

EMPLOYMENT OF CONVICTS

MAIN FEATURE OF THE PRISON COMMISSIONERS' FORTH-COMING REPORT.

Some Means Should Be Provided Whereby Penal Labor Will Not Interfere With the Welfare of the Public—Favor Convict Highway Labor and Commence Its Enforcement—Other Recommendations.

ALBANY, Dec. 27.—The State Commission of Prisons has agreed upon its first annual report to the Legislature. It will be a very long document as it outlines and recommends a system for the employment of the convicts consistent with the provisions of the revised constitution which provides that the convicts shall be kept employed but that after January 1, 1897, their labor or the product of it shall not be farmed or contracted out, or sold or given to any person or corporation, except that their labor may be for the State or its political divisions or the product of it may be disposed of to the public institutions of the State or its political divisions. Through some inadvertence no appropriation was made to pay the expenses of maintaining the convicts. The report shows that the commissioners have proceeded just the same in view of the exigencies of the case and have visited and inspected prisons, reformatories, penitentiaries and jails and have called for and obtained the statistics required. They have called before them all prison, penitentiary and reformatory officials, representatives of manufacturing and labor interests and those specially informed as to prison matter, and have listened to their views and interrogated them.

The report reviews the operations under the present law under which labor has been contracted out on the piece price plan or by manufacturing to some extent on State account for sale in the open market. It appears that during the past two years of business and industrial depression, the convicts have been idle much of the time and the avails of labor were light, so that the deficiency amounted to about as much as the entire expense of maintaining the convicts. This shows that the unfair competition caused by contracting out the labor so cheaply has disturbed the market, injured some industries and driven others out, entirely injuring both the manufacturers and laborers, while the State has been the loser as the amount received barely covered the expense of keeping buildings and machinery in repair. That manufacturing on State account for sale in the open market worked even more disastrously for the reason that the cry against prison made goods forced the State to sell below the prices that other manufacturers could afford, and thus had the same effect in disturbing the market, while the large expense of commissions and expenses of sales agents made it even more expensive to the State. The commission, therefore, arrives at the conclusion that it is time to try another plan—to try the one provided for by the constitution.

The commission has called for estimates from all public institutions of the supplies purchased by them, annually of such articles as can be manufactured in the prison and finds that it is practicable to have such estimates each year, and upon them base a distribution of the labor of filling the orders among the several penal institutions. The labor of the convicts in the Blackwell's Island penitentiary is devoted to the use of the public institutions of New York city and cannot half supply them. The convicts cut stone, make fire escapes and furniture and building supplies of various kinds and in this way New York city gets the full value of the labor of its convicts with all the profit on it instead of contracting it out and thus paying the State for the product of the labor for the use of the city institutions. Stone cutting can be done in the prisons in wood industries also—iron working, furniture, clothing, shoes and many other industries carried on, all of which would furnish useful traces to the convicts. Any article of furniture can now be duplicated in prison shops.

Heretofore there has been no connection link between the prisons. The State prisons are under the management of independent managers and the penitentiaries are county affairs. The penitentiaries have been in a strife to get long term prisoners, and have been permitted to take convicts from Federal courts out of the State and now have about 500 out of the State to be supplied with labor and compete with labor. The penitentiaries are under the management of work houses in counties where large cities had sprung up making jails inefficient as in New York, Brooklyn, Albany, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo. But they have procured laws permitting courts to sentence felons for five and even 10 years to penitentiaries, thus mixing them with the more miscellaneous and breaking down all efforts at classification under the present law. The State has to pay penitentiaries to keep felons though it has prisons of its own where it can keep them cheaper and utilize their labor, which is now given to the penitentiaries.

