

OUT OF BLACKWELL'S JAIL.

SHOT MAKER'S AID AND A BIT OF STILL SET JOHNSTON FREE.

Penitentiary Authorities Discouraged by Escape of a Negro Who Placed His Cell Wall, but They Can't Help Hoping the Fugitive Drowned in the River.

Charles Johnston, a prisoner on Blackwell's island, escaped on Tuesday night by digging through the brick wall and ceiling of his cell in the penitentiary into the ventilation chamber on the roof, whence freedom was easily gained by removing a pane of glass in the skylight and sliding down an improvised rope to the ground.

Johnston is a negro. Whether he succeeded in swimming the East River nobody knew until last evening.

No trace of him had been found on the island and it was supposed that he had reached the river tide. The fact that the penitentiary of the supposedly secure north wing filled the prison authorities with consternation.

The escape of Johnston is a precedent in the history of the penitentiary since Wednesday morning, for the escape was kept a close secret until yesterday in the hope—such is the exigency of the situation—that the prisoner's name would be found in the river, as such a deed would counteract to some extent the moral effect of the escape.

The night and the day keepers of the north wing, Irwin and Wilson, have been suspended. They will appear before Commissioner of Correction Hynes next Thursday to explain how it was that Johnston could dig through the brick wall of his cell without detection.

Johnston was sent to the penitentiary on July 18 to serve one year and 230 additional days for unlawful entry. He had been paroled from Elmira and was wanted at the expiration of his term to serve out his sentence there. He was assigned to cell 9 of Tier 8, which is on the top tier near the south end of the new wing.

The four tiers of cells which rise from floor to ceiling of the prison do not touch the outer walls at any point, but are in effect an inner building separated from the outer wall by a broad, flagged passage. In each aisle running around the four sides are built back to back in a double row down the center of the long wing, each facing outward and separated from the passage by a 14-inch wall.

The steel grill door of each cell is set on its right-hand side, leaving a space of blank wall on the left from the width of a prison cot.

From his station at the end of the wing the keeper can see the lines of doors around the corridor, and as an extra precaution the night keeper makes regular rounds along the platforms of the four tiers, during which he is supposed to look into each cell through the door of each cell.

This inspection should show him each tier stretched out on his cot, but he could not always see the wall as the dark light came through the door of each cell. The doors are all geared to a lever at the end of each platform, to open one is to open all. During the day while the prisoners are at work in the yard, the doors are closed three times by the day keeper.

Johnston was put to work in the shop in July and worked steadily till Saturday. On Monday he was found sick and needed being sick and asked to be sent to the hospital. The prison physician, Dr. Salisbury, examined him and let him out work for the day.

He remained in his cell all that day and on Tuesday, and if he did any work on his tier during that time it was not discovered during the six inspections of the wing. The doctor's visits. On Wednesday morning, when the 228 occupants of the north wing were assembled at 5:45 o'clock, the roll call revealed Johnston's absence.

The men were all locked up again while a search was made. A pile of brick and mortar on his cot and a ragged slip into the ventilation chamber, showed how he had escaped.

In the ceiling outside of cell No. 9 is a row of four barred openings from the corridor into the low ventilation chamber between the cemented floor and the peaked roof. Through these openings the ceiling could be seen, and the unprovided glass of a small skylight, within easy reach of any one, under the roof, and this probably inspired his escape.

DYNAMITED ALABAMA PRISON.

Four Convicts Shot in a Remarkable Attempt to Break Out of Jail.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 4.—Armed with sticks of dynamite, which they hurled at the guards, a number of white convicts made a daring attempt to escape from the Pratt prison early this morning.

The boldness of their plan almost resulted in a general liberation of prisoners, but the guards halted the flight of the fugitives after shooting four of them. Two of the wounded convicts will die. One prisoner escaped. The guards strangely escaped injury.

Preparations for the break for liberty had been going on for a long time, as is shown by the large quantity of explosives which the convicts had accumulated. They had been gradually saving up dynamite from the allowance made to them for use in the mines, and such man who was in the plot was armed with a quantity of it.

