

New Statutes Fill 3 Federal Prisons

Swelling Ranks of Convicts Present Problem.

Washington.—In spite of the increasing maze of government activities that have sprung up since the war, Uncle Sam is spending more money and energy every year in the work of rehabilitating the lawless members of society.

Due to the increased number of federal statutes passed in the last few years, the federal prisons are becoming an ever greater factor in the enforcement of the law and the administration of justice in the United States.

Previous to the last decade the total number of federal prisoners was much less than at present and a greater proportion of the lawbreakers, having violated various state laws, were confined in the state institutions.

On June 30 of this year the total number of federal prisoners was 8,518. This was 851 more than the number for the previous year.

The increasing number of convicts in the government's charge has brought about a need for a corresponding extension of the nation's prison facilities and also for a general improvement in the equipment and methods in the present institutions.

If the plans now being worked out are carried into effect, the United States will have probably the most extensive and scientific prison system in the world, according to the experts of the Department of Justice.

At the present time the country has three federal prisons located at Atlanta, Ga.; Leavenworth, Kan., and McNeil Island, Washington.

Prisons Are Inadequate.

During the fiscal year which ended last June 30 it cost the government \$1,748,094.85 to maintain and operate these three institutions. This was an increase of \$200,000 over the expenditures of the federal prisons for the previous fiscal year.

Yet, despite the greater expenditures for operating these institutions, federal prison officials claim that the three penitentiaries are wholly inadequate for housing the steady stream of convicts being turned over daily by the courts. Last spring the crowded conditions of the prisons, particularly at Atlanta, became so acute that the superintendent of prisons appealed to the adjacent state institutions to take over some of the federal prisoners. By "boarding out" groups of prisoners in this fashion it was possible to find quarters for all the federal charges.

In order to relieve the situation, the superintendent has recommended to the attorney general that steps be taken to procure new corrective institutions for the government. Last spring the site was chosen and work begun on the new penitentiary for women now under construction at Alderson, W. Va. This institution is intended to be a model corrective institution and will be modern in every respect.

While the new women's prison will solve the question of what to do with female federal law breakers, who are at present confined in state prisons, it will not aid the congested situation in the penitentiaries for men.

Prison for First Offenders.

The Department of Justice now favors as a solution of the congestion problem the construction of a prison to be filled entirely by first offenders. The government prison experts advocate this plan, because it is thought that, by keeping first offenders segregated, they will be less likely to learn the tricks of the trade from the hardened lawbreakers with whom they

Rheims Backward in Recovering Its Status

Rheims.—Rheims is among the few cities in France with empty apartments and a slumping industrial real estate market. The return of the population has not kept pace with rebuilding and restoration, as there are only 75,000 inhabitants, as compared with 117,000 before the war.

To the world, Rheims generally is associated first with cathedrals, and then champagne. Before the war, however, it was an important industrial city, where wool weaving, spinning and bleaching employed 10,000 persons, now reduced to about one-third of that number.

Land which at armistice time sold for 10 to 20 francs the square meter, when it was thought the city would be itself again in a short time, is now offered at from 5 to 10 francs.

The "League for the Industrial, Commercial and Labor Development of Rheims" has been formed to come to the rescue.

would mingle in the regular penitentiaries.

One of the outstanding problems in the administration of the prison system, in addition to the congestion question, is that of providing suitable employment for all the prisoners. At present large numbers of able-bodied prison inmates are in enforced idleness.

The whole theory of the federal prisons is based on the conception that a prison should be a corrective rather than a purely punitive institution. It is believed that many novices at law-breaking can be redeemed if trained in useful trades, which would make it possible for them to support themselves honestly.

Science Beats Silk Worm at Own Game

Artificial Product Comes In to Wider Use.

New York.—The silk worm, after losing its secret, is giving way to the competition of man's science and machinery.

Rayon, an artificial textile fabric closely resembling silk in appearance, is used in the manufacture of hosiery, which consumes one-fifth of the domestic production, and of ribbon, cotton and woolen goods. Its tensile strength is greater than cotton and less than silk.

Count Hilaire de Chardonnet was the first to produce rayon, and he called it artificial silk when he introduced the fabric at the Paris exposition in 1864. His invention resulted from a study of the organic process which takes place as the silk worm produces silk.

Imitating this artificially, he produced a vegetable fiber which organically resembled cotton more than silk. Improvements were made in the process until cellulose, the ma-

HONOR WIFE OF BUILDER OF WALL

Chinese Erect Temple to Woman's Memory.

