

YEARS IN A DARK CELL.

A Convict's Story of Cruelty in a Penitentiary Across the Border.

James Ferry, Out of Four Years Confinement, Spends Two in Solitary Darkness.

The Warden Admits the Truth of the Statement and Says He Has Fired the Guards.

An astounding revelation of cruelty at St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary came to light to-day, says a Montreal dispatch, when a discharged convict limped into a hotel in this city, and, taking of his dusty shoes, took from it a letter from James Ferry, now serving a seven years' sentence in that institution.

Out of the four years he has served, this wretched convict has spent, he declares, no less than 24 months in the black hole. This punishment cell is a portion of the cellar of the penitentiary, and is so closely shut with iron doors that daylight never reaches the cells in it as long as the convicts are there. The unfortunate prisoner put there is kept on bread and water, being given one regular prison meal every day. He sleeps on straw, and the guard who furnishes him with his scanty food is prohibited from speaking to him. It is perpetual night and unending silence for him. It is the hardest punishment that can be inflicted, and yet this unfortunate man has spent two whole years in this hole, besides being horribly beaten and kicked.

The culminating point was reached on Aug. 22. Ferry had been allowed a breath of pure air in the stone yard, when one of the guards came along and ordered him back to the dungeon. Ferry refused to go, and begged for a few minutes more in the daylight. The guard sprang at him and knocked him down with a blow of his club. The other convicts allege that he and three others jumped upon his chest and body. He lay upon the ground stunned and senseless with blood flowing from his mouth and nose, and yet he was dragged by the throat to the stairs and thrown into the black hole, as they state, without medical attendance, although he is known to have been severely injured internally.

The New York World representative at once waited on Warden Oimmet. That gentleman, while softening the matter as he could, admitted that he had been compelled to line and suspend some of his guards for cruelty to the prisoners. The guard Henry, who committed the assault on Ferry, had been suspended for two days and fined for striking prisoners, and he had to warn others that the men were to be treated as human beings and not as brutes. The story told to him by the guards was that Ferry was insubordinate. They claimed that he refused to work and invited the other convicts to mutiny. On the 23d the chief keeper told him that Ferry had refused to work again, and that he had sentenced him to the black hole. Henry and another guard seized him, when he struggled furiously, and they were compelled to club him into submission. From time to time as they were forcing him along to this dismal hole he turned and struggled until Henry lost his temper and used his fists freely on him. Henry admits losing his temper, but says Ferry's abuse and attempts to strike him fairly maddened him and he could not help it. The warden states that Ferry was not so seriously hurt as he says and that he refused medical attention, and also that it is not true that his mother was not permitted to see him because his face was swollen to a pulp by the clubs of the guards.

But this does not satisfy the relatives of the injured man. Old convicts claim that this case is only one of many, and the fact remains that a man has been placed two years out of four in solitary confinement in a loathsome cell, debarred from light, from fresh air and from the companionship of man. The citizens are determined that an investigation shall be made into the affair. Warden Oimmet has a very strong pull with the government and is doing everything he can to hush the matter up. Threats and promises have been freely made to keep the matter quiet.

VALUE OF A COOL HEAD.

Never More Needed Than When Confronted by a Slight Fire.

