

RECORD FOR HANGINGS.

A GALLOWS WHICH HAS SENT 93 MURDERERS TO DEATH.

Seven Victims Dropped at Once From Its Trap—Built to Hold Ten Men—Judge Parker, the County Terror of Indian Territory Out-laws and Criminals, Has Given 109 Men and One Woman the Death Penalty.

The town of Fort Smith, Ark., holds the record for hangings. It may properly be called Gallows City. No other town of 12,000 people has been the scene of so many authorized executions.

In a prominent place in the town, alone and gruesome, stands the gallows on which ninety-three men have been hanged. Between it and the United States jail, about one hundred yards away, is a well-worn path, made by the condemned and their keepers on execution days. For twenty years the gallows has stood at this spot.

The gallows itself is unique. It is about twenty feet square and is covered with a shed roof. The trap is twenty feet long, and will accommodate ten men at one time. That number has never dropped through it together, however, although ten were once sentenced to be executed on the same day. Three of the condemned men secured commutations, so that only seven dropped simultaneously to death.

This broke all records of this gallows, and has probably never been equalled anywhere else. It is possible that it may be broken before long, as there are now thirty-five men and one woman in the United States jail at Fort Smith, all under sentence of death.

Surrounding the gallows is a stockade about twenty-five feet high. This effectually shuts off the executions from the public. This really seems unnecessary, as the Fort Smith people care little about such things. There is no crowd around the jail yard when an execution occurs, and few apply for admission inside the inclosure. This is doubtless because the legal killing of a man has no longer the fascination of novelty.

SENTENCED TWO HUNDRED.

Judge Parker for twenty years has been a terror to the desperadoes, cut-throats and criminals of the West. During his long term on the bench he has sentenced about two hundred men and one woman to death. Here is his record tabulated to date:

Hanged	93
Died before execution	3
Shot while trying to escape	1
Awaiting execution	36
Committed to life imprisonment	67

Total

Judge Isaac C. Parker is an able lawyer and an upright Judge. He has the confidence and the respect of all the citizens, who know how much he has done towards ridding the Indian Territory of the bad men who have infested it for years. During the past ten years he has presided at 7,000 trials. His court has the remarkable record of having made convictions in 90 per cent. of the cases tried at some terms. The percentage of convictions has rarely been below 80. The average State court having jurisdiction over similar cases does not make convictions in more than 10 to 20 per cent. of the cases before it.

THE JUDGE IS A GENTLEMAN.

Personally Judge Parker is extremely popular. He lives in an elegant home, takes a prominent part in social affairs and is greatly interested in the public schools. He is a polished gentleman, and his appearance and manners do not indicate that he ever gives a thought to judicial affairs outside the courtroom.

"I am often introduced to a man," he said to a correspondent, "who remarks, 'You are the Judge who hangs so many men.' I reply that I have never hanged a man or witnessed a hanging; that the law has hanged various criminals for murder, and that the law would hang me if I were guilty of such a crime and could be convicted before a jury. I have nothing to do with the hangings—the law looks after that—and it is the same law that would protect the men who have been hanged if they had obeyed that law.

"As a matter of fact, the sentences imposed in my court are lighter than are imposed for similar crimes in any State court in the West. To be sure, I have sentenced many men to be hanged. So many, in fact, that I have forgotten the exact number. Under the United States law there is but one penalty for murder, and that is death. There is only one degree of murder, and if a man is convicted he must be sentenced to be hanged.

"But I have made it an invariable rule to recommend Executive clemency when there is anything in the circumstances of the murder which would make the crime murder in the second degree under a State law.

"I know that there has been some fault found with the administration of my court. This has usually come from lawyers, and they have a strong objection to having their clients punished. As a matter of fact, an innocent man has nothing to fear in my court. The trouble is that, owing to the careful way in which cases are examined before going to trial, the defendants are nearly all guilty, and their convictions follow as a matter of course."

Judge Parker's decisions have been reversed in many instances. There are now two men in jail in Fort Smith, each of whom is awaiting the action of the higher court on their appeals, and each of whom has been tried three times and sentenced to death. Former appeals secured new trials for them, and they may be successful again, but Judge Parker declares that they will be hanged ultimately.

THE HANGMAN AN EXPERT.

George Maledon, a small German with a nervous manner and a brisk way of talking, officiated as hangman for a long time. He hanged eighty-eight men on the lonely gallows that has become famous and he proudly boasts that he never made a bungling job and that the neck of every man was broken by the fall.

"I had a rule I went by," he said, "and a mistake was impossible. The length of the drop depended on the

weight of the condemned man. Heavy men do not require the fall that light ones do. I always estimated the weight of my man before I arranged the noose and so death was always quick and painless."

