

**PRISON PERSONNEL
BLAMED FOR BREAK**

(Continued from page 1.)
state rifles, Murray and Jones opened fire through a north window of the turnkey's office upon guard tower No. 1 overlooking the main entrance and in which guard tower during this and subsequent exchanges of shots two guards were hit. Guard Gardner entered guard tower No. 1 from the outside of the penitentiary by means of an interior protected entrance during the firing and assisted Guard Holman, who was first wounded in the arm, out of the tower. We find that this guard, however, did not arm himself in the tower, although a weapon was available there, and that he left the wounded guard, Holman, at the base of the wall outside and ran north towards the Oregon state hospital. It appears that the wounded guard, Holman, was murdered by the convicts a few minutes later as they passed by this spot where he had been left reclining against the wall.

turnkey's office, we find that Guard Davidson either fell or was knocked down by one of the convicts in that office and thereupon escaped from the building and ran to tower No. 1 where he secured a rifle. Guard Davidson appears to have left the tower after two other guards had been killed and made his way outside the grounds where he took up a position of vantage and fired upon the convicts as they mounted the steps of guard tower No. 1 in leaving the prison yard. He apparently wounded Convict Jones at this time, and from a point of vantage emptied his rifle at them as they fled northward outside of the prison walls. Convict Jones was found dead following this exchange of shots.

"It appears that at the time of the firing there were some eight or more guards at the guards' quarters outside and across the street to the west of the grounds or in the immediate vicinity thereof. That these guards were unarmed and apparently had no weapons at the guards' quarters, it being required that they not keep arms at that place where

a number of trusted convicts are employed.
"Testimony is vague as to what happened among these guards, as well as other guards, but it is apparent that a condition of panic existed at the time. In fact, due to general confusion and excitement, minor discrepancies are to be found in all versions of the affair.
"Guard Sandifer apparently entered tower No. 1 and then left, running north to the Oregon state hospital, approximately one-third of a mile distant, where he arrived in a state of collapse, requiring medical attention. He says he was after a doctor to attend Holman, whom he saw was wounded.
"Guard Gardner, who ran from guard tower No. 1, as previously indicated herein, says that he was after weapons, but found no available weapons at the state hospital except shotguns loaded with bird shot, and a revolver which he was reluctant to use against convicts armed with rifles. After the convicts had vanished, these two guards returned to the prison and later joined in the pursuit.
"Your committee was unable to interview Guard Savage, who was reported as severely wounded.
"We ascertained that there were no guard reserves available for this emergency, and that the guard manning tower No. 2, past which the convicts fled, was killed in tower No. 1, which was the point of greatest danger at the time.
"There apparently was no guard in tower No. 2 at the north east corner. So far as we could ascertain the only shots fired at the convicts as they fled after leaving the prison grounds were those fired by Guard Davidson and shots fired from a shotgun by Warden Dalrymple, who, however, was not within the range of effective fire for such a weapon.
"The convicts left the prison at about 6 o'clock p. m. and ran north approximately one-third of a mile where they appear to have secured an auto vehicle and immediately disappeared. There is no evidence of pursuit during the time that they were running and in sight. Details of all witnesses conflict as to the time pursuit was taken up, testimony varying from 10 minutes, which was the estimate of Warden Dalrymple, to one hour, which is the estimate of two or more guards. The majority of the witnesses interviewed by us estimated the time as 20 minutes.
"We find that there was no pre-arranged plan of meeting this or any similar emergency. The guards say they received no instructions covering their conduct in any emergency and it was the opinion of the guards that they were simply to use their best judgment in any situation that might arise.
"We find the same condition existed in reference to the pursuit there being no pre-arranged system or plan for use in this or any other emergency. The area about the penitentiary had not been restricted. The method of pursuit in this particular case was that the guards on hand were instructed by the warden to get guns and give chase. No system of alarm for breaks, fires or other emergencies appears to have existed.
"Physical Aspects of Prison
"We find that the prison as a whole is adequate for the housing of convicts now confined therein, and will take care of any ordinary increase. The walls are securely built and the guard posts are arranged so as to give a clear view of vantage points within the prison yard. The roof over the main cell building is flimsy and easily sawed through, but such egress admits of escape only into the interior prison grounds, which are protected by walls. The prison is not of a modern type, but is not sufficiently vulnerable as to render escape an easy matter. While the

flimsy roof over the main cell building was a contributing factor. It was not wholly responsible for the escape of the four prisoners. We believe that there are several points of weakness in the structure of the penitentiary which ought to be remedied at once, and that pending such improvements, special vigil should be exercised. Most important of these improvements, in our opinion, is the establishment of a guard tower over the main entrance. Control of the main gate from tower No. 1 is now exercised over a distance of approximately 75 yards and this is not practicable in any way. A main entrance tower would have circumvented the possibility of an escape of the type under consideration herein. It would also permit a close surveillance of persons entering and leaving the prison grounds and would afford effective protection against escape from the west side of the prison. Unarmed guards who are in the guards' quarters outside the grounds would be available for duty if there were a main tower at the entrance where weapons could be had in event of a disturbance or a break within the grounds.
"We believe that a steel covering over the flimsy portion of the roof should be added, or else the space over the cells immediately under the roof should be shut off with heavy wire screening in order to deny prisoners access to the flimsy roof. Steel lined half-doors

