

The Daily Astorian.

(1)

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No. 83.

A DASH FOR LIBERTY BY SALEM CONVICTS.

On the morning of the 3d an attempt was made by a number of convicts in the Salem penitentiary to escape, and the attempt was partially successful. The break was made by workmen in the foundry, who captured Warden Collins on the bridge over Mill creek, between the foundry building and the penitentiary. Having captured him they kept him between them and the guard on the stockade, near the penitentiary building, and forced him ahead of them as a shield. About this time the alarm was given, and the guard at the gate next to the penitentiary, named Stilwell, was the only one within shooting distance of the conspiring convicts. As they came near the gate the convicts ordered it to be opened, but Warden Collins told Stilwell not to open the big gate but to open the small one which led to the front rooms of the penitentiary buildings. The guard did as Collins directed, and as the band passed under him he shot Ben. Rivers, alias McGibben (sent from Multnomah county for burglary) in the back, killing him almost instantly. He next shot Sitka Jack or Jack Williams, also from Multnomah county for burglary, through the shoulders and lungs killing him. The next shot killed a convict named Brown, the shot taking effect in the head. The crowd of convicts with Warden Collins then entered the front portion of the penitentiary building, and the convicts secured a gun and pistol in the turnkey's room, after which they passed out of the building and through the gate to the open road. In the meantime Stilwell was getting in a shot as often as possible, and he succeeded in badly wounding two others. The wounded men are both from Marion county, named John McKean, sentenced for thirty years for burglary and robbery and Wm. Smith also robbery and burglary sentenced for fifteen years. The others of the escaping convicts then passed out of the west gate and escaped to the brush. Their names are Tim Garwood, from Multnomah county; John Darby, from Grant county; George Beachamp, from Grant county; George Mansfield, from Multnomah; George Disbrow, from Marion; Wm. Bradshaw from Marion; Henry Glean from Marion; Nap Rinhart from Multnomah; and Wm. Eldridge from Multnomah. A reward of one hundred dollars for each of the escaped convicts has been offered by the prison authorities, and there is no doubt that most, if not all of them, will be captured. The prison officials had been suspecting an attempt to escape by some of the convicts for some time, but were unable to ascertain definitely the time the attempt would be made. Warden Collins was assaulted with a knife but received no serious injury. No other officials were hurt. Parties are in pursuit of the escaped convicts and they will doubtless be captured.

It is understood that the governor has called on a company of militia to pursue the escaping convicts, and capture them dead or alive. There is poor prospect for their successful escape. Those who are out are very hard characters and would not hesitate to do murder.

Manning's sawmill, on Gale creek, Washington county, was burned on Tuesday. The fire caught from the furnace, and in spite of the efforts of the employes and neighbors the establishment was completely destroyed. Loss \$10,000; uninsured. The mill had just been fitted up with new machinery. A barn near by was also burned. The residence of James Woods, on Gale creek, was burned a few days ago, having caught from a fire in the timber. All the contents were destroyed including \$100 in greenbacks. Fires are raging in the mountains along Gale creek and further damage to buildings is feared.—Oregonian.

The Way the People's Money Goes.

About \$2,000,000 worth of printing is annually done in the government printing office. The documents are printed under a joint resolution of both houses of congress, and each member is credited with a proportionate share. As the close of the session approaches the members go to the document rooms and find out how their account stands. If any books are still to their credit they order them sent home or to their rooms in Washington, or authorize some other disposition to be made of them. Very frequently members make exchanges, and often the exchanges are in the shape of cash from dealers. It is frequently the case, again, that a member can pay off some obligation by a load of valuable public documents. It is alleged that once a sitting member, who held a contested seat, saw by the vote in progress on his case that in a few more minutes he would be unseated, and, wise in time, he rushed to the document room while the yeas and nays were being called, drew all his books, franked and directed them to a friend's house, and saw them safely off before the vote was announced.

A member's share of public documents is by no means an insignificant perquisite. He gets, roughly speaking, one four-hundredth part of the publications, or \$5,000 worth, an amount equal in value to his salary. The collection would not sell for that sum, of course, and yet the cash value of a complete set of public documents for a year would be considerable. While much rubbish is printed, some of the books are valuable, and much desired by certain classes of constituents. The greatest demand is for Agricultural Reports. An edition of 300,000 copies is ordered of this volume, but even this enormous number is insufficient to supply all, and, in consequence, members from rural districts, often exchange or buy large quantities from city members or the book stores. So large and steady is the sale of these reports that they have a regular price. They are rated at ten cents apiece, and at this price some country members buy them by the hundred dollars' worth. One member bought 3,000 copies last year at his own expense for distribution among his constituents in addition to his own supply and all he could get from fellow members. It is said that some members supply constituents with all public documents, even though they have to purchase the books, and that members sometimes spend hundreds of dollars in this way. They may have the means, and rather than risk giving offence they quietly buy the document, frank it, and send it off.

ONE MORE UNFORTUNATE.

They bore him to his mother and he lay upon her lap till noon, unconscious yet; His little face was pale and cold as clay, His tiny hand was clenched, his eyes were set.

The anguished mother wept to see him lie As though his spirit from this world had fled, And many a sob suppressed, and heart-felt sigh, And laid him gently on his little bed. The feeble throbbing of his little heart alone Bade hope revive within that mother's breast.

And in her eyes fond expectation shone, As she with lips and hands her boy caressed. "O tell me, dearest, speak!" the mother cried, "Tell me, darling, what befell her pet, And languidly the 'darning' thus replied: "O mamma dear, I smoked a cigar!"

There is Indian trouble again on Skagit. The surveyor general ordered a survey of lands on the Skagit river, about the Sauk in Whatcom county last fall. The Indians objected to have the lands surveyed, but the engineers disregarded their objections and went on with their work in obedience to orders. Last week some two hundred Indians started from all parts of Whatcom county to go up and put a stop to the surveying. Word came a few days ago, that Capt. J. T. Berry had been stopped in this work, and asked for assistance. About a year and a half ago, Dudley Henry, of this city, undertook the same work and was stopped by these Indians.—Transcript.

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