

PRICE ONE CENT.

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EXTRA. 6.45 O'CLOCK BY SHOCK

Four Murderers Electrocuted at Sing Sing.

Slocum, Smiler, Wood and Jugiro in the Electric Chair.

SMILER WENT AT 5.15 A. M. AND THE NEGRO WOOD 24 MINUTES LATER.

IT WAS 4.49 A. M. WHEN THE CURRENT WAS TURNED ON AND SLOCUM DIED.

THE JAPANESE JUGIRO WAS THE LAST TO BE LED OUT TO HIS DEATH.

4.38 A. M.—James Slocum has just been killed according to law.

5.14 A. M.—Harris A. Smiler has just been killed.

5.38 1/2—Joseph Wood has just been executed.

6.06 A. M.—Shibuya Jugiro has just paid the penalty of his crime in the electric chair.

6.30 A. M.—Word comes from inside that there was not a struggle. Each man was perfectly submissive, and all went off quiet as a lamb.

5 A. M.—Outside of the prison there is no indication that anything has happened.

5 A. M.—Since 3.30 A. M., when people were seen rising, the Warden's house has been apparently tenantless. The blinds in the dining-room, through which the death procession passed, were tightly shut. All curtains were drawn in front. Not a sound heard since coffee-grinding betokened preparations for breakfast.

5.01—The whirr of the wires is again heard. Another execution may be taking place.

5.10 A. M.—A little knot of villagers is intently gazing up at the tall staff from which a signal flag had announced the death of Slocum.

5.13 A. M.—People are holding their watches on the death signals and counting the minutes.

5.14 A. M.—The signals arranged for the announcement are the same as in Virginia at the places of secret execution in London.

5.15 A. M.—Wonderful celerity in execution creates excitement. Just thirty-one minutes intervened between Slocum's and Smiler's executions.

5.17 A. M.—More than half an hour since the killing of Slocum. There is uneasiness among the guards on the terrace. It is feared that some accident has happened.

5.20 A. M.—The little group of villagers on the side hill stand in awe-stricken silence. Every eye is directed on the flagstaff. All know that two lives have just been wiped out.

5.22 A. M.—Smiler's signal has just been taken down.

5.49 A. M.—But twenty-four minutes passed between the second and third killings. This is seven minutes less than the first interval.

6.15 A. M.—Guards are waiting in front of the prison to get the three men who are to die today.

tions for them to sleep in the prison and they go home at night.

6.22 A. M.—Warden Brown came up and called a guard inside to the office.

6.25 A. M.—Witnesses appeared at window.

6.26 A. M.—Fathers Creedon and Lynch have just come out of the prison.

Two guards loitered before the entrance to the prison.

For half an hour dense smoke had been arising from the huge smoke stack above the engine-house building. The buzzing of the dynamo could be faintly heard at daybreak. The sky was brilliantly red. It was just at the hour when if the condemned men's eyes had been closed in sleep, they were awakened to face death. Just before the execution lowering clouds hovered over the grim prison and the death-chamber. Twenty-eight newspaper men stood by the terrace opposite the entrance.

Slocum's execution came as a surprise. Exact note to second is being taken of time elapsing between executions. Many of the men present witnessed exciting events accompanying the horrible Kemler execution.

At the moment of this execution there was a weird reflection in the sky. A dark band of leaden haze skirted the horizon, while as the moments sped the clouds seemed to tremble and threaten dissolution. At the signal displayed and unusual appearance of sky and earth was presented. The clouds parted and a strange light struggled through the gloom, lighting the eastern view with long lines of aqueous color.

At the same time a dove was observed resting on the flagstaff above the prison.

By the Warden's orders every occupant of his house pulled down the blinds, turned out the gas and went to bed early. The great building was in utter darkness soon after midnight save for the two electric lamps in front of the building.

Coffee and rolls had been served an hour before, and the jurors were all advised by Mr. Brown himself to take a good rest for he would call them early.

2.30 A. M.—At the cooks began their work. Then a few gas jets were lighted.

At 3.30 A. M. every electric light in the town went out. This is a half-hour earlier than usual. Fathers Creedon and Lynch were now up, and with the condemned men. Rev. Mr. Egerton and his assistant were with Smiler.