should be placed at the entrance and exits of all guard towers so as to render it unnecessary for guards to expose themselves needlessly in an emergency. The guards who were shot in tower No. 1, in our opinion, did not have as good protection as the convicts who were firing at them.
"In this connection we believe that the three oak trees in the west prison yard and from behind one of which Murray found adequate protection in his attack on guard tower No. 1, should be immediately cut down.
"The east wall, along that portion parallel to the concrete work buildings inside the east prison yards should be equipped with barbed wire not rising to a height of five feet above the wall, particularly at the point where the creek enters under the wall. Guard tower No. 4 at the southeast corner might be equipped with a small machine gun to prevent the possibility of an organized break from the main prison yard on the east side where large numbers of prisoners assemble daily.
"The abandoned guard tower at the southwest corner is believed to be a point of danger in that it is easy of access from the outside. It is our belief that the entire wall with all guard posts could be readily taken from this vantage point before resistance could be organized. This tower by all means should be made secure against entrance by unauthorized persons.
"The wooden shack in the east yard, commonly known as the "dog pen," should be destroyed or else placed under strict regulation, as it now appears to serve no decent purpose at the prison and is a festering place for illness and worse. Stairs leading to guard towers should be removed.
"We believe that better protection should be given to the flax plant east and outside the prison walls. Lights should be placed in sufficient number in this area to

(Continued on page 1.)

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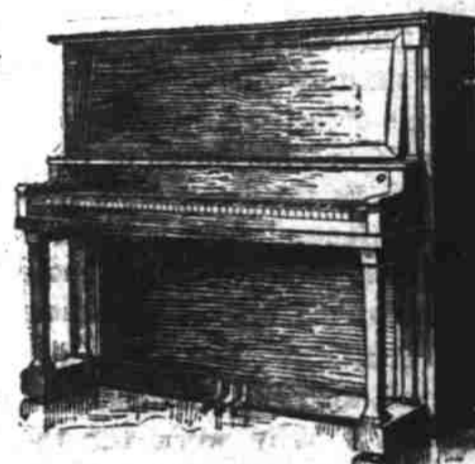
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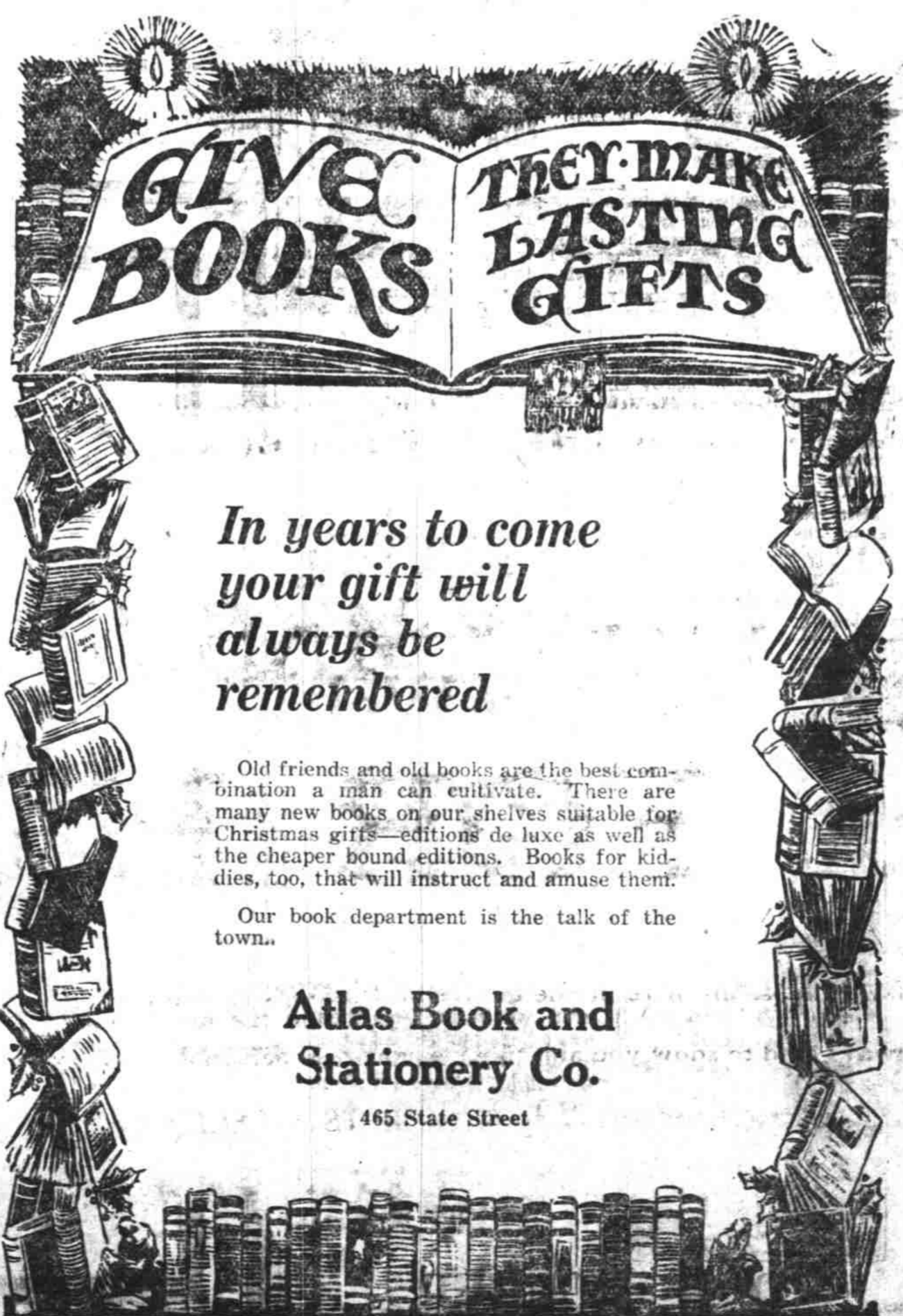
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