Some of the cities where these penitentiaries are located complain that it makes them a dumping ground for criminals all over the United States and State, as they are discharged at the penitentiary door when their terms are ended, many of them stay in preference to going to their former haunts. The commission having power of inspection and recommendation over prisons, jails and penitentiaries can bring all into one system. They can receive estimates and distribute the labor. It is just as easy to send orders to State factories as to other and will be far more economical to the taxpayers for they will have the full value of the convict labor and the profit. It brings no more labor in competition with free labor than now but so regulates it that it will reduce taxation and not merely be a source of profit to contractors and salesmen, leaving the State to purchase at full price to supply its needs. There are about 100,000 people in the various public institutions of the State, in hundreds of buildings, all requiring supplies of clothing, furniture and improvements to buildings, etc., every year. The manufacturing and labor interests are wanting to force the profits they get from the sale of their products to public institutions rather than have the market disturbed by the unfair competition of contracted out labor.

prison and by making that prison a place of confinement for those afflicted with pulmonary disease they can be benefited by profitable outdoor work and the other prisons relieved of contagion. The commission recommends new buildings and electric lights in cells, all of which can be provided by convict labor.

The commission recommends a more thorough enforcement of the contract law, as was outlined in the Fessett law, but which was rendered difficult by the system of contracting out and by the holding of felons and misdemeanors in the penitentiaries, whose life men were put 10 day men.

The commission recommends a general revision of the prison law to bring it in accord with the constitution as to the employment of convicts; forbidding any institutions taking convicts without the State's forbidding the penitentiaries taking felons and misdemeanors with intent to contract out, and also calls attention to the fact that convicts have been worked on mass in this and other States with marked success—no chains being required and no more guards required than for the same men in the prisons, those convicts who are on the last year of their terms usually being selected for highway labor. It recommends a further trial, and that the courts be given power to utilize their short term convicts in highway labor and be permitted to raise the necessary money for such purposes.

The report is exhaustive, covering about 20 pages besides several pages of statistical tables and calls attention to the duty the State owes to itself and its citizens that the convicts should be treated as when they return to the world from their seclusion they shall not be worse than before, but rather made better. An extension of the reformatory system and education of convicts is also recommended.

THE COUNTY.

WESTPORT, Dec. 27.—Among the visitors of friends in town are Messrs. Cartwright and Steele of Tully, Paine of Buffalo and Wright, railroad conductor. James Lamphere, game protector, has not resigned.

The Masons held a banquet at their rooms Wednesday night. The Episcopalians observed Christmas by a Christmas tree Wednesday night.

At the last regular meeting of the Morris chapter, Royal arch masons, the following officers were elected and installed: High priest, A. D. Stewart; king, W. H. Rockwell; scribe, James Wright; treasurer, Fred N. Burritt; secretary, N. G. Taylor; captain of the host, M. Cortright; principal sojourner, J. R. Ruelbottom; Royal arch captain, J. Dwight Burritt; chaplain, Rev. Alanson Tilden; organist, W. O. Adams; third veil, William Blake; second veil, John W. Barnes; first veil, Joseph Barquise. After election the members sat down to a banquet.

The following students are spending the holidays at home: Julius Keypad, Fred Hendon, Henry and Neal Brewster, Ezra Nash, Hattie Titus and Marion Lockwood.

Parties are at work clearing away the debris of Monday's fire as fast as possible. No further knowledge as to the insurance has been reported.

The C. B. L. held a dancing party at the hall last evening.

Miller-Davis.

MERIDIAN, Dec. 27.—Rev. Harry R. Miller and Adelaide K. Davis were quietly married Tuesday morning in the presence of a few intimate friends. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Rodgers of Jordan. The bride was very prettily attired in apple green broad cloth and carried Christmas roses. The best man was Henry P. Burke of Jordan and Mrs. Henry P. Burke, nee Taylor, a bride of four days was the bride's maid. The young couple were the recipients of many beautiful presents among which were a handsome clock, a berry spoon, two silver spoons, two dessert spoons, butter knife, fruit dish, two water sets, rug, books, table linen, etc. The happy pair left amid showers of rice and old shoes for a short tour to New York and Jersey City, and will be at home after Jan. 3d to their many friends.

