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**BAD STRETCH OF ROAD MOTOR THROUGH BRIDGE**

Highway South of Valencia in a Dangerous Condition.

Just southwest of Valencia about two miles is one of the most dangerous stretches of road in the state. It is made more dangerous by the condition of the Fitzgerald crossing over Vassar creek.

The bridge on the road was washed out by high water some time ago. It was up to the county commissioners of Shawnee to put in a new one, but users of the road were told by the commissioners that there was no available money for the work. A plank platform was thrown across the creek, just above the water. A rise of three feet in the creek would carry out the planking.

The east approach of the bridge is more dangerous than the west. The road descends from a high hill and makes a sharp turn south around a high embankment and over a sharp drop of six or eight feet to the platform over the water. The drop to the planks on the west is also sharp. There are no railings on the bridge. The highway is one of the most important in the western part of the county as it is the main road into Valencia from the west. Northwest of the place another road is closed owing to a bridge over the creek being washed out.

**One Dead, One Dying, a Third Badly Hurt in St. Louis Crash.**

St. Louis, Aug. 6.—One woman was killed, another seriously injured and Henry C. Wiehe, 42 years old, president of a furniture company, was hurt, probably fatally, late last night when an automobile in which the three were riding broke through the railing of a bridge west of St. Louis and plunged into a ravine fifteen feet below.

Wiehe, who is married, is a brother of Alderman Edward W. Wiehe, of St. Louis. Mrs. Willie Hale, 45, was killed, and Miss Ina Butler was injured.

**Fairley Investigates Strike.**

Pittsburg, Kan., Aug. 6.—W. R. Fairley, federal commissioner of conciliation attached to the department of labor, who came here this week to investigate the causes of idleness in a large number of mines in this district, began an investigation Thursday of the strike affecting the eleven mines of the Sheridan Coal company, which has caused 1,200 men to be out of employment. The miners have declared the coal company had broken a contract.

**BOTKIN SAYS CAPPER KNEW**

Deposed Warden Answers Criticism of the Gifford Case.

Notice of His Pending Release Sent to Governor.

**NOT WITHOUT PRECEDENT**

Chief Executive Had Approved Three Similar Actions.

Gives Names and Dates in a Signed Statement.

The very acts of misconduct charged against Warden J. D. Botkin were approved by Governor Capper and were done with the full knowledge and consent of his office. That is the counter charge today by Botkin in answering the charges that the prison department was responsible for the release of J. B. Gifford from the state penitentiary before his term expired. Gifford was wanted as a witness in the Botkin case. Under a rule giving extra time to men who worked extra hours in the prison twine plant, Gifford was recently released. It was charged that his release was illegal, and was without the knowledge or approval of the governor. Botkin denies emphatically all of these assertions. He was under suspension at the time of Gifford's release, yet records show that the governor's office was notified in advance that Gifford would be released.

In fact, Botkin shows records of three instances where Governor Capper had approved the extra-time plan and had released convicts. These were in the cases of George Hartzler, Louis Wisdom and Louis Allison. Each was released with the governor's approval under the plan which was claimed to be illegal when Gifford was given his freedom.

Further, Botkin states that when Gifford escaped in 1914, he lost 236 days' good time which he had accumulated while in the prison. Then the prison board adopted the plan of giving an extra meal and an extra day to the men who worked thirteen hours in the twine plant. By his official acts, Governor Capper approved this plan during his administration. Now the investigating board will be asked to set Botkin from his job for doing that which the governor approved.

**Credit for Overtime.**

"What about the 35 days allowed Gifford because of the overtime he worked in the twine mill?" asks Botkin in a statement of the case. "It is gravely declared that the warden and board have no authority to make contracts under which a prisoner's time is reduced. Eminent correct. But the board and warden have done no such thing.

"The governor and the board did this very thing last year and this, and with a full knowledge of the facts, all right minded people will see that they have not transcended their authority. The new twine mill began work January 2, 1914. As spring approached the demand for twine became very pressing. The mill had an annual capacity of only three million pounds, while the state required about twenty millions. In order to supply the farmers with the greatest possible amount of twine, the board, at its meeting March 24, 1914, ordered a full night shift put on. It was soon found, however, that we could not spare the men from other industries by at their meeting April 15, 1914, the board annulled this order and made a proposition to the twine mill men that if they would work for the state 13 hours each day, they should have an extra meal per day and two days for one off their sentences. The prisoners were informed that Governor Hodges had authorized the board to commit him to this contract. It was necessary for the governor to cooperate in this plan for the reason that it was inevitable that some men would be entitled to release before their minimum should expire and others before their maximum, and only the governor had the authority to grant such privileges. Several men have been paroled and others given final discharge under this contract.

**Two Days for One.**

"Pursuant to this arrangement with the governor, the board, at its meeting June 1, 1914, ordered that at the end of each month the extra time (two days for one) given to the workers in the twine mill for extra services, be added to their good time. At the meeting of the board April 1, 1915, the following action was taken: 'Ordered, that commencing April 5, the twine mill be placed on the same schedule of time as last year, with extra food and credit to prisoners for time as in 1914.'

"At this time the board announced that Governor Capper had made the same agreement as that made by Governor Hodges the previous year. Under this agreement Governor Hodges released Tom Perry, whose original maximum was Oct. 25, 1914. Owing to a credit of 66 days for extra service in the twine mill his new maximum was August 20, 1914, and he went out on this date. Following are the men who have received final discharge from Governor Capper under this agreement:

"George Barringer, original maximum April 4, 1915, credit in twine mill 66 days, new maximum Jan. 28, 1915. Discharged.

"Louis Wisdom, original maximum April 19, 1915, credit in twine mill 15 days, new maximum April 4, 1915. Discharged.

"Louis Allison, original maximum August 12, 1915, credit in twine mill 64 days, new maximum June 9, 1915. Discharged.

"Under the same rule Gifford's maximum, after deducting the 236 days of good time, was August 30, 1915. Given his 35 days of good time for extra services in the twine mill, his new maximum was July 26, 1915, and he was as surely entitled to release on that date as were those named above on the dates named. If his release by the present prison authorities was illegal then the three released by Mr. Capper and the one released by Mr. Hodges were unlawfully given their freedom. If not, why not?"

"In all of these cases the Governor's office was duly notified of the date of expiration: the notice in Gifford's case having been sent July 7."

To Deport German Missionaries. London, Aug. 6.—The British government has decided to intern or deport all German missionaries in India, according to The Times.

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