

CONVICTS SEE SLAYER PLUNGE THROUGH TRAPS

Warden Blames Maudlin Sentiment for Crime Wave Now Passing Over Nation

DEATH ROW CONFUSION

Prisoners Shout as Fellow Convict Is Led to Scaffold to Expedite Crime

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—Out at the county jail in the grizzly dim hour of dawn, an experiment in psychology was made this morning when 200 prisoners were forced to witness the hanging of Raffalo Durrago, convicted murderer. Hardened criminals—other murderers and felons whose explanation is not yet the gallows—were placed in cells, tier on tier of which surrounded the square in which the scaffold had been erected.

It was the contention of Sheriff Pears that the sight of the gruesome trappings, the watching of the noose adjustment, the listening to the administration of last rites, the sound of the click of the spring trap and the jerk of the rope as its slack was snapped up by the falling body—all these would have a salutary effect upon those in whose life might come future temptations to slay or to rob or to burn.

Before the execution the receiver of the only telephone connecting the jail with the outside world was re-

moved from its hoop in Jailor Davies' office.

Telephone Is Severed.

It was reported that this action was taken to prevent a possible reprieve of the condemned man at the last minute. When asked for an explanation Jailor Davies smiled and said:

"I can't say why it was done. You see the telephone is out of order."

And so firmly did the sheriff believe in the efficacy of this idea that he persisted in it despite protests from scores of other persons who thought the scheme unnecessary brutal.

Accordingly the stage was set in the death chamber.

Durrago was led forth. The quiet in the death chamber became absolute for a moment. Then the noose was slipped over the murderer's head. From one of the higher tiers came a strident shout.

"When do we eat?"

"Prisoners join in cry."

Tier by tier, cell by cell the cry was taken up. It became a roar above which the warden's voice could not be heard.

The trap was sprung. Durrago dropped into space beneath the scaffold—dead.

"When do we eat?" was his requiem. Sheriff Pears later issued a statement answering critics who opposed his action in permitting prisoners in the jail to witness the hanging as an object lesson. His statement reads as follows:

"In my opinion the modern codding of criminals by well-meaning, but misguided, sympathetic, theoretical reformers and self-constituted organizations is one of the greatest causes of the present crime wave in this city. Their interference with the vigorous enforcement of the law has destroyed the fear of punishment by criminals to the extent that it is no longer a deterrent to the further commission of crime to be incarcerated in our penal institutions. A large number of prisoners openly acknowledge that they would prefer to be incarcerated in the county jail where they are better fed and where sanitary conditions are far better than in their ordinary environments."

Reformers Are Blamed.

"The reformers are constantly advocating the adoption of a leniency of laws which are for the purpose of alleviating the punishment of the criminal, forgetting and losing entire sight of the protection that the law abiding and peaceable citizen is entitled to as against these human parasites."

"If one half of the energy now spent in sympathy on murderers and criminals would be devoted to the families of the victims and the other half to bringing to justice the brutes who have blotted out the lives of law-abiding and peaceable citizens and darkened the lives of others, this would be a happier and safer world to live in."

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BRIGMAN HERE FROM FAR NORTH

Veteran Miner Was Student in Willamette University Forty Years Ago

J. A. Brigman, who was a student in Willamette university nearly 40 years ago, but who has spent most of his years as a prospector and miner in the far north, is in the city for a few days.

Mr. Brigman is heading for the headwaters of Peace river in northern British Columbia where he will pass the coming season. He says that up there, lying west of the Rocky mountains, are valleys of rich agricultural lands.

"The soil is rich and will grow large yields of wheat, oats, hay and all hardy fruits and vegetables," says Mr. Brigman. "Snow falls in November and lies on the ground until March. The climate is comparatively mild. Thirty degrees below zero is the lowest temperature on record. The climate is tempered by the Japanese current."

There are very few people farming in all that vast region now, but the Canadian government is building a road that will tap that country. When completed settlers will come in rapidly. Homesteads can be secured on five years' residence, becoming a Canadian citizen. Land can be bought from the government at \$2.50 to \$5 an acre.

"If you want good hunting go up there," continued the veteran miner. "Moose range all over that land and caribou come down from the arctic every spring and fall. Wild goats and bighorn sheep range in herds high up in the mountains. Wolves make night hideous with their dismal wailing."

Trapping—there are plenty of fur-bearing animals, especially along the base of the mountains. Beaver, foxes, mink and muskrats are there in large numbers. As for bear, I can see some of them almost any day."

Mr. Brigman plans to spend his remaining years in the Canadian northwest.

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GRAND JURY INDICTS (Continued from page 1)

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In the statutory offense with Wyatt is charged and for which he was indicted the girl involved is under 16 years old.

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If any of the defendants plead not guilty their cases will be heard before the regular term of court this month.

LANDSLIDE KILLS 1, INJURES 7

Avalanche Sweeps Juneau Taking Houses and Men In Crash

JUNEAU, Alaska, Jan. 2.—Henry Wallin was killed, seven persons were injured, two perhaps fatally and a number were reported missing tonight as the result of a land slide which, starting below the entrance to the tunnel of the Alaska Juneau Mining company here, crashed down into Front street, sweeping away six dwelling houses and a number of small cabins. Parties tonight were searching the debris for bodies of missing persons who may have been buried under the wrecked buildings.

more on similar charges according to federal officers.

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Cleveland Roundup Up 20.

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NEWARK, N. J., Jan. 2.—Federal agents who were detailed to this city in the nation-wide roundup of radicals tonight seized "red" headquarters among with 329 warrants. Jersey City warrants were issued for 410 persons.

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