SPRINGPORT.

UNION SPRINGS, Dec. 28.—Dr. O. W. Smith was in town a few days this week.

Thomas Burch of Syracuse is spending the holidays in town.

Mrs. MacFarland and daughter are visiting friends in Grotton.

Miss Ruth Hodges is spending her holiday vacation in Brooklyn.

Rev. and Mrs. Devitt of Weedsport, were in town Christmas day.

L. A. Wales has obtained employment with the Osborne Co. in Auburn.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Rounds of Syracuse were the guests of his mother, Mr. C. O. Webb, Christmas.

Prof. Cook of Oakwood seminary, left this morning to attend a two days' session of school principals in Syracuse.

F. C. Brown, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Lull, son and daughter, William Park Stevens, Isaac, the Misses Jennie, Hattie and Maggie Gould, Syracuse, were in town to attend the Spencer-Gould wedding Christmas eve.

Mrs. Isaac Carpenter is spending the holidays in Brooklyn.

George Treat and will live in his house in this village. Mrs. Fred Norton has recovered from her attack of nervous prostration. Miss Caroline Weller has gone to Ithaca for a week's stay.

There was a Christmas tree at the Baptist church Christmas night. Henry Lewis left last night for Jackson, Mich., to spend New Year's with his brother.

NEW HOPK, Dec. 28.—D. K. Austin, general merchant at Kelloggville, has made an assignment to William Hawley. Considerable uneasiness is manifested by several creditors.

Benjamin Warner and Miss Martha Andrews were married Thursday afternoon at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Andrews, by Rev. J. K. Rogers.

Many of the children and young people of this neighborhood are spending a few days at home, because of measles.

Paul Morris of Cortland, is visiting friends in town.

Miss Adelaide Slade of Hamilton, is spending the holiday vacation at her home in Kelloggville.

WESTPORT, Dec. 28.—The ruins of the Warner malt house are still smouldering and occasionally flames may be seen in spite of the immense amount of water thrown onto the pile, and the almost continuous rainfall since the fire. C. M. Warner was in town Thursday, accompanied by an insurance agent. Arrangements were made for C. C. Adams & Sons to sell what damaged barley and malt can be recovered.

The Torpening family lost nearly everything they possessed in the turning of the Legg house. A subscription paper for their benefit has been liberally signed.

AURKLEIS.

CAYUGA, Dec. 28.—Elmer J. Schofield of Penn Yan and Jennie M. Nichols of Nile Center, N. Y., were married at the M. E. parsonage Thursday night.

Mr. Marshall and Miss Leila Wolfe of Waterloo made a visit at the parsonage on Thursday.

Miss Susie Wiley is slowly improving. The funeral of Mrs. Ferrell was largely attended Thursday. The Rev. E. F. Willard officiated.

MENTZ.

PORT BYRON, Dec. 26.—At the annual election of officers of Finley M. King chapter No. 7 of the Eastern Star Fraternity evening the following were elected for the ensuing year: Worthy patron, J. W. Barrus; worthy matron, Mrs. Frank Allen; associate matron, Mrs. G. W. Dickinson; conductress, Mrs. A. D. Stewart; secretary, Mrs. E. F. Stiles; warden, Mrs. C. C. Runney; Ada, Mrs. David Stewart; Ruth, Mrs. J. E. Rooney; Esther, Mrs. J. L. Davis; Martha, Mrs. J. B. Eick; Electa, Mrs. Marian Strang; sentinel, O. B. Tanner.

At the annual election of officers of the Port Byron lodge No. 130, F. and A. M., the following were elected for the ensuing year: Master, J. W. Barrus; senior warden, E. F. Stiles; junior warden, Mariah M. Strang; treasurer, William Blake; secretary, John A. Topf; senior deacon, Fred Tanager; junior deacon, Lewis Knapp; chorister, E. E. Dabow; junior M. E. Charles Woodford; altar, Hull Tanager; chaplain, Rev. C. H. Beebe; marshal, George W. Dickinson; trustee, O. B. Tanner.