Old trustworthy John Clancey, one of the guards on the death watch, whispered Father Creedon that he never felt so nervous in his life, and the good priest, cool and collected always, answered that he, too, was a trifle unwell.

Soon after 4 A. M. the witnesses and jurors were ushered into the death-chamber. The experts had examined everything and were satisfied that there would be no hitch.

Slocum was awakened at 3.30 A. M., and as he sprang from his cot rubbing his eyes he asked, "Is it time?"

"Not quite yet," Principal Keeper Connaughton replied, "but it will be soon now my boy." Slocum gave a sort of gasp as he realized that his last hour had come.

Nevertheless he steadied himself, and after a tremulous minute or two he said: "All right, I will be ready."

He bathed his face and hands and made quick preparations for his breakfast.

While he was waiting for his last meal on earth his spiritual advisers came into his cell and passed about fifteen minutes with him. He received holy communion.

His breakfast was ready. He ate sparingly of bottled eggs and coffee, and at 3.15 he signified that he was ready for the supreme trial.

The invited witnesses who were anxiously waiting for the death scene took up their positions. There was not a sound from the order about the march as there used to be in the Tomb.

Slocum walked steadily to the awful room his arms were tied behind his back, and a strap on his legs allowed him to step about twelve inches at a pace.

No time was lost. When the death-chamber was reached Slocum walked to the fatal chair and sat down. His feet were tied and his arms and head firmly fixed to the proper places. He was ready in a moment.

A moment later Warden Brown touched the bell and the current was applied. He died quickly. Present reports indicate that in Slocum's case execution by electricity proved a success.

Five minutes after he was killed the black smoke from the stack told that preparations were being made for the next man.

Half an hour after Slocum was awakened Smiler had been aroused, and while Slocum ate his breakfast Smiler was being prepared for his crisis by the Rev. Mr. Egerton.

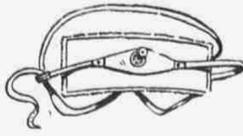
Exactly thirty-one minutes after Slocum's death body had been removed from the chair to the autopsy-room Smiler was placed in the seat of death. In a fraction of a second after the straps were secured the fatal spark was applied, and Smiler's soul was on its way to join that of Slocum.

One of the jury protested, but Keeper Connaughton's presence of mind quieted consequent disturbances. Wood was prepared next and he was executed at 5.38 1/2 o'clock.

Jugiro is the only one to follow. A terrible struggle to push the powerful jaw into the chair is expected. It is understood that hasty autopsies were made after each execution.



JOSEPH WOOD.



FOREHEAD ELECTRODE.



HARRIS A. SMILER.

Wood and four minutes faster than time for Smiler. Time between Slocum and Jugiro's execution one hour and twenty-eight minutes. This is an average of twenty-nine and one-third minutes for the last three executions. Assuming that Slocum took but the average for execution four men were summoned, prepared for death and killed by electricity in Sing Sing's chair in one hour and forty-six minutes.

THEIR LAST HOURS.

They Order Their Breakfasts with Their Usual Care.

SING SING, N. Y., July 7.—The darkness of impending doom closing in about the four unhappy creatures lashed in the little building behind the brick wall, found them in the final acts of devotion.

Rev. Fathers Creedon, Lynch and Hogan and Rev. Mr. Egerton had been with them many hours preparing them for the transition that was about to take place.

The doomed men seemed at last to be in full realization of their awful situation, but showed no sign of weakening.

While fully realizing that their hours were few the condemned did not forget to order breakfast with strange care.

Even Wood, who had been for days losing his grip on the world, seemed brighter, his confidence and his courage seemed to receive new stimulus from the good priests.

Wood said to Principal Keeper Connaughton: "If I please I'd better have beefsteak and onions again for breakfast. I'll not have many more chances."

Jugiro did not vary his daily order for the past week, calling for sardines, raw oysters and the like.

Slocum and Smiler's order began with oatmeal porridge and finished with ham and eggs.