Chinwangtao.—Where the Peking Mukden railway pierces the great wall of China at Shanhaikwan is a temple erected to the memory of a pious wife whose husband perished in the building of the structure.

Chih Huang-ti, the emperor who united all China, came to the throne in 246 B. C. It was Chih who built the great wall to keep the country together.

A woman from the south, so the legend runs, brought cotton-wadded clothes for her man, who had been impressed by the emperor to help build the wall. She was told that her husband had died, and that she could not have his body because it had been thrown between the brick facings of the wall and crushed there under tons of rubble and earth.

The woman persuaded a comrade of her husband to show her the stretch of wall where the body of her husband lay. Three days and three nights thereafter she walked up and down that length, until the compassion of the divine power was excited by her laments, and that part of the wall collapsed.

The scandal came to the ears of the emperor, who recognized, beneath his tyranny, that the conduct of the woman had been most orthodox. To regularize the matter, he directed that she be admitted to his household. First, however, he granted her prayer that she be permitted to select the bones of her husband for more deliberate burial.

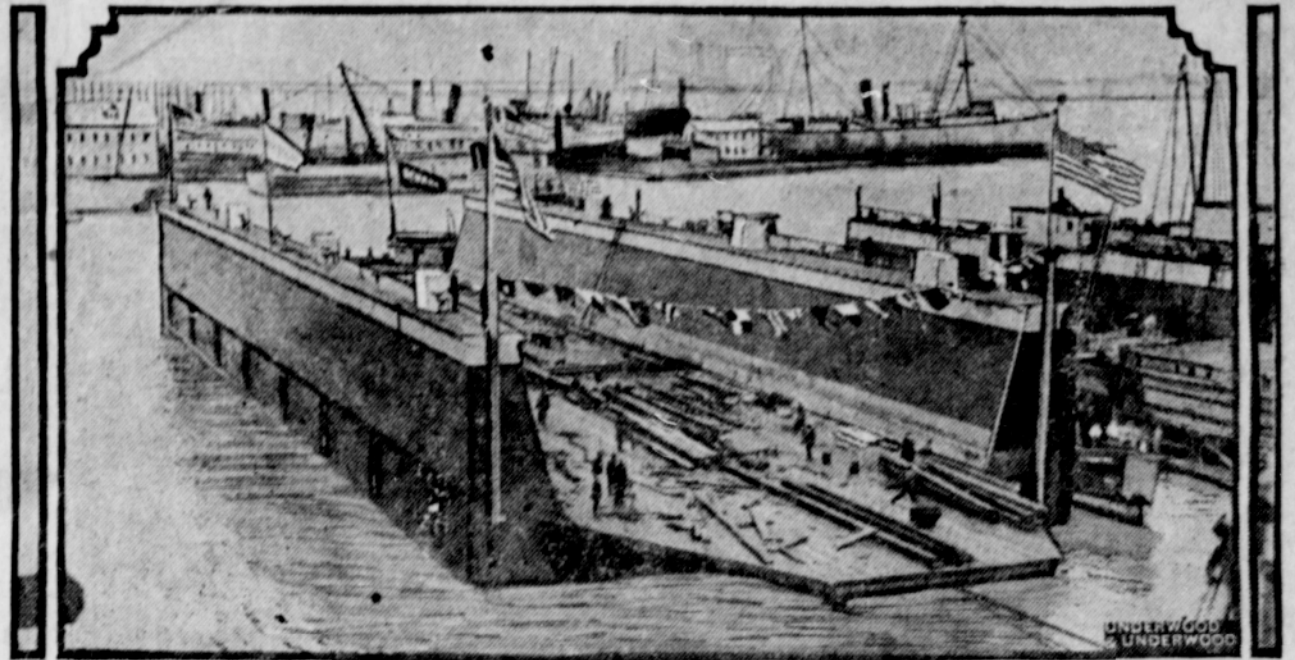
The woman gathered up her husband's bones and walked to the end of the wall, abutting on the sea, from which, before the guards could stop her, she cast the bones into the sea and herself after them.

The image of the pious wife, in imperial robes, stands in the temple near the spot, while the breach in the wall is now perpetual.

Sorry Now

Gowanda, N. Y.—Some sixteen Indian maids are sorry they had their hair bobbed. Because of their short tresses a movie company would not take them to Florida with 125 others.

Staten Island Gets a Huge New Dry-Dock



This is the Brighton Marine No. 4, a single-section dry-dock which was launched at Staten Island. It was christened by Miss O. L. Loomis, daughter of the president of the Lehigh railroad. It is the largest single-section dry-dock in the country and took eight months to build.

