

## PUBLIC POSITIONS HELD FOR LIFE.

### Changes Suggested for Office Terms of the State's Attorneys.

There was heard recently among some lawyers conversation to the effect that an effort might be made at the coming session of the Legislature to regulate in a different manner the time of service of the state attorneys of the various counties. In other words, there is a growing opposition to the office of state attorney being made a life job. Under the present law the state attorneys are appointed by the judges of the higher courts for the period of four years. But at the conclusion of the four years' service a reelection takes place, and the position, in this manner, is virtually made a life one.



STATE'S ATTORNEY WILLIAMS.

There has been much discussion of late years as to whether this arrangement is a good one and the growing opinion is that it is not. The argument is made that it is not good for any man to understand that he is so entrenched in a public position that removal is not possible.

There is no opposition to the state attorney for New Haven or any of the other counties of the state. They do their work faithfully and well, commanding the respect of the bar and the citizens as well. But nevertheless there is a growing sentiment against the job being made a life one. This method of office holding bars many capable attorneys from the privilege of making a try for the office, and many of these look upon the long term of Mr. Williams and the other state attorneys of Connecticut as a sort of selfishness.

In the case of Mr. Williams, his private practice is, of course, interfered with, yet he is frequently seen plying his profession before the civil courts of the county, and he no doubt finds his position in the criminal courts an excellent side issue. Mr. Williams has made an efficient prosecutor and looks back upon a clean, honest record, but withal this, are there not others in the county bar who would make creditable officers if they had the chance?

In New York state the office corresponding to the state attorney is the district attorney. He is elected by the people for a term of four years, and if the person chosen does not fill the bill he is downed on the next election day. It would probably be a difficult undertaking to bring about a law providing for the election of state attorneys in Connecticut. But by way of compromise a law might be enacted which would definitely limit the term of service to, say, four years. In other words, let it be understood that the judges of the high court would change the state attorneys every four years.

Lawyers are frank in stating that a man holding the office of state attorney for a long period becomes infatuated with a spirit to convict that is too enthusiastic. The purpose of the criminal, as well as any court, is to seek the truth, and the spirit to convict at all hazards is unfair and not justifiable. Criminal work becomes a hobby with the prosecutor, and he may, at times, overstep the bounds of

fairness in his strife to send a man to prison. A specified term in office would regulate this.

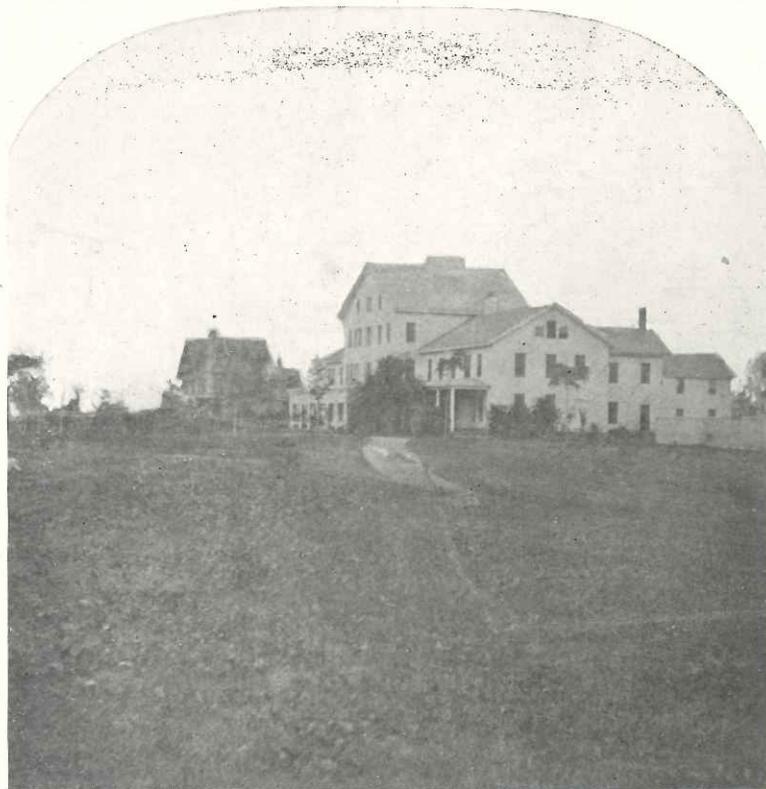
Then there are the jurors. They come in, term after term, and year after year, all from the little county towns. The same faces are seen so much in the jury box that they are almost termed a part of the court. They see the same prosecutor in the state attorney's chair year after year, and it would almost seem as if an affection grew up between them. This is not a pleasant arrangement to some attorneys who would like to see different faces in the jury box, taken from the business whirl of the city, rather than from the rural districts of the county.

But it must be recalled that the state attorneys of the various counties are men of powerful political influence, and to bring legislation that would conflict with their peaceful and lengthy terms of office is no easy undertaking.

## FRESH AIR WORK TO BE CONTINUED

The fresh air work of the City Mission as conducted by the Rev. M. Mossman is being carried on very successfully this season. In a communication to the SATURDAY CHRONICLE Mr. Mossman points the manner in which the good work will be continued:

"Our next week's excursion," says the clergyman, "will be for the old people at Springside Home.



MONTOWESE HOUSE IN 1866.

Five or six easy carriages from McDonald's stables, with careful drivers, will take them for half a day wherever they wish to go.

"There are others also besides ourselves who are doing faithful work throughout the city. Superintendent Preston of the Organized Charities has told me of the offer of a country house on one of the trolley lines for the use of some of the many poor of the city under his care, and I have assured him of as liberal a use of car tickets as our fresh air fund will allow.

"Through our weekly excursions scores and hundreds have already had one of more all-day outings in the country or at the seashore."

### Try Smiling.

When the weather suits you not,  
Try smiling.  
When your coffee isn't hot,  
Try smiling;  
When your neighbors don't do right  
Or your relatives all fight,  
Sure it's hard, but then you might  
Try smiling.  
Doesn't change the things, of course,  
Just smiling;  
But it cannot make them worse—  
Just smiling.  
And it seems to help your case,  
Brightens up a gloomy place;  
Then it sort of rests your face—  
Just smiling.

## FORTY YEARS AT INDIAN NECK

### Montowese House to Celebrate Its Fortieth Anniversary.

The Montowese House at Indian Neck will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of its opening to-morrow. It is not often that a summer hotel is run for forty consecutive years, and less often has been owned by members of the same family. Mr. William A. Bryan, the present proprietor, has made a number of preparations toward celebrating the anniversary, and the same dinner menu is to be served to-morrow as on July 22, 1866, the opening day. The dining room is to be decorated in honor of the occasion.

It might be interesting to note some of well-known guests at the house during that first summer. There was Mr. Hammer, the uncle of those now living in Branford, Dean Richmond, Mr. Minott A. Osborn of the Register, Governor Ingersoll, Governor English, Mr. P. N. Parmelee, Mr. Dodge of the firm of Phelps-Dodge & Co., Mr. George Mitchell of Philadelphia, Mr. Morris of Philadelphia, whose son is now a member of the Gerard Trust Co., Mr. Henry T. Raymond, editor of the New York Times, Mr. E. K. Williard, later mayor of New York, and Mr. Barney of New York, whose son was treasurer of the old Union Pacific railroad.

The growth of the house has been steady. The first summer there were eighty guests, which taxed the accommodations of the hotel. To-morrow Mr. Bryan expects two hundred and twenty-five guests to be present.

### Buys a Mansion for an Envoy.

The German empire has bought for between \$125,000 and \$150,000 a fine site for a new residence for the German ambassador at Washington. The site happens to be just opposite that bought by France for the French embassy. Plans have already been prepared in Berlin for a palatial structure, for Emperor William intends to have his embassy at Washington housed in one of the most elaborate and imposing residences at the capital. There will be a rivalry between the French and German embassies as to which will erect the most palatial of homes, and as they are opposite each other, each will try to outdo the other. The new German embassy will have a frontage of 301 feet, with a depth of 195 feet.

### Usually.

"Pop, what's a financially embarrassed man?"  
"As a rule, he's a married man, Willie."—Denver Post.