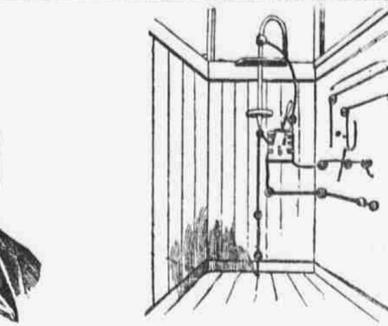
Neither of the four referred in any way to their rapidly approaching end, but all by their silence, subdued manner and restrained, soft voices, as if they were in the sick room, indicated that they fully appreciated their dreadful predicament.

At the usual hour, between 9 and 10 o'clock, the men lay down to sleep as if only the ordinary were in prospect for them.

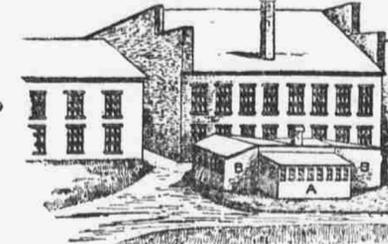
In a peace incomprehensible these miserable creatures fell asleep and during the still watches of the night only their regular easy breathing broke the awful stillness of the walled and grated chambers of death.

Keepers Partridge and Baxter watched out their last hours with their charges in silence until 11.24 A. M. Lawyer Haire arrived at Sing Sing with papers for service upon Warden Brown. Haire claims that they will say the execution of Wood.

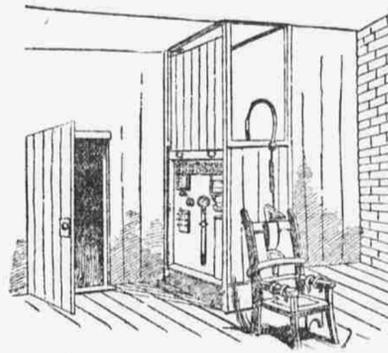
He was accompanied by G. A. Cooper, Slocum's counsel, who said he came only for company. Haire was held by the guards at the highway death. Haire for several minutes. Principal Keeper Connaughton and Elliot Brown finally admitted him, but kept Cooper standing outside the death house.



EXECUTIONER'S CLOSET, SHOWING SWITCH AND WIRES TO DEATH CHAIR.



REAR VIEW OF HOSPITAL BUILDING. A—Electrocution Building, B—Condemned Cells Building.



INTERIOR OF ELECTROCUTION ROOM, SHOWING ROOM THROUGH WHICH CONDEMNED MEN ENTERED, THE DEATH CHAIR IN POSITION, THE EXECUTIONER'S CLOSET AND THE DEAD ROOM IN THE REAR.

At 2.30 A. M.—Breakfast is being prepared in the Warden's house for the witnesses.

3.03 A. M.—Lawyer Haire came out of the prison a few minutes ago and said he had had a long interview with the Warden. When asked if he had any hopes of Wood's reprieve he said he did not know what to expect.

At 3.30 A. M., the electric lights in the prison were extinguished. The lights in the Warden's house began to appear singly with signs of people rising.

The hum of the dynamo being tested could be heard.

received the Warden began the erection of a duplicate of the Death House on the west side, leaving a three-foot corridor between.

It differs in no respect from the original. The new building is a building 65x45 feet in dimensions, with an almost flat roof, and it looks from the outside like a vault for the dead.

This effect was heightened by the big iron door set at the end of the corridor, and which makes the south wall the most gruesome object in the prison-yard.

When preparations were made last September for the electrocution of the negro Wood, it was decided to utilize this new part as a Death Chamber, and it was fitted up with the electrical instruments.

A connecting doorway was cut through from the original Death House and the corridor was subdivided by a thick oak door, which gave a little apartment between the oak and iron doors, in which it was intended the actual executioner should stand, and, secure from observation, turn the fatal switch upon a given signal.

It was in this new part of the Death House, with its four empty cells, that the first test of the instruments of Death at Sing Sing was made the week before the date then fixed for Wood's death, Oct. 1, 1890. The subject was a horse owned by a member of Warden Brush's family, and the experiment was so secret that only THE EVENING WORLD was aware that it had been made, and exclusively printed a full description, with the report of the experts as to the result.