Tom Fay, a member of the notorious Miller-Duncan gang of safe blowers and murderers, who were convicted in Birmingham three years ago, led the convicts in their break for liberty, and he is believed to have conceived the plan of saving and using dynamite for one way out of the prison. Fay is serving a term of eighteen years.

One o'clock this morning was the hour chosen for the outbreak. The gang began operations by blowing out one end of the prison building with a charge of dynamite. Through the opening, they formed they made a dash for liberty. The guards, at first taken by surprise, rallied and with rifles and repeating shotguns opened a vigorous fire on the fugitives, braving the pieces of dynamite which the convicts hurled at them.

Their dynamite was not so effective as the rebels had expected it to be, and the bullets from the guards' rifles put a quick end to the outbreak. One convict, James H. Ewing, a twenty-year man, got away. Several others began a search for him at daylight.

Four of the convicts lay wounded on the ground when the smoke cleared away. They were Tom Fay, the leader, who was shot in the leg; John Ewing, serving seven years, shot in the back; Kinney Brewer, serving twenty years, shot in the abdomen; and Thomas Melzin, serving five years, shot in the shoulder. Both John and Kinney Brewer will die.

EUGENE F. KELLY'S BOY DIES.

Attacked With Diphtheria—Admittance to Port Jervis Hospital Refused.

PORT JERVIS, N. Y., Sept. 4.—Mrs. Eugene F. Kelly of 188 Lafayette avenue, Brooklyn, and her six-year-old son Raymond yesterday afternoon alighted at this station from an Erie train. They had come from Barryville, Sullivan county, where, with four other children, they had been spending the summer at a large boarding house.

Two days ago Raymond was taken ill with diphtheria and Mrs. Kelly came to Port Jervis, by the advice of a doctor, to have the boy treated at the hospital with anti-toxin. She carried the child to the hospital, and before entering Dr. Swarthwood diagnosed the disease as malignant diphtheria in its last stage.

The hospital was filled with patients, among them the child of recent Erie wreck at Turners, and, not caring to expose them, admittance to the institution was refused. The doctor, however, treated the patient on the side.

Health Officer Medrick and the Health Board searched for rooms for the stricken one and the distressed mother, but it was not until Monday that comfortable quarters were obtained. The child died at half past 10 o'clock this morning. The grief of the mother was pitiful. Her husband was unaware until he reached here, of the death of his boy.

This evening Mr. Kelly and his wife, with their dead child in a hermetically sealed casket, left for their home. He telegraphed to Barryville for his four remaining children to be sent to his father's home at Barryville, where they are being cared for by the authorities at Barryville and advised them to quarantine the boarding house where the disease broke out.

23 YEARS FOR BURGLAR BROOKS.

The Gentleman Crook Will Get Nearly Nine Years Off for Good Conduct.

HARRY BROOKS, the "gentleman burglar," was sent to State prison yesterday by Recorder George F. Wray for burglary in the second degree for twenty-three years. He will get eight years and eleven months off for good behavior. He went to State's prison along with Charles Jackson, the murderer.

When Brooks was arraigned for sentence a number of Central Office detectives opened on the lawers' tables packages of valuable furs and gowns. Recorder Goff called for claimants and Isaac N. Cohen of 629 Sixth avenue picked out a gray velvet dress and some other things. He said that he had bought the dress from a man whom he thought was a burglar. Recorder Goff learned that the dress was stolen from Mrs. William Reed of 43 West Fifty-first street. She is in the country. The Recorder ordered that the exhibits be turned over to the property clerk.

Lawyer Paul Waldheimer, in behalf of Brooks, said that his client was willing to accept a sentence of five years and six months. Brooks had a talk with Capt. Langdon of the Detective Bureau and, according to the lawyer, told all he knew. "I will accept a sentence of five years and six months," he said, "and will direct the clerk to quash the indictments for assault and grand larceny. On the charge of burglary in the second degree I will sentence you to State prison for nine years on each indictment. On the one for burglary in the third degree I will sentence you to five years imprisonment."

HOLL WEELY QUARANTINE.

If the Peaky Tink Tries to Butt In Louisiana He'll Blow His Brains Out.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 4.—The Louisiana cotton growers are taking energetic steps to prevent the Mexican boll weevil from getting into this State. At a conference of the Louisiana Cotton Planters' Association it was decided not to allow any cotton seed from the affected district of Texas to be admitted without Louisiana, Louisiana oil mill plants, the growers to buy no Texas seed or to receive any.

STILL MORE EDSON FORGERIES.

\$30,000 OF THE CHURCH CLERK'S BAD PAPER NOW IN SIGHT.

That's a Loss for the Banks—But He Sold Cemetery Lots and Took Church Collections—No Accounts Left, and the Stealings May Reach \$100,000.

Until the work of Haskins & Sells, the expert accountants engaged on the books of St. Michael's Church, is done no accurate estimate can be made of the extent of the embezzlements of Henry Townsend Edson, who killed himself and the wife of his friend John F. Pullen on Wednesday morning. It was told in THE SUN yesterday that at least one note for \$25,000 had been discounted for the account of the church by Edson and that the signatures of Gilbert D. Case and William R. Peters had been forged on this note.

Yesterday the existence of another note for \$20,000 was discovered and still another for \$5,000. How many more there are no one connected with the church dares say. It seemed to be taken for granted by the counsel for St. Michael's that the losses caused by these forgeries must fall upon the banks which discounted the notes.

Nevertheless the church will lose no small sum by Edson's dishonesty. For instance, he was the superintendent of St. Michael's Cemetery. The sales of lots and of single graves were all made through him. The payments were made by check and in cash. There is no way of telling except by a careful examination of the books of the cemetery company how much of the receipts of the corporation Edson appropriated. These checks ought to have been made payable to W. R. Peters, treasurer, or to the St. Michael's corporation. But Edson had no right to cash them. But there is abundant evidence that he did.

It was a source of wonder yesterday, among many who did not understand the operation of the cemetery company, how Edson, who had been able to steal, undetected, any considerable part of the Sunday collections of the church, had been able to get the cash and the certificates and Mr. Peters or one of the wardens always counted the gross amount of the collections and kept a memorandum of it when the cash was turned over to Mr. Edson.

But from what could be learned yesterday it was the custom of the church official, whoever he was, to carry the Sunday collections to the office of the corporation in a cloth bag, to drop in on top of the cash the memorandum of its amount and then to turn the memorandum and cash over to Edson together.

John Alexander Beal, the junior warden of the church, said yesterday that he had made some investigation of the trouble in which Edson was involved in Rochester before coming here.

Edson was the agent in Rochester of the house of Franklin Edson. In September, 1891, he got the contract of the Bank of Rochester to discount for him a note for \$3,500. This note purported to be made by his wife, and was to run for six months. It was in fact a check for \$5,000 purporting to be made by Franklin Edson & Co. Edson took the \$1,500 difference in cash. Franklin Edson & Co. repudiated the note, and the bank crashed in H. T. Edson's business. It was understood then that it cost ex-Mayor Franklin Edson \$90,000 to free his son of the criminal charge of forgery resulting from this transaction and to square the business generally.

A member of the congregation said yesterday that the thing so long that he had Edson had been spending at least \$7,000 a year, although his salary was but \$2,000. There had been little gossip about his extravagance until his recent purchase of an automobile. An investigation of the automobile purchase since Wednesday's tragedy, however, disclosed the fact that the machine cost \$10,000, because it was bought at second hand.

One of those who were present at the Corn Exchange Bank when Edson was confronted with the accounts of his business yesterday the note for \$25,000 which Edson indicated that he had been stealing ever since he got his place as clerk of the bank. Mr. Wray has brought an action in the Supreme court, Kings county, against Alfred R. Tong, of 109 Monroe street, Brooklyn, to recover \$12,123 and interest which, it is alleged, Tong fraudulently obtained from the company by collusion with George F. Osborne, a former chief clerk in the loss department of the company. Tong's \$10,000 bail was approved by Supreme Court Justice Sewell yesterday. He denies the charges. Osborne lived in Willow street, Brooklyn. He has been in the employ of the company from August, 1887, to July 7 last, when he absconded after confessing to Manager Wray that he was the man who had been the company by getting payments for drafts that never occurred. The fraud was discovered by the manager on June 27. Osborne was to have been arrested and taken to Portsmouth, N. H., where he committed suicide in the Hotel Rockingham.

Manager Wray says in an affidavit that Osborne confessed to him that he had forged blanks and filled them in with the names of people insured by the company, whose signatures and affidavits as to fires were forged. On these forged certificates Osborne obtained the signature of the manager to drafts which, it is alleged were deposited by Tong, and the money was divided later. On some occasions Tong is alleged to have retained a per cent of the money thus collected.

After the fraud was discovered Wray found that in none of the premises on which this money had been collected had there been a fire. He had the Fire Department records searched and he also obtained affidavits to that effect from the owners of the properties. The court record shows that the first of the drafts was made out on Dec. 30, 1888.

Marshall N. Tucker, a builder of East Fourth street and Jerome avenue, Sheephead Bay, is also must by the Commercial Union on grounds similar to those alleged against Tong and he was admitted to the bar by Judge Charles M. Butler, plaintiff's attorneys are Butler, Notman, Joliffe & Myrdere of 64 Wall street.

THE NEGRO.

Voyagers by the White Star liner Arabia, of yesterday for Liverpool and Queenstown, were:

The Hon. Charles Russell, Justice Wilford of Brooklyn; the Hon. W. V. Van Dusen, Robert J. Howard, the Hon. Mrs. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Murray Harris, the Hon. Robert Gordon, Major Gordon, Daniel the Rev. S. Chadwick, H. L. Beers and J. M. Colquhoun.

Among passengers by the White Star liner Germania from Liverpool and Queenstown: Robert Lorraine, who will appear with Miss Lorraine in "Fanny Pagan" at the Madison Square Theatre; Mrs. Lorraine, who comes under contract with Charles Frohman; the Rev. H. A. Allen, vicar of St. Paul's Church, New York; and Mrs. E. E. A. Du Verney.

TO COAL MEN: UNION "ORDERS"

M. McGrath, Pres., Issues His Commands for Labor Day.

Dealers Must Get Their Men Out Early Because There's a Parade Scheduled—What's Business, Anyway?—But the Teamsters' Sam Parks Hits a Snag.

President McGrath of the Teamsters' Union sent out "orders" yesterday to the coal dealers of New York that they must do business very early or not at all on Labor Day, because the drivers are to parade.

The notice to employers was not in the nature of a request, but an order which was to be obeyed in telling the employer what to do. That sent to one coal dealer read as follows:

TEAMSTERS' LOCAL NO. 553, NEW YORK CITY, Sept. 2, 1903. Dear sir: It is to certify that all drivers are to parade on Labor Day as is a legal holiday and if you have any coal to send out you are ordered to send your men out early that morning so as they may take part in the parade.

If the Teamsters' Union attempts to enforce this order next Monday there is certain to be a split between employer and employee at once. Since receiving this command coal dealers are making preparations to make deliveries to their customers on Monday as usual, even if drivers not in the Teamsters' Union are used. One large dealer, who employs several drivers said last night:

"We are not going to start into the winter with any such situation as this notice indicates. We would be perfectly willing to give our drivers the time to show themselves in the parade, although it would cause us some inconvenience. But we are not going to take orders from that or any other source. We will run our business as usual. We have no disagreement with our men on wages or hours. They are all, I believe, members of this union. Not long ago the union tried to run the business of one coal dealer here. He fought the union, and he won."

"Acquiescence now to such peremptory orders might bring us a lot of trouble later on. We want it settled before the winter begins, whether we run our business or simply execute the 'orders' of Mr. McGrath. Therefore we shall send our wagons out as usual on Labor Day, and if our regular drivers will not work for us we'll have others there who will."

"We have talked with some of our drivers who are members of the union and told them plainly that there isn't going to be any Sam Parks running the coal business. This is a good time to fight, and we are ready for it. Some of our drivers have told us that they notice the justice of our attitude toward Mr. McGrath and his 'orders,' and if they must choose between us and the union they'll keep their jobs."

"If they don't, we have twenty-five men now ready to take their places, and we can get more. There's a principle at stake. If we submit now we may have to pay Mr. McGrath's board at the Waldorf this winter. Before the cold season comes on and we are met by our large contracts we'll settle the question of McGrath and his 'orders.'"

Many of the coal dealers are in the same frame of mind. Other firms that use teamsters haven't had any "orders," because their men wouldn't be worked any way on Labor Day, but some coal dealers have contracts for daily deliveries which must be attended to.

It was reported last night that one of McGrath's "orders" had been sent to the firm which employs him.

MAN WHO THREATENS PARRY. Evidence That He Travels, Maybe for a Labor Organization.

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 4.—President David Parry of the National Manufacturers' Association, the man who has received so many threatening letters recently and is being escorted by his own body guard, sent a batch of letters to-day to the United States District Attorney with a request that their authorship be investigated. Several of the letters are in the same handwriting, and, though they were mailed at different places in the country, it is quite plain, Mr. Parry thinks, that they were written by the same person.

With the letters was a communication from Mr. Parry calling attention to the similarity in writing and phraseology and giving his views regarding the writer. He calls attention to the fact that if the letters were written or inspired by any one person, that person's identity might be established by the initials appearing in the places at the particular times at which the letters were written. The writer makes periodical visits to these places and is usually accompanied by a woman. The letters are always written upon a part of a sheet of paper, possibly because the sheet contains a letterhead which must be torn off.

While Mr. Parry does not mention any names it is believed that he has some one in mind and the person under suspicion is traveling in the interest of a labor organization.

DEMUERER FOR CARVEL.

No Crime, the Plea of the Indicted Walking Delegate's Lawyer.

Counsel for Richard Carvel, the third of the walking delegates, appeared before Recorder George F. Wray yesterday and demurred to the indictment on the ground that the facts alleged do not constitute a crime.

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The Crossett \$3.50 Shoe \$4.00. The style and workmanship of the CROSSETT SHOE make a direct appeal to the man of discriminating judgment. The test of actual wear confirms this good opinion.

B. Altman & Co. WILL CONTINUE TO CLOSE THEIR STORE AT 12 NOON ON SATURDAYS, AND AT 5 P. M. ON OTHER BUSINESS DAYS DURING SEPTEMBER.

PARKS MAN ASSAULTED HIM. BROOKLYN WORKMAN STRUCK DOWN ON CROWDED CORNER. Was on His Way to Work, With Several Who Don't Stand for Parks, and "Entertainment Committee" Got Busy—One Prisoner Held for Examination.

Men's Furnishings. \$4.00 Vests, \$1.19. Plain and fancy colored and double breasted. \$1.80 Pajamas, 85c. Odds and Ends American Silk Shirts and Drawers reduced to 69c. each.

It Prevents Disease. Glenn's Sulphur Soap is a disinfecting, cleansing soap that has stood the test of years in purifying and healing qualities. Used daily in toilet and bath, it prevents disease. Insist on having Glenn's of druggists.

THE ONLY RYE Whiskey distilled at the OLD CROW RYE Distillery is bottled exclusively by us. "Best in the World."

GOLD DUST DON'T BREAK YOUR BACK. GOLD DUST GOLD DUST GOLD DUST. GOLD DUST MAKES HARD WATER SOFT.