Gypsies Must Stop Roaming in Russia

Soviet Government Closes Open Road to Them.

Washington.—Gypsies must stop roaming!

The Soviet government has issued the fiat. Three years of grace are allowed the gypsies. Then there must be no more wandering through all the Russias. The covered wagon, the swarthy soothsayer in brilliant rags, wild gypsy music at the roadside campfire, must take up the trail to limbo.

"Of the many new decrees and programs of the Soviet republic, settling the gypsy on the land probably has a little hope as any of accomplishment," says a bulletin of the National Geographic society from its headquarters in Washington. "Many nations in many ages have tried to control that strange figure, the gypsy—and have failed."

The Flame of Nomadism.

"Since the early part of the Nineteenth century students and scholars have tried to understand the gypsy. They have compared the gypsy of Russia to the gypsy of Hungary, Spain, England and America. They have charted his westward advance. They have examined his language and linked it with Sanskrit and tongues of India. They have set down his customs. They have accounted for nearly every characteristic of the gypsy race except the one that sets the gypsy apart from all other races. Why has the flame of nomadism lived in the gypsy? Why can't he deny the call of the open road? That is the real mystery. It stands unexplained.

"Gypsies have had inducements to settle on the land in nearly every nation they have invaded. In Scotland they paid for vagrancy with their necks in the time of James V. A few countries can report permanent communities of gypsies, but generally the law glides over their black heads and fails to mold them into 'good, solid citizens.'

Another Gypsy Mystery.

"Another mystery of Gypsydom, the capacity for keeping the race strain pure, although they wander the world over and mix with men of all nations, is easier to explain. Strict obedience to three precepts of gypsy law has saved their individuality from the world's melting pot, according to George Borrow. This British missionary studied the gypsy nearly 100 years ago, yet so fine is his prose, so accurate were his observations, and so unchanging is the gypsy, in both language and language, that Borrow's books to this day are treasures of lore. The three commandments of Romany are: Separate not from the husbands. Be faithful to the husbands. Pay your debts to the husbands. "Rom" means 'man' in the gypsy

Nearly Half Prewar Jews in Russia Gone

Washington.—According to a report prepared by the council of nationalities of the Soviet union received by the Russian information bureau here, the Jewish population of the Soviet union has decreased to 2,800,000, as compared with 5,000,000 in the territory of the former czarist empire.

The decrease of 2,200,000, or more than two-fifths, is explained by the loss of heavily populated Jewish centers to Poland, Lithuania and other states at the close of the war and also by the numerous pogroms of the white guard and the Petlura and Polish armies in the Ukraine and in White Russia during the periods of civil war and invasion.

slovakia, which is not particularly famous for light-heartedness, sophistication or men-about-town.

"The Soviet edict was probably directed to the 'Zigan!' This appellation is far more accurate than 'gypsy' and may be regarded as the true universal root name by which the race itself prefers to be known. In the Balkans it becomes 'Tsigan'; in Greece and Turkey, 'Tshingian'; in Italy, 'Zingari'; in Germany, 'Zigeuner'. Their international name may not have escaped the English language entirely, for some authorities find it in our word 'tinker'. The gypsies were the peddlers and the itinerant repairmen of Old England—the tinkers."

TWELVE AND A HALF CENTS OF DOLLAR GOES FOR TAXES

Conference Board Makes Study of Taxation.

New York.—Twelve and a half cents out of every dollar of the combined income of the American people during the last year went into taxes, according to a study in taxation by the national industrial conference board, New York. The total burden of federal, state and local taxes has nearly doubled in proportion to national income since 1913, rising from 6.9 per cent in 1913 to 12.5 per cent in 1924, also showing an increase over the preceding year, 1923, when the total tax burden amounted to 11.8 per cent of the national income.

While the increase of taxation in proportion to national income in 1924 in part was due to increased state and local tax levies, it was in part, however, also due to a decrease in national income during that year, the board points out.

The national income in 1924 is estimated by the conference board at \$63,000,000 as against \$65,000,000 in

1923, representing a decrease of three per cent for the year. Expressed in dollars of current purchasing power, the national income in 1924 was almost double that of 1913; deflated to take into account the decline in purchasing power of the dollar since 1913, the national income in 1924, in terms of "1913 dollars" was \$39,000,000, as against \$32,000,000 in 1913.

While the average gain in population, according to census figures, has been about 1 1/2 per cent annually, federal, state and local taxes together have increased at so fast a pace that, according to the board's computation, the total per capita tax burden has risen from \$22.73 in 1913 to \$70.97 in 1924, or more than trebled. The same is true of the average tax burden of each gainfully occupied person in the United States, which has increased 208.8 per cent from 1913 to 1924, from \$59.25 to \$182.94.