Presence of mind is never more essential than in the home, says the New York Tribune. Small catastrophes which may lead to most grievous results are frequent. Given a cool head and a deft touch and all is well, but the nervous woman or the woman who expends her energies by screaming over slight mishaps may easily bring on dire disaster from slight causes. In case of fire it is especially necessary to have some one about who is possessed of a cool head, and is capable of acting promptly and wisely. The most successful and ready way in which to put out a small fire is to smother it in any thick, woolen article which may be at hand. Lace curtains and light window drapery are quite liable to catch fire from gas jets, when the latter are unprotected by shades, and for that reason a gas jet near a curtain should always have a shade over it, so the slightest gust of wind may blow the inflammable material against the light, when it will instantly break into a blaze. In such cases the only thing to do is to tear down the curtain without the least delay and smother it in any woolen material at hand. It is useless to specify or multiply instances, for such a case is an emergency of its own and brings its own difficulties, which only coolness and promptness can solve. Where there has been but a slight fire there frequently are serious burns on the person, and to the treatment of these it is well to pay attention, as prompt action is of the greatest necessity. Where there has been a serious case of burning, the absence of pain, often a feature of the case, is a bad omen. It is useless to specify or multiply instances, for such a case is an emergency of its own and brings its own difficulties, which only coolness and promptness can solve. Where there has been but a slight fire there frequently are serious burns on the person, and to the treatment of these it is well to pay attention, as prompt action is of the greatest necessity. Where there has been a serious case of burning, the absence of pain, often a feature of the case, is a bad omen. It is useless to specify or multiply instances, for such a case is an emergency of its own and brings its own difficulties, which only coolness and promptness can solve.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO OBTAIN TITLE.

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the provisions of the rules and regulations prescribed by the honorable secretary of the interior, on May 20, 1891, at the expiration of twenty-one days from the first publication of this notice, the undersigned, Charles W. Toole, whose post-office address is Wallace, Blaine county, Montana, will make written application to the honorable secretary of the interior for authority to cut and remove timber for merchandise and sale from the following described and unappropriated public lands of the United States situated in Blaine county, Montana, and described as follows:

Tract No. 1, beginning at a point on the north bank of the Kootenai river one mile below the "Big Bend" of the same, and the same distance west of the mouth of Fisher creek, thence running west along said north bank following the bend and curve of same for about four miles to the mouth of Fisher creek thence north one-half mile (1/2) to northwest corner, thence east along the top of the Big Bend or bluffs four miles thence south one-half mile (1/2) to the place of beginning, comprising about twelve hundred (1,200) acres, and containing five hundred thousand (500,000) feet of pine timber, and one hundred thousand (100,000) feet of fir and tamarack timber. The land in this tract is rough and broken; the soil rocky and sandy, unfit for cultivation or grazing purposes.

Tract No. 2, beginning at a point on the north bank of the Kootenai river one-half (1/2) mile below, and west of the mouth of Fisher creek, which is about four miles below or west of the mouth of Fisher creek, thence north one-half mile (1/2) to the place of beginning, comprising about twelve hundred (1,200) acres, and containing five hundred thousand (500,000) feet of pine timber, and one hundred thousand (100,000) feet of fir and tamarack timber. The land in this tract is rough and broken; the soil rocky and sandy, unfit for cultivation or grazing purposes.

Tract No. 3, beginning at a point on the north bank of the Kootenai river one-half (1/2) mile below or west of the mouth of Fisher creek, thence running west along the said north bank following the bend and curve of the same for a distance of eight miles to the head of said east of the Kootenai falls, thence north one-quarter (1/4) of a mile thence east one mile to a line parallel with the Kootenai river and one-quarter of a mile north of same to the northeast corner, thence south one-quarter (1/4) of a mile to the southeast corner, the place of beginning, comprising about thirteen hundred (1,300) acres, and containing about one million (1,000,000) feet of pine timber, and one hundred thousand (100,000) feet of fir timber. The land in this tract is rough and broken; the soil rocky and sandy, unfit for cultivation or grazing purposes.

Reference is hereby made to plat filed in the United States land office, Helena, Montana, identifying and showing a more particular description of the locality of the land upon which this privilege is sought to be obtained. The total area of the above described tracts is about 3,500 acres, and it is estimated that there is growing thereon about 6,500,000 feet of pine timber, about 1,000,000 feet of tamarack and about 300,000 feet of fir, which it is desired to have.

The character of the lands upon which all of the above named timber is growing is rough, broken and mountainous, the soil is rocky, sandy and broken, unfit for cultivation or grazing purposes, and non-mineral in character.

The purpose for which the timber is to be cut and sold is for the manufacture of lumber, shingles and other merchantable lumber, to be used for mining, building and other usual and beneficial purposes.

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