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## WORSE THAN SIBERIA

### Legislative Committee Condemns

### Prisoners Locked in Strait Jacket for 50 Hours

### Convicts Crippled for Life and One Killed By It

A committee from the California legislature has been examining into the manner in which prisoners are treated in the Folsom penitentiary. The report they made shows a condition of affairs that make a Siberian prison pen seem like a section of paradise. Here is part of the report:

The committee visited this place on the 11th inst., and also carefully inspected the entire prison. From a mechanical and sanitary standpoint, everything was found to be in a first-class condition, the prison clean, throughout, though in the sleeping quarters very cold, occasioned by the water used upon the cement floors, which does not dry at this time of the year.

Senator George Williams, a member of the committee, having in his possession considerable data regarding the use of the straitjacket at this institution, which, if true, would reveal a horrible condition of affairs, your committee decided to investigate the same; and for that purpose went into executive session at 8 p. m. and remained in such session continuously until 3:15 a. m.

**Horrible Disclosures Made.**  
During this time over twenty-eight prisoners were examined, also the guards, Captain of Guards, General Overseer and Warden. The facts gleaned from this investigation were horrible indeed, as resulting from the use of the straitjacket, some of the prisoners being maimed for life and unable to follow the pursuit of even manual labor, much less skilled labor. In order that some idea may be had of this instrument of torture, it is thus described:

The straitjacket is made of very heavy tarpaulin or sail cloth; a heavy, closely woven material similar to the heaviest tarpaulin or sail cloth. It is made in one piece, open at the back for the entire length. It fits closely at the neck, which is bound with leather, as are the edges along the opening in the back. Over each of these edges in doubled for the entire length a heavy piece of leather extending back on outer and inner sides for about four or five inches, in which are set heavy eyelets about one inch apart, for the purpose of lacing the instrument on the body. For this purpose a stout, closely woven half

inch cord is used. There are no openings for the arms.

#### How the Straitjacket is Used.

The jacket is placed on the victim over his clothing. He is then laid face downward upon the floor, and the lacing is done by men kneeling upon the prisoner and pulling the cord as tight as it possibly can be done. When laced the poor victim is utterly unable to move either hand or foot. In this condition he is carried into a cell, laid upon the floor, and the cell door is closed and locked. If the prisoner be subjected to this torture happened to be small man, blankets would be placed inside the straitjacket so that the hellish machine might be laced more tightly. At Folsom, a smaller straitjacket was made by Warden Wilkinson, so that the punishment might be more severe.

#### Brutal and Inhuman Guards.

The men who did the lacing each weighed over 200 pounds, and when they could not pull the cord tight enough to suit them they would take a stick about two feet long, and using it as a "Spanish windlass," would tighten the jacket to the highest degree possible by this hellish means. While lacing a prisoner, the brutal tools of Thomas Wilkinson would watch the prisoner, and when he would exhale his breath, they would tighten the jacket so as to catch the lungs and abdomen when depleted of air. After lacing in this manner, the prisoners, while lying in the straitjacket, would be forced to take drastic doses of salts, their mouths being pried open and their noses held close while the powerful dose of purgative would be poured down their throats, as high as four doses of salts being given to the same man while the straitjacket continuously remained laced as above stated.

#### Unspeakably Vile and Atrocious

The recital of the condition of these men, after lying in the straitjacket under such treatment, cannot be told in public print—every moment of the time suffering every pain and torture which the human frame can know, relieved only by spells of unconsciousness, finally to be released maimed and crippled for life, and in one instance at least, to suffer death within twenty-four hours after being taken from the straitjacket, dying in a cell alone where even a drink of water was denied him.

#### The Warden Responsible.

Your committee does not deem it necessary to go into further details regarding the straitjacket, or its use, beyond stating that the guards who did this work were brutal in the extreme, and that their actions at all times were known to the Warden, who alone has the authority to order this punishment and keep men confined, bound like a bale of cotton, for over fifty hours at a time. The Warden, in his testimony before the committee, admitted that sometimes the prisoners were too severely dealt with but laughed it off by saying that at times the prisoners would get saucy to the guards, who in turn, would become angry and take it out on their unfortunate victim, using unnecessary force and brutality in so doing.