Measuring the tax burden per family, the social unit, the board finds that it has nearly trebled, having risen from \$102.12 in 1913 to \$304.23 in 1924.

The conference board, however, specifically emphasizes the increase of taxation in proportion to national income as the truest and most significant test of the burdensomeness of taxes, inasmuch as national income is the measure of a nation's capacity to spend.

Mausoleum to Be Built for Hero of Buena Vista

Louisville, Ky.—The body of Zachary Taylor, hero of the Mexican war and twelfth President of the United States, is at last to rest in ground owned by the government he served.

A mausoleum is to be built to house the bodies of the victor of Buena Vista and his wife, giving lasting recognition to the man who defeated Gen. Santa Anna's army of 21,000 with 5,000 volunteers and added millions of square miles to the area of his native land.

General Taylor's grave since 1850 has been marked with a granite shaft 21 feet high, six miles northeast of here. The future shrine of General Taylor, to be near the old one, will be of Indiana limestone and will inclose sarcophagi of verde antique marble to contain the bodies. Bronze doors with glazed upper panels will permit the interior, illuminated by a window in the rear wall, to be seen.

The length of the mausoleum will be 16 feet.

Flying Trophy and Its Sculptor



Princess Roussadana Mdivani, prominent sculptor, with her model for a memorial to the Lafayette escadrille which is to be offered as an international flying trophy by Clifford B. Harmon of New York.

Thousands of Game Birds Victims of Cruel Malady

Klamath Falls, Ore.—Thousands of ducks and geese lie dead in Tule lake as a result of a strange malady, believed induced either by alkali water or by rank, stagnant ponds. To cope with the situation the United States biological survey has been notified, and will conduct an examination to determine what is the cause of the wholesale deaths in the ranks of thousands of game birds.

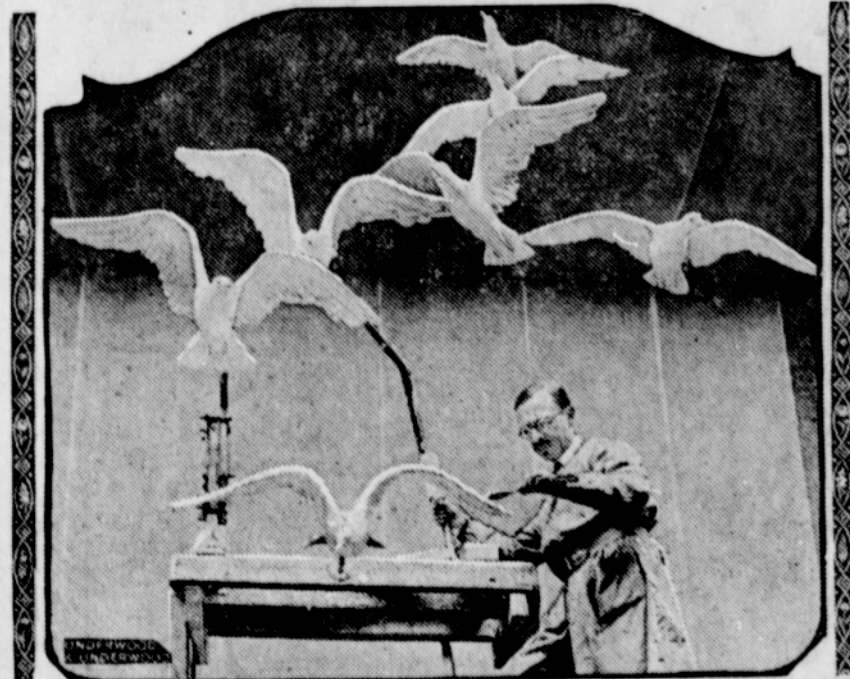
Game Warden Barnes will send several dead birds to the biological survey research office in Portland, where vital organs of the birds will be analyzed to determine the cause of death.

A similar problem with deer faced game authorities last year. Scores of mule-tail deer died in Modoc county from consuming wet mud in a dried-up spring.

COPPER IN COLLEGE

Elmer Carlson, a senior at the University of Wisconsin, is working his way through the university by serving as a member of the Madison police force.

Gulls of Navy-Marine Memorial



Benji del Piatta, the sculptor, working in his New York studio on the sea gulls of the Navy and Marine memorial model. The gulls on the finished monument will be approximately twice the size of those on the model. They will be poised forty feet in the air over the crest of a great ocean wave.