Maledon was paid \$50 for each man he hanged. He was attached to the jail as a guard. Three years ago he was replaced, chiefly because he was too proud of his distinction and talked too much about it.

The man who took his place made a frightful bungle of his first execution. The victim was a slight young fellow, weighing less than 100 pounds, and the drop was not long enough to break his neck. In some way the knot slipped around under his chin so that the windpipe was left partially open. The unfortunate wretch hanged for over an hour before death relieved him.

Learning a lesson by this, the hangman dropped his next man eight feet. This time the victim was a heavy man and the long drop not only broke the neck, but jerked the head almost off the shoulders, the blood drenching the corpse and the physicians who were witnesses of the execution.

DEPUTIES TAKE BIG RISKS.

This is the most expensive court in the world. For years an annual appropriation of about \$250,000 has been required to maintain it. Nearly one-half of this goes for witnesses, many of whom have to come long distances and are paid five cents a mile both ways, besides one dollar a day for attendance.

The maintenance of the jail costs about \$1,000 a week, and about the same amount is paid to the marshal and his deputies, about sixty-five of whom are constantly employed in serving warrants, securing evidence and other necessary business.

These men are paid fees and mileage and average about \$75 a month. For this sum they run great risks, more than fifty of them having been killed during the past three years. During this time it is estimated that about one-third as many desperadoes have been killed while resisting arrest, so it would seem that three deputy marshals are required to die in order that one desperado shall be killed.

Occasionally a deputy arrests some man for whom the express or railroad companies have offered a large reward, and thus gets a large sum in a lump. The deputies are justly entitled to these windfalls, as no life insurance company would take a risk on a deputy marshal who is on duty in the Indian Territory.

Many of the citizens of Fort Smith insist that the court, and especially the gallows, is a black eye to the town. They say that Eastern people never hear of Fort Smith except in connection with a hanging, and that this keeps away a desirable class of immigrants. On the other hand, the court officials point to the fact that nearly all of the quarter million dollars paid to maintain this court is spent in Fort Smith and is no small factor in supporting the population.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND.

About Fourteen Hundred Young Men Attend One Yorkshire School.

In England technical schools have been established in many of the great manufacturing towns. Some of these are supported directly from the town treasury, and others are maintained by subscriptions and regular payments from wealthy merchants.

The object of these schools is to train the eyes and hands of workmen, and to impart a higher value to their labor in local industries.

A visitor at one of these schools in the woolen district of Yorkshire, asked the superintendent whether working girls ever applied for admission to the classes.

"No," was the reply. "The classes are open to them—at least those in weaving, designing, and art work, but the girls never seem to have any ambition in their work. They learn the mechanical work of spinning and weaving at the mills, but it never seems to enter their heads that there are higher kinds of trained labor, for which they may easily fit themselves if they choose to do so. Season after season passes without an application from a woman for attendance upon the art classes, day or night."

There were about fourteen hundred young men in the various departments of that technical school, and they were destined by virtue of their technical training to obtain higher wages, and to fill responsible positions in the factories of the district.

Many experts in the manufacturing town were emphatic in declaring that the recent improvement in trade was largely due to the superiority of the trained labor, which enabled the factories to compete successfully with German and French industries.

But in this honorable strife for the control of the world's markets, the men alone seemed to be concerned. Young women lacked both the energy and the ambition required for raising the standard of their work. Another remark of the superintendent was significant. "The rich manufacturers send their sons to the school to learn all the mechanical and artistic processes. The sons of operatives also attend the classes. Prizes are offered for the best work in designing and other departments. The rich men's sons never win them. The poor operatives always carry off the honors."

"How do you account for it?" "The explanation is very easy. The rich men's sons know that they will have a share in the business, and it does not seem to them necessary for them to study and work in order to get on in life. The poor boys have a motive strong enough to keep them at work. They know that their success in life depends solely upon themselves."

No Furlough for Him.

In the French army special furlough is often granted at harvest time to soldiers who happen to be the sons of small farmers. This has suggested to a soldier of the garrison of La Chatre an excuse for applying for a holiday. He wrote to his commanding officer, saying that he was badly wanted at home to help his father to reap the macaroni. The commanding officer had to point out to him, firstly, that this is not the harvest season, secondly, that macaroni does not grow in fields.

About the House.

My Neighbor's Emergency Shelf.

My neighbor is never dismayed at the sight of unexpected company, writes B. H. Brown. She told me her secret a short time ago, and like most secrets, it is too good to keep, so I am going to tell it to you.