Miss Mattie Kill of La Porte, Ind., is the guest of her cousin, Miss Florence Tappan.

Will Guilfoilee of Syracuse was the guest of E. C. Hunter and family over Sunday.

G. Skinner and family have moved to the Rosenberg farm South of the village.

While painting the outside of Mrs. Lucy Ballard's house in Rochester street last Friday and standing on a ladder Clarence Ware fell to the ground, a distance of about 20 feet, striking upon his head and shoulders, injuring himself quite severely.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay McDonald of Plainville were the guests of the latter's mother, Mrs. Tillison, last week.

Richard Warren has purchased the Serincur property near the Presbyterian church, consideration, \$400.

Miss Nannie Lockwood is home from Cortland Normal school spending her holiday vacation with her parents.

The marriage of Miss Pearl Jetty of this place and George Feud of Auburn has been postponed, owing to the serious illness of the latter.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Homel of Chicago are the guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ebert Homel.

CATO.

CATO, Dec. 26.—Cato lodge, No. 141, F. and A. M., will hold a public installation of officers of the lodge on Wednesday evening, January 3d. As many of the public will be invited as their hall will accommodate. A banquet will be served at the close of the installation of officers. Toasts will be given and James Lawson will be the orator.

The two local churches had a union Christmas service Tuesday night at the Presbyterian church. There was vocal music, recitations, speeches and a Christmas tree.

The annual meeting of the Disciple church will be held on Monday evening, January 6th. Refreshments will be served after the business hour.

Drummer, Evangelist, Geneva will give a lecture at the Presbyterian church tomorrow evening. Subject, "Chips and Chunks."

The marriage of Miss Florence Goodrich and George Heenan took place at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Goodrich, Tuesday night.

formerly of Moravia, visited Moravia relatives and friends last Sunday. CATO.

MERIDIAN, Dec. 26.—Miss Effie Taylor and Henry Burke of Jordan were married at the home of the bride last Thursday evening.

Will Galick is home from Hoboken for the holidays. School closed Friday for a two weeks' vacation.

FLEMING.

FLEMING, Dec. 26.—Avery Morgan, who has been sick for nearly a year, seems to be gradually failing.

Homer L. Post and Clayton G. Mabey, of Colgate, Lillian Virgory, who is attending school in Boston, Myrtle Johnson of Geneva Normal, Georgia Smith and Emma Beach of Cortland Normal, and Miss Ida Thorpe, who is teaching in Fulton, are home for the holidays.

Newman Smith, after some months of sickness, is able to get out again.

N. S. Brown will give an illustrated tour around the world at the Baptist church this evening.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Bridgen have just returned from a visit to their son and family in Maryland.

Last Friday afternoon Miss Eta Thorpe, who teaches the full school, after announcing the holiday vacation, gave each of her scholars a Christmas present.

Miss Celia Barringer entertained the scholars of her school at her home Monday evening. Games, refreshments and a Christmas tree laden with presents for each pupil were among the pleasant features of the evening.

A Baby's Life saved.

ADDITION, N. Y., April 8, 1891.—Hand Medicine Co.—"I feel it my duty to write you in regard to my little daughter's sickness from teething and indigestion. She is seven months old. Two of the best physicians gave her up. One bottle of Dr. Hand's Teething Lotion relieved her so much that we tried Dr. Hand's Colic Cure also, and at once saw a chance for the better. These remedies saved my baby's life. Mrs. Wellington Brown, Dr. Hand's Colic Cure and Dr. Hand's Teething Lotion sold by all druggists, 25c.

FITZGERALD ARRESTED AGAIN.

The Priest's Bondsmen Afraid That He Might Abscond.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Father John Fitzgerald, accused of complicity in the Charlotte arson cases, was arrested this afternoon on complaint of his bondsmen who feared that he might try to abscond. He made no resistance.