We condemn the use of the strait-

(Continued on page 12.)

## NERVY OMAHA WOMAN

### Held up on Her Way Home at Night

### Shoots a Negro Who Attempts to Rob Her

### And Then Runs Him in--He Will Probably Die

Late Wednesday night Miss Lillian Wilson was held up in Omaha by Geo. Williams, a colored footpad, who demanded her money. She drew a revolver and shot him, inflicting a wound that crippled him and a few hours later he was located and arrested.

Miss Wilson had been out to a family gathering. Williams met her as she was going home and told her to halt. He demanded that she deliver her money, saying that if she did not, he would cut her throat, displaying a large knife. Miss Wilson replied: "Certainly, but wait a minute." As she said this, she opened a chateleine bag she was carrying and, taking out a revolver, aimed it at Williams and fired.

Miss Wilson then telephoned to the police station that she had shot a man afterwards explaining the circumstances. When found Williams was hiding in the loft of a barn. The bullet had entered the abdomen and is likely to prove fatal.

Miss Wilson is 18 years of age, and the daughter of one of the wealthiest families of the city.

## Womans Origin

At the beginning of time, Twaashtri—Vulcan of the Hindu Mythology—created the world. But when he wished to create a woman he found that he had employed all his material in the creation of man. There did not remain one solid element. Then Twaashtri, perplexed, fell into a profound meditation.

He roused himself to do as follows: He took the roundness of the moon, the undulations of the serpent, the entwining of climbing plants, the trembling of the grass, the slenderness of the rose vine and the velvet of the flower, the lightness of the leaf and the glance of the fawn, the gayety of the sun's rays and tears of mist, the timidity of the hare, the vanity of the peacock and the softness of the down on the throat of the swallow, the hardness of the diamond, the sweet flavor of honey and the cruelty of the tiger, the warmth of fire, the chill of snow,

the chatter of the jay and the cooing of the turtle dove.

He united all this and formed woman. Then he made a present of her to man.

Eight days later man came to Twaashtri and said: "My Lord, the creature you gave me poisons my existence. She chatters without rest, she takes all my time, she laments for nothing at all, and is always ill." And Twaashtri received the woman again.

But eight days later the man came again to the god and said: "My Lord, my life is very solitary since I returned this creature. I remember she danced before me singing. I remember how she glanced at me from the corner of her eye, that she played with me, clung to me." And Twaashtri returned the woman to him.

Three days only passed and Twaashtri saw the man coming to him again. "My Lord," said he, "I do not understand exactly how, but I am sure that the woman causes me more annoyance than pleasure. I beg of you to relieve me of her." But Twaashtri said: "Go your way and do your best." And the man cried: "I cannot live with her!" "Neither can you live without her," replied Twaashtri. And the man was sorrowful, murmuring: "Woe unto me. I can neither live with or without her."—Hindoo Mythology.

#### There is Trouble Brewing.

The editor of the Roseburg Plaindealer has received some private advices from Washington calculated to make many people who were careless or unscrupulous as to how they got title to timber claims in Oregon during the last two or three years, rather apprehensive that there is to be a general reckoning with all who did not toe the mark with the law. It may be expected the man who sold himself as a "dummy" purchaser will find a thorny road.

The Plaindealer says: The Plaindealer is in receipt of a private letter from Washington in answer to some of the articles which lately appeared. If the contents of the letter are true we look for a thorough upheaval if a regular Mount Pelee volcano does not belch forth. The report made by special inspector A. R. Green will be a thorough surprise, for it reveals a state of corruption little dreamed of in Oregon land affairs and the report made to Secretary Hitchcock will be used before the next Federal grand jury at Portland and we now look forward to the finding of indictments by the score. Other reports go into detail of timber land steals committed all over the state and even charges that timber speculators and monopolies have partners in the business of defrauding the government in land offices. There will be more fun for lawyers than a pup dog has in smashing a basket of eggs.

The shrinkage has taken place and he who was yesterday addressed as the Honorable Senator from Skowhegan is today familiarly hailed as in old times by the plain old-fashioned greeting of "Hello Bill."