But Wood's lawyer prevented the experiment being made upon a human being at that time, and as more murderers were sentenced, and the Warden saw his eight condemned cells filling up, the necessity of another addition at the Death House presented itself.

Then was built the Death Chamber stands to-day.

THE DEATH CHAMBER. It is a frame "lean-to," built against the south wall of the Death House. It is 42 feet long, and 21 feet wide, with eight windows in the south side and four in the east end, giving plenty of light, but placed so high as to prevent a curious person in the yard seeing the interior.

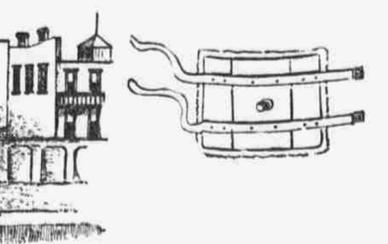
It is divided into two apartments, the main one being 21x30 feet. This is the electrocution room proper. It has a board floor, while the top, the corner-posts in front running clear to the roof, giving it an odd appearance.

Besides the entrance from the Death House, there is a door at the east end of the electrocution-room, opening into the prison yard. That the condemned man may not be disturbed by the noise of strange feet passing in front of their cells, one enters through this eastern door, and the first thing that strikes the eye is a heavy oak armchair standing directly in front of the closet.

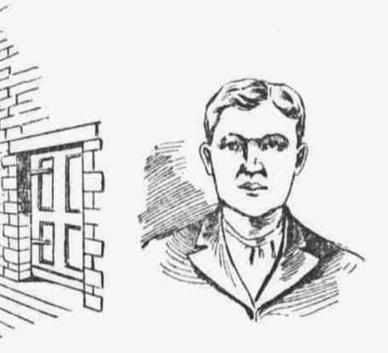
It is the chair of death. It is a massive chair, weighing fully seventy pounds. It has a perforated seat and an odd looking rubber air cushion for a head rest. Between the front legs is a stool-shaped slide, which when pulled out keeps the legs of the occupant apart. Stout oak-tanned leather straps are there for the arms, the legs and to bind the body tightly to the back. Suspended above the chair are two gas jets.



SHIBUYA JUGIRO.



LEG ELECTRODE.



JAMES SLOCUM.

Underneath the card is a push-button, with which these signals are communicated to the electrician in charge of the dynamo. A feature of this push-button is that it tells whether the signal has rung in the dynamo room.

The current is not turned directly into the chair wires from the switchboard, which is in charge of the electrician supervising the electrocution. They do not act as executioners. They simply read the current as recorded by the ammeter and voltmeter.

Its steadiness is shown by the lamps.

While the condemned man is being tightly strapped to the chair and the electrodes applied, the electrician switches the current into the recording instruments. The current proving satisfactory to them, the main switch is closed and the current passes into the chair. Here it is held in check by another switch.

This is the fatal switch. One wire runs from it through the curved iron pipe bracket over the death-chair, the other wire runs down under the floor to the little trap beneath the chair.

The executioner stands in the closet facing the fatal switch and the Death Chair, awaiting the signal. When all is in readiness for the electrocution there is a rap on the switchboard, the executioner pulls down the lever of the fatal switch and the deadly current is flashed on its errand of carrying a soul to its maker.

The arrangement of this most complete plant for the scientific taking of human life, which is in such strong contrast to the crude and faulty system at Auburn when William Kemler was electrocuted, is the work of Capt. Hilbert, the yardmaster.

The executioner may lock himself in the closet before the witnesses arrive, sit down and wait until the condemned man is brought in, and his identity can thus be kept a secret. While out of sight, the executioner can still hear every command given.

The current is under the control of the electrician, and the executioner has nothing to do but obey the signals of the electrician.

After the electrocuted man is drawn down over the switchboard, the dread chair takes the executioner's place in the closet, the trap door conceals the wire in the floor, the bracket carrying the upper wire folds up and swings back into the closet out of sight, and the room is as ordinary looking as any bar room in the prison.

IN THE DYNAMO-ROOM. The death current is generated in the dynamo-room in the old shoe shop at the northeast corner of the prison yard. The wires are carried from the Death Chamber up to the hospital and along the edge of the cell-house roof. They can be seen from the yard and from the hospital windows.