He said that Nora Cronin, whom he assaulted at the Central station while she was accompanying her convicted brother to Auburn yesterday, was drugged by the sheriff to make her implicate the priest in the case.

He also said as he was arrested: "Damn the newspapers! They have convicted me and ruined me."

Fitzgerald says his arrest is an outrage.

Attorney Van Voorhis has told District Attorney Forsythe that he will appeal the Cronin case.

FITZGERALD RELEASED.

But He Must Have a New Bondsmen Monday—Some Details.

ROCHESTER, Dec. 28.—As stated in the dispatches yesterday, Rev. John M. Fitzgerald, formerly pastor of the Holy Cross Catholic church, of Charlotte, and now under indictment for arson, first degree, was surrendered by his bondsmen. His bail was \$10,000, the sureties, four in number, qualifying in double that amount. All of the sureties, save Mrs. Harriet H. Craig, who qualified in \$10,000, withdrew and this caused the re-arrest of the priest.

He was found at his home in Charlotte by Sheriff Hannan and, several deputies and objected strongly to the arrest of men brought in to take him. He was taken to the jail, where he was obliged to remain for most of the time until midnight, when another bondsmen was found to qualify in \$10,000 with Mrs. Craig. The new bondsmen is John Drew and the bond signed is only a temporary one which released the priest from custody until Monday noon. If he does not secure another bondsmen by that time he will have to go to jail.

Father Fitzgerald denies that he said that Nora Cronin was drugged at the jail in order to make her confess and is particularly severe in his denunciation of the newspapers.

He also denies that he used force in taking Nora Cronin from the Central train when her brother was being taken to Auburn prison and this denial is substantiated by Nora herself who says: "Father Fitzgerald never touched me. He came into the safe and told me I needn't go, and I got up and Mr. Lawther took hold of my cloak and tore it off me." She also says that efforts were made to induce her to make a confession implicating someone else and thus save her brother from prison.

Judge Cawthra says that Fitzgerald did drag Nora Cronin from the train and his statement is supported by the statements of other passengers.

Are Your Hands Chapped?

If so go to any drug store and ask for a free sample of Liquid Franconia, a new preparation for chapped hands. Large bottles, 25c.

Coughing Leads to Consumption.

Kemp's Balsam will stop the cough at once. Go to your druggist to day and get a sample bottle free. Large bottles 50 cents and \$1. Go at once. Delays are dangerous.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Topic For the Week Beginning Dec. 28. Chosen by Rev. S. H. Boyce.

TORIC.—How next year may be made better than this has been.—Phil. ad. 7:4.

The close of a year is a good time for looking both backward and forward. It is practically universally considered so, for at the close of each year the majority of people take a glance at the year just gone and a look into the year to come, with the intention if possible to make the new an improvement upon the old. Such a time is very appropriate for such a retrospective, and though in some cases great good may yet be accomplished by it, yet it is not to be despised, for in many instances much lasting benefit is the result.

There is always room for improvement. Each new year could easily be an improvement upon the past if we went about it in the right way. No Christian can reach a point where he cannot improve. Paul was never satisfied with his attainments, but anxiously desired to improve, and if we follow, his example we may make the new year better than the past year.

In his endeavors to improve, Paul placed a high ideal of attainment before him. He aimed to be found in Christ, not having his own righteousness, but Christ's, and that he might know Christ, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings. He placed "the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" as the mark before him. His ideal was to be nearer to Christ and more like Christ. This should be the aim of every Christian, and there is room for advancement toward it.

Paul, in endeavoring to improve, realized his lack of perfection. "Not as if I had attained," he says, "but I follow after it; for I know that I am not yet perfect. Let us press forward that we may come nearer to Christ and be more like Him."

Recent Religious Statistics.

