

CRIMINAL LAW—LARCENY.

(Chapter 95, Senate Bill No. 30.)

This bill, among other things, provides that if any person shall steal or shall break into a shop or store-house and steal any money, goods or chattels under the value of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars, and be convicted thereof, then he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and not of petty larceny, and may be tried before a justice of the peace.

It is desirable, for a number of reasons, for petty matters to be tried in the magistrates' courts. This bill, however, in undertaking to do that also affects felonious entry which would really constitute burglary. A storage house might be broken into under most serious circumstances, and yet if the intruders did not secure articles worth more than twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars, the offense could only be a misdemeanor. There have been instances of notorious gangs breaking into jewelry and other stores and actually getting nothing, but yet the circumstances warranted severe punishment.

The bill would also deprive the accused of the benefits of probation where this was desirable, because the police magistrates have no probation department, and the magistrates would have no adequate opportunity of securing the criminal records of prisoners brought before them.

There would, moreover, be no opportunity to the Police Department to secure finger-prints or photographs in proper cases.

For these reasons, the bill will be voted.

STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD.

(Chapter 538, House Bill No. 264.)

This bill contains a good many desirable amendments to the veterinary law, but, unfortunately, and through some error, it contains also a proviso that the various sections of the law, which are for the protection of the public and the regulation of the profession, "shall not apply to those persons who have been engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine in this State for a period of ten years, but they shall be at liberty to continue said practice without registering with the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners".