

THE PARDONING OF NEWTON C. DOUGHERTY.

STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC, MARCH 3, 1915.

Governor Dunne announced today that he will pardon Newton C. Dougherty of Peoria, upon the recommendation of the State Board of Pardons, but that he will not act upon the case until Dougherty actually begins the serving of his sentence in the Joliet penitentiary.

Attorneys Clarence S. Darrow and Joseph Weil, representing Dougherty, and State's Attorney McNemar of Peoria County, representing the State, appeared before the Governor today, presenting arguments for and against the granting of a pardon to Dougherty.

In announcing his decision, Governor Dunne said: "Justices Craig, Cooke, Farmer, Dunn and Carter of the Supreme Court of this State have either written or called upon the Governor or the Board of Pardons in the interest of Dougherty. They state that they represent the view of all of the Justices who participated in the hearing of the case in the Supreme Court. They believe that inasmuch as Dougherty has served seven years in the penitentiary for the offense which he committed while Superintendent of Schools of Peoria County, that the punishment was adequate and sufficient to vindicate the law; that to insist upon further punishment would be an act of injustice by the State. This view is also concurred in by Judge W. C. Worthington, in writing, before whom Dougherty was tried upon the original indictments, and is also the view expressed in writing by Hon. Robert Scholes, ex-State's Attorney of Peoria County, who prosecuted Dougherty upon the original indictments."

"Dougherty was originally sent to the penitentiary upon a plea of guilty to five indictments selected by the State's Attorney out of a total of 140 indictments returned against him. The five indictments to which Dougherty plead guilty carried a total forgery of \$750.00.

"If the former Board of Pardons had not taken into consideration the whole subject of Dougherty's wrongdoings it would not have kept him in the penitentiary seven years for forgeries

amounting to only \$750.00. Consequently, the investigation which the Board of Pardons has just concluded makes it certain that Dougherty already has been punished for the crime of which he is now convicted, and that to punish him further would be a violation of the agreement made by ex-State's Attorney Scholes and would be an act of injustice on the part of the State."