## TILLMAN REFUSED BAIL

### Had Threatened to Kill Gonzales

### Affidavit Made on Both Sides of the Case

### Must Remain in Jail Until His Trial Comes Off

Chief Justice Pope Thursday refused the application for bail for Jas. H. Tillman, who recently shot and killed Editor Gonzales. It was the rule of the court, he said, in such cases to make no explanations of the reasons governing the decision. Murder was the taking of human life with malice aforethought, he said, and with the oath of office so recently upon his lips, he must do his duty and decline the application without prejudice to the case of the defendant.

A multitude of affidavits was read by the state attorneys and a number in reply were read for the defendant. E. J. Watson, of the state newspaper, swore to a conversation with Tillman last summer in which the latter requested him to tell Gonzales substantially that a continuance of the newspaper attacks would be at his peril. Wilson declined to convey the message.

C. D. Black, a railroad man, made affidavit that Tillman told him on a train and again in August that he was going to kill Gonzales, exhibiting the magazine pistol.

Robert Latham, Mr. Gonzales' stenographer, swore to a statement of Mr. Gonzales, taken by him when Gonzales was near death, relating the story of the shooting. Mr. Gonzales declared that he had sent Tillman no message and considered the matter ended.

Several well-known citizens of Columbia who saw the shooting testified that Gonzales made no threatening motion.

Tillman made another affidavit saying that Gonzales had been persecuting him for 10 years. He denied the story of a threat told by Watson and of other threats.

In the argument the state emphasized the point, among other things, that the language as to the "white feather" did not constitute a threat, when coupled with the fact that no time before had Gonzales employed any violence toward Tillman.

Nevada City, California, has had a strike in the Sierra Butte mine, that has some peculiar features. It seems the mine runs a boarding house and employs a "lady" cook. Now miners as a general rule are gallant, and few of them will kick about their meals, provided those meals are cooked by a woman who is personally fair to look upon. It is therefore fair to pre-

sume that the lady who presided over the culinary department of the Sierra Butte Mining Co., was not of the Gibson girl type; and it is further within the limits of reasonable presumption to infer that as a creator of toothsome dishes and appetizing combinations she would not average more than three on a scale of ten. The miners protested to the superintendent. They set forth humbly but firmly that they couldn't and wouldn't stand her works as long as they ran along the line of preparing the raw material, and getting it in shape for debutation. They disclaimed any intention of demanding eight course dinners, they wouldn't insist on melons for breakfast, or demand napkins or finger bowls. They did insist, though on having their simple food decently cooked and cleanly served. They demanded that the stock of butter be retired on active pay, earned by long service, and that a new supply that had not braved the passage around the Horn in the Mayflower in 1492 be furnished them. The superintendent refused their demands and the crew, some 40 in number, went on a strike. The woman, with the patriotism of an office holder refused to resign, and declared the miners would yet come to time, eat that butter and declare they liked it. In the meanwhile the mine closed down, the pumps were pulled out, and the triangular fight between miners, superintendent and cook waxed warm and furious. Some local Bowen however established a sort of Hague tribunal, the offending butter was sold for skid grease, the cook had promised a better quality of hash, and the miners have gone back to work and peace reigns.

## NEW WAY TO PAY DEBTS

### Venezuela Raises Her Import Duties 30 per Cent

President Castro seems to be a man of infinite resources. A recent dispatch from the United States legation at Caracas to the State Department at Washington says: The minister of Foreign Affairs for Venezuela has decreed thirty per cent increase on all imports as a war measure.

Just why this decree was issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs instead of President Castro in the ordinary course puzzles the officials here. The action recorded in the cablegram is regarded as a keen stroke of political finesse, for practically it amounts to placing the indemnity which Venezuela is to pay the Powers wholly upon the shoulders of the foreign merchants who conduct all of Venezuela's import trade. The increase mentioned—30 per cent—is the same figure as the percentage of customs dues at La Guayra and Puerto Cabello to be assigned to the claimant nations.

Stalwart of stalwarts, and down by the sounding sea—do not necessarily mean either Astoria or the brainy man from there. You see there is Coos bay and—well others.

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