for other than medical, scientific and mechanical purposes? All as charged in the first count in the complaint in this action in the form and manner therein charged.



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If you answer all these questions in the affirmative from the evidence in this case beyond a reasonable doubt, and so believe them all to be affirmatively true, and resolve them all against the defendant, you will be justified in finding the defendant guilty as charged in the first count set out in the complaint, otherwise you should acquit him on that count.

It is submitted that there is no error in this. It must be construed in connection with the election to which attention was called in stating these questions. It does not, when so construed, let in any other transaction than that elected to be relied upon.

The next objection is to the instructions on page 384 of the record. It is claimed they are wrong and misleading. We submit they are not. A druggist well acquainted with a certain man and his health and his habits, and knowing that he is not sick, and knowing that he is an habitual drinker, cannot willfully close his eyes and his senses against his common knowledge derived from the appearance, the habits, and the character of the person, and because a statement is presented in due form, make such person a sale of intoxicating liquors and escape liability. The statute is not against selling to persons he knows are obtaining the same for other than the excepted purposes. It is against selling to persons whom he has reason to believe are obtaining the same for unlawful purposes. Knowledge of the purpose is not necessary.

And under the second count for selling to persons in the habit of becoming intoxicated, the court instructed the jury that it was not necessary for the State to prove knowledge on the part of the defendant that Colean was a habitual drunkard. This was right. It is the rule of law everywhere.

Com. v. Boynton, 2 Allen, 460. Com. v. Farren, 9 Allen, 489. Com. v. Nichols, 10 Allen, 199. Com. v. Mash, 7 Met. 472. Com. v. Elwell, 2 Met. 160. State v. Hartfiel, 24 Wis. 60. Barnes v. State, 19 Conn. 398. Farmer v. People, 77 Ills. 324. State v. Heck, 23 Minn. 550.