Religious statistics just announced show an interesting comparison of the relative strength of the different denominations in this country. About one-third of the whole population are communicants of some church. Of these nearly one-third are Catholics, about two-fifths either Baptists or Methodists, about one-eighth Presbyterians or Lutherans and about 1 in 40 Episcopalians. The Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians are strongest in the country districts, the Catholics and Episcopalians in the cities.—Philadelphia Press.

The Consecration Meeting.

The freshest and most sacred of all a society's services should be the monthly consecration meeting. It is an ominous sign when this gets into any sort of a rut, for at the consecration meeting the personal relation between each member and the Master is revealed.—Golden Rule.

Read His Book.

An author does not care for your compliments if you have not read his book. And yet some people imagine that if they will say nice things about the Bible the Lord will excuse them from reading it.—Bible Reader.

Like Godliness.

Some things look like godliness, but upon examination have only its form. They are without its life and power. "Be ye filled with the Spirit."—Philadelphia Methodist.

Eudeavor Pickings.

Is yours a wheelbarrow committee, waiting to be pushed?

The Christian Endeavor bird? The humming bird. It makes things hum!

If you have in your society a good information committee, you are not our society, but two.

If you do your Christian Endeavor work to be seen of men, the eye of heaven will be closed upon it.

The Floating society is getting a foothold in Great Britain, one having been formed in Liverpool, and the movement is extending among the seaports of Wales.

Dr. Heron's church of Melbourne has been compelled, on account of its size, to divide its Christian Endeavor society. This is the first case of the kind in the land continent.

My Island Home.

I cannot tell how far my boat May sail on life's rough seas Before it shall so gently float In the soft island breeze. Before its keel grates on the sand Where beckons many an angel hand. I know not through what storms and calms My sheltered bark may sail Before I reach the factory palms Where never ocean gale Breaks on the shore with sob and moan. Of the beloved island breeze. Speed on, speed on, oh, ship at sea, Over the crestled waves And bring that peaceful life to me Where whiny sea wind blows. The fevered earth with its soft kiss, Filling the bow with warm and bliss.—New York Voice.

NEW YEAR'S CARD.

Before invoicing we will close out a great many goods at prices that will be satisfactory to the trade. We will also add to our grocery line, keeping the best line of Flour in the city. Remember, if you want Crockery, Glass, Tin or Wooden ware call and look us over. Our large presents with Tea, Coffee and Baking Powder will be a special feature, and as all our customers know there are no superior goods on the market than those we control in the Tea and Coffee line. Stowell & Hayden, 139 Genesee-st., Auburn, N. Y., between Statest. and Post Office.

LYON, ELLIOTT & BLOOM

Have still on hand a few Holiday Goods which they will close out cheap. Your special attention is call to our extraordinary bargains in

Fur Capes!

Of recent purchase which enables us to sell them at much less value. Also our new openings in

DRESS GOODS!

LYON, ELLIOTT & BLOOM.

Auburn Cloth House,

Nos. 8 & 10 EXCHANGE ST.

Call special attention to CLOAKINGS for Ladies and Children, CLOTHS for Ladies' and Men's wear, Short Lengths for Children's wear, and ROSE BLANKETS at less than agent's prices, made by the Rose Valley Woolen Co. of this city.

Grand Clearance Sale To make room for Fall Stock! WECMAN PIANO COMPANY

Have inaugurated a series of Special Sales, and offer a number of Second Hand Instruments, some of them nearly new, at the extremely low prices quoted below: 1 Sixty Six Piano in good condition, \$125 1 Sterling Organ, almost new, \$25 1 Large Sixty Six Piano, price \$300, our price, \$225 1 Large Sixty Six Piano, price \$300, our price, \$225 1 Large Sixty Six Piano, price \$300, our price, \$225 1 Square Piano in Good Condition, \$35 1 Good Melodion, \$30 1 Large Six Octave Ithaca Organ, high top, \$10 In addition we offer several special sales of our own make at very low prices to close them out. Sale to commence Saturday, Jan. 8, 1895. Come early and secure bargains.