Before the addition was built to the Death House Jugiro occupied one of the solitary cells on the third floor of the hospital building. When brought back from New York by Detective Jackson after his first sentence, Jugiro took a quick glance around just before entering the door to ascend the hospital stairs, and evidently caught a glimpse of the wires.

As he was passing a window on the third floor on the way to his cell, he pointed up to the wires and said: "Them kills me; them kills me; all right; I die; I no care."

It was a strange intuition.

The dynamo-room is on the first floor of the old shoe shop, in the rear of the main jail, containing the dynamo generating the electric current for lighting the village of Sing Sing, and of the engine room. The engine is one of the original Corliss pattern and is of 140 horse-power.

Great secrecy has been maintained about this dynamo-room, and it has at no time been closely guarded. Few have ever entered it except Capt. Hilbert and his assistant, and THE EVENING WORLD reporter.

The room is 30x24 feet, with no pretensions to finish, although it is scrupulously clean. It is always kept locked, even when Capt. Hilbert and his assistant are at work inside. As an additional security against prying eyes, the windows are guarded by dead shutters on the inside. The principal object of these shutters, however, is to prevent the lighting up of this room being seen from the outside and giving a hint that an electrocution is in progress or being prepared for.

Each condemned man was as completely isolated as though in a separate building. True, they could hear each other's voices, but they were not permitted to converse.

Vigilant guards—two by day and two by night—were always sitting in the room watching them. Awake or sleeping the condemned men could not conceal themselves from view—the bars of their cells were too wide apart to screen a movement.

They were given an opportunity to injure themselves—even their food was served in such a manner that knife and fork were unnecessary.

Every day between 1 and 3 o'clock the condemned men were permitted to leave their cells one at a time and walk about in the big room for half an hour's exercise.

During the exercise of one man the cells of the others were included with high screens which prevented them from seeing the one walking about.

The same method was observed when the condemned man received visitors—the law says a condemned man shall see no one but the prison officers, the members of his family, his counsel and his spiritual advisors, and the law was observed.

The last days of the condemned man were spent in solitude and prayer. The visits of the village priest were frequent and his words of hope for the future and encouragement to meet death bravely had more or less effect.

The walk to death was short. From the furthest cell to the corridor is but a few steps, and when the condemned man passed the oak door he was near the end.

The big iron door swung back with a clang upon a solemn scene. To the left were grouped the witnesses required by law—

ing box, with a long lever on the front of it. This contains the resistance coil, through which the current from the dynamo first passes and is regulated. At the base of the cabinet is a compartment for the storage of extra lamps.

The switchboard completes the equipment of the dynamo room, which is not lacking in any modern appliance for its purpose. The dynamo are always in working order, Capt. Hilbert and his assistant electrician frequently running the machines with this object in view.

So perfect is the machinery that when the powerful engine is started the machines run noiselessly, and when at full speed only the dull whirr of the belts is heard.

The assistant electrician, by the way, is a convict, and, curiously enough, he is in prison for taking human life, as are the condemned men whose lives he is to aid in taking, only he more fortunate, escaped with a verdict of manslaughter.

The illustrations printed in THE EVENING WORLD to-day are absolutely correct and as complete as could be desired, the artist having been enabled to make his sketches with care. With the description and illustrations the reader has as clear an idea of the machinery of death as a personal inspection would give.

THE WALK TO DEATH. A diagram of the Death House and Death Chamber will aid in understanding the legal tragedy of to-day:

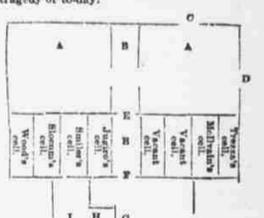


Diagram of the Death House and Death Chamber showing various rooms and corridors labeled A through J.

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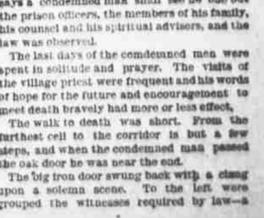


Diagram of the switchboard in the dynamo room showing various components labeled A through H.