She has what she calls "an emergency shelf." "But," said she, by way of preface, "your table should always be neat and attractive. Your husband and children will enjoy even a plain dinner much more if the cloth is clean and neatly laid and the dishes are not cracked and broken. Let your table be always arranged so you will not be ashamed if the unexpected guest should drop in at any time."

She opened her pantry and showed me her emergency shelf. It contained principally canned goods. I read the labels: Tomato soup, tongue, corned beef, salmon, corn, tomatoes, plum pudding, etc., etc. On other shelves stood rows of canned fruit, ketchups, preserves, pickles, etc. "Now, I would not set a dinner of canned goods before my guests," said she, "but with a little help from these shelves any plain dinner may take on a more elaborate appearance and another course be added to what has already been prepared. Sometimes it is a soup, sometimes a pudding, an extra vegetable or a salad."

I must tell you about her salad dressing, it is so good and will keep for weeks in the hottest weather. One almost always has a few cold potatoes on hand, and by adding some hard-boiled eggs or a little finely-chopped cabbage and this dressing, an appetizing salad is made on very short notice. The following is her recipe: Yolks of 8 eggs or 4 whole ones, 1 cup sugar, 1 teaspoonful each of salt, mustard and pepper, and 1-2 cup cream, mixed thoroughly together. Boil 1 cup of butter in 1 1-2 pints of vinegar. Pour this upon the mixture and stir well. When cold, put in bottles.

Good Old-Fashioned Sweets.

Clear Candy—A simple sugar candy that is always liked is made thus: Three cups of granulated sugar, 1-2 cupful each of vinegar and water. Mix these and boil in a porcelain kettle for half an hour, without stirring. Try dropping a little in cold water. If done it will harden in water; then add a bit of soda as large as a pea. Pour on a buttered tin. If in place of the vinegar lemon juice is used, a nice lemon candy is the result. This also makes an excellent hoarhound candy by omitting the vinegar and water, using in their place a cupful of hoarhound tea made by steeping the dry herb in boiling water.

Two rather old-fashioned dainties are molasses candy and butter scotch. In making the first, New Orleans molasses should be used, and for the latter "A" coffee sugar.

Molasses Candy.—Dissolve 1-2 lb brown sugar in 8 tablespoonfuls of vinegar and stir it into 1 quart of molasses. Put in a little kettle and boil until it will harden in cold water. Just before taking from the fire add a tablespoonful of butter and a teaspoonful of soda. Pour the candy in buttered pans and when partly cold mark into squares. If desired this can be pulled until white.

Butter Scotch.—To 3 lbs of "A" coffee sugar add enough water to dissolve it. When hot stir in a good quarter of a pound of butter and 1-2 teaspoonful of cream tartar. Boil until when dropped from the spoon into cold water, it will break easily. Then pour into buttered pans, about 1-4 inch thick. When partly cold mark off into squares.

Pop-Corn Candy.—Boil New Orleans molasses until it will harden in cold water, then pour it over freshly popped corn. As soon as it is cool enough to handle roll it into balls with the hands, having first buttered them to prevent sticking.

Some Good Recipes.

Soft Ginger Bread.—One cupful butter, one cupful molasses, one cupful sugar, one cupful sour milk, one teaspoonful soda in boiling water, one teaspoonful cinnamon, one tablespoonful ginger, two eggs. Mix thoroughly; add flour to make a soft dough. Bake in a slow oven.

Ginger Snaps.—One cupful of brown sugar, one cupful of New Orleans molasses, one cupful of shortening, one egg, one tablespoonful of vinegar, one pinch of cayenne pepper, one pinch of salt, one teaspoonful of soda, four tablespoonfuls of ginger. Mix very stiff roll thin, and bake in a moderate oven.

An Inexpensive Soup.—Take the cast-off leaves and hard ends of a bunch of celery and let them boil until perfectly shredded. Then strain the water with some thickened milk, and let it all come to the boiling point, but not boil. Season with butter, pepper and salt. It is a very good addition to this soup to break an egg into the tureen and pour the soup upon it.

Bread Sticks.—Bread sticks may be served with bouillon or afternoon tea. In preparing them any bread dough may be used, though that with shortening is preferred. After it is kneaded enough to be elastic, cut it into pieces half the size of an egg, roll it on the board into a stick the size of a pencil and a foot long. Lay the strips on a floured baking tin. Let them rise a very little and bake in a moderate oven so they will dry without browning.

Cheese Croquets.—It has been stated that cheese contains ninety-six per cent. of solid nourishment. When it is properly cooked it is very appetizing and digestible. A delicious cheese croquet is made in the following manner: One cupful of bread crumbs and one cupful of cheese, one-quarter teaspoonful of salt and a dash of cayenne pepper. Mix together and add two eggs. Form into balls, dip in egg and bread crumbs, and fry in smoking-hot fat.

A Lovely Dessert.—Pare and slice six bananas and two large oranges; the juicier the latter are the better. These want to be mixed well together; sprinkle with powdered sugar and place in a refrigerator or cool place until half an

hour before using. Whip your cream to a stiff froth and, as it comes up, take it from the top of the cream and place in a fine sieve to drain. To prepare to place on the table put your fruit in a glass bowl which has also been chilled, cover it with the whipped cream and sprinkle this lightly with powdered sugar.

Onion Soup.—Slice two or three large onions; fry them in a tablespoonful of butter or drippings until they are soft and red; then add three tablespoonfuls of flour and stir until it is a little cooked. To this add slowly a pint of boiling water, stirring all the time, so it will be smooth. Boil and mash three good-sized potatoes. Add to them slowly a quart of scalded milk, stirring well so it will be smooth. Add the potato and milk mixture to the onion mixture. Season with salt and pepper. Let it get very hot, and pass it through a strainer into the tureen. Sprinkle over the top a little parsley chopped very fine and a few croutons. The soup will be better if stock is used instead of water to dilute the onion mixture.

BETTER THAN A MOUSE TRAP.

A Statuette of a Cat That Scares the Rodent Into Starvation.

The wonders of science never cease. The latest contribution is an automatic double-action, scientific mouse frightener.

It is nothing more or less than the statuette of a cat, painted and whiskeyed with realistic effect, with big, phosphorescent eyes that gleam brilliantly in the dark.

"The cat," so runs the inventor's description, "is painted to present an attractive appearance. It is shown in a sitting posture, with its head turned toward one side, and its eyes staring straight ahead."

These eyes are quickly coated with phosphorescent paint, which shines like a flame in a dark room. All you have to do is to place the cat on the floor near a mouse-hole, and then wait for results. The scheme has been a tremendous success. The only drawback to it is that it does not eat the mice.

These statuettes will be made of clay, of plaster of Paris, of terra cotta and for the very rich, of pure Carrara marble.

A merchant whose store-rooms were infested with rats introduced one of these phosphorescent cats into his place the other day. The effect was truly amazing.

"There is one big hole in the corner of our salesroom," he said "out of which all the rats seem to come. We placed the cat immediately in front of this opening and immediately the nuisance ceased. Throughout the night the cat's eyes gleamed like fire.

"The other day, when I went to the store, what do you think I found? A strong odor from that particular corner of the room led to an investigation by our porter. He reported that he had found a dead rat in the hole. The animal had died of starvation."

"What a terrible death that must have been! The animal had probably poked his head out of the hole and had found the eyes of the cat gleaming balefully upon him. Two or three such experiences no doubt discouraged him, and while he lay in hiding waiting for the cat to go away he must have starved to death. I am going to buy three more of these cats."

Aside from being good to frighten rats, these cats make an amusing mantel ornament. It is rather startling, though, to enter a dark room and find yourself confronted with two balls of fire that seem to gleam out of the wall.

A SCHOOL FOR MONKEYS.

Clouta's Novel Institution Where Ounces Speechless Relatives Are Taught to Spell With Blocks.

There has just been founded at Calcutta an institution for the education of monkeys, says the Paris Journal des Debats. Probably the prime movers of the affair never heard of Prof. Garner, the celebrated American simiologist, who has again gone to Africa to make an exhaustive study of the language of monkeys, or else they have deemed it easier to teach the monkeys than to learn from them in simian tongue. At any rate, one of the methods employed in this strange educational institution is the following:

A young monkey is taken and before him is placed a set of blocks on which are painted in capitals the letters of the alphabet. These blocks are, in fact, exactly similar to those which children play with in every civilized country in the world, and they are used in precisely the same way as if the monkey were a young specimen of the human race. There is one professor for each monkey, and the monkey is taught by means of the blocks to spell certain words. If the word is "fruit," for example, the monkey, after having been taught to arrange the blocks so as to spell the word quickly and without error, received a bit of fruit as his reward. The same exercise is repeated with other words, and it is hoped that in time the simians will learn how to read and spell and understand English if they cannot speak it.

Only young animals are taken, for they learn more quickly than old ones. There is no danger of this queer school lacking scholars, for there are thousands of monkeys to be found in that part of India where Calcutta is situated. An effort will also be made, it is said, to educate these beasts so that they may become fairly efficient domestic servants. The school is so young as yet, however, that what it will accomplish is entirely a matter of speculation. Its "professors" are enthusiastic about their novel work, and seem to think that a new field of usefulness will soon be opened up for these chattering little beasts.

Bacon—"So your friend is engaged to that girl, after all." Egbert—"Yes." "How did he malt her?" "He didn't; he simply froze to her."

THE BEAR WAS A LUNATIC.

BRUIN WAS INSANE, AND PUT IN A STRAIGHTJACKET.

A Most Remarkable Case—The Interesting Query Arises as to Whether Animals May Not Be Mentally Unbalanced—Curious Superstition About the Insanity of Animals.

The imprisonment of a black bear in a private Western asylum to be treated for temporary insanity must have appeared to many to be an incredible news item when it was published. But there appears to be no doubt of the main facts.

The bear was of the order *Ursus vulgus* known as black. He had some special talents; whether laid on by a persevering showman or innate in his bear cerebrum we do not know. But he was valuable as a performer, and any vagaries of his bear reason was a loss to his owner. When, therefore, either under stress of exhibitory work or irregularity of diet, he began to exhibit signs of shall we say mental or instinctive disturbance, such as sucking his paws out of season and eating the beer bottles after drinking the lager, his master consulted a local alienist, and under advice his bearship was transferred to a respectable asylum to be treated according to the most advanced practice in melancholia and frenzy.

This was in exact accord with the tendency of both modern mercy and modern science, neither of which believes in sacrificing the humblest beast so long as he can furnish any information to man.

Well, the bear, having been taken in charge by an enthusiastic savant, was carefully watched and tended, and as he gave himself for the first three days up to an almost uninterrupted siesta, it was hoped that he would sleep off his mental or nervous trouble. But on the fourth day he woke up.

READY FOR BUSINESS, and exhibited such well defined symptoms of advanced hysteria that it was thought best to get him into a padded cell, where his complaint could be the more conveniently diagnosed through the bars.

The whole procedure appears to have occasioned an acrimonious division of opinion in the neighboring country. The more ignorant agricultural population resented the attempt of science to associate animals with human beings even in alleviation, and it is certain that the patients in the asylums protested vigorously, if not always coherently, for the dementia of the bear made itself manifest in his incarceration by the most hideous roarings, growlings, gnawings of his bars and squealings indescribable, and the two occupants of the adjoining cells must have had vocal proof enough of their most dreadful insane imaginings.

All attempts to reduce him to subjection by morphine and other anaesthetics having failed, the ingenuity of the keepers was called into play by an endeavor to put an extemporized strait-jacket on him in the shape of a leather harness; but this proved abortive, and it was ultimately found that the only approximate way of treating him at all was through his food.

It does not appear that any definite conclusions have been arrived at with respect to the susceptibility of bears to mental disturbance or the efficacy of subjecting them to human treatment. What were regarded as the maniacal paroxysms came on at irregular intervals and subsided only with exhaustion. But they were characterized rather by the

SYMPTOMS OF RABIES

than of insanity and were accompanied by frothings and epileptic disturbance of the voluntary muscular system.

The performances of an irresponsible animal whose strength when fully exerted threatened to destroy the enclosure in which he was confined appears to have had enough interest to draw a great number of visitors to the place, but anything like a determinative prognosis of the animal's disease has not been forthcoming.

It is worth stating here that a curious and inexplicable superstition or notion appears to have come down to us that animals do become insane.

Youatt and several other dog experts lean to the opinion that rabies induces a species of insanity in animals. Most of the herders in the West attribute a stampede of cattle to a maniacal impulse, and it is a prevalent belief in the Orient that the donkey can see spirits and is often driven to desperation by them. Some of the early Sarcenic writers prescribed for insane camels, and as late as the fifteenth century amulets were sold to drive evil spirits out of white horses. There is no doubt that our modern association of the white horse and the red-headed girl comes to us from Morocco, where the Gauls were the first veterinarians, and made a specialty of treating white horses.

With regard to the bear, we have only to look at Goldsmith's "Animated Nature" to find it seriously laid down that the bear goes to sleep in the winter when he is fattest, and lives by sucking his paws in a somnambulist way.

From a scientific point of view it is just possible that the admission of the bear to the list of public performers has superinduced a tendency to paresis, so well marked in other performers; but that is a matter which can be left to a larger induction than the Western asylum has yet furnished.

Overreached Themselves.

In 1894 Eli and John F. White, fruit growers of Livingston county, N.Y., had an offer of \$50,000 for the peach crop on their 335 acres. The offer was refused. They held out for \$75,000. The market changed so that they had to sell their crop for less than half the offer. Recently the farm itself was sold under foreclosure to the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York for \$13,555. The price offered for one year's crop would have paid for the farm and left the White brothers a handsome little fortune besides.