

ILLINOIS ADOPTS THE ELECTRIC CHAIR

FOR EXTREME PENALTY

Law Passed by Last Legislature; Three Centers Selected for Use; Is not Retroactive; Change Code

Adoption of the electric chair in the infliction of the death sentence in Illinois is authorized under the provisions of Senate Bill No. 281, passed by the legislature and approved by Governor Small. The law becomes effective at once, but its provisions will not affect those under sentence in which the court has specified hanging.

Senator Charles H. Thompson of Harrisburg is author of the bill, which was offered in the senate on April 14.

Three Centers Selected
The measure provides for three centers in the state at which electrocutions shall take place, the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet, the Southern Illinois Penitentiary at Chester and the Cook county jail.

Those convicted in that section of the state north of a line drawn from Quincy on the west to Danville on the east will pay the death penalty at the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet, with the exception of those convicted in Cook county. In the latter county electrocutions will be held in the county in which the crime was committed. Counties south of a line drawn from Quincy to Danville will send those under sentence of death to Chester.

Wardens in Charge
Under the provisions of the law when a prisoner is condemned to death the sheriff of the county in which the conviction is had will convey him to the proper penitentiary and deliver him, together with the warrant to the warden. The warden of the penitentiary shall supervise infliction of the death penalty, but may under a written order approved by the governor, designate a suitable and competent person to act as executioner.

The sheriff or deputy sheriff of the county in which conviction is secured shall be in attendance at the electrocution. Upon his request to the warden invitations may also be extended to two physicians, the judges, prosecuting attorney, clerk of the court and twelve reputable citizens from his county to be in attendance.

Substitution of the electric chair for hanging changes the method of inflicting the death penalty in Illinois since the beginning of the commonwealth.

Changes in Criminal Code
Governor Small also signed the bill approving important changes in the criminal code. This measure changes the punishment for robbery while armed from 10 years to life to one year to life; punishment for burglary from one to twenty years to one year to life, and for manslaughter from one year to life to one to fourteen years. The law covering robbery while armed, fixing a penalty of 10 years to life, became effective July 1, 1919. Since its adoption the majority of state's attorneys have found it worked to a disadvantage, rather than an advantage, in that it was impossible to secure a conviction except in extreme cases, juries holling the minimum punishment imposed was frequently too severe. As a result it has been necessary in unnumbered cases for state's attorneys to accept pleas of guilty to lesser offenses. In some counties the charge was reduced to larceny, with punishment of from one to ten years.

Prisoners under sentence of ten years to life for robbery while armed are not affected by the change in the law, but will be required to serve the minimum of the sentence imposed before eligible to consideration for parole.

MANY PRODUCING OIL WELLS IN ILLINOIS

There are now more than 15,000 producing oil wells in Illinois, most of them being in the southeastern fields, according to the State Geological Survey. The total annual production is about eight million barrels and is valued at fourteen million dollars.

NEW LAW PROVIDES AUTO THEFT PENALTY

One to 20 Years May Be Given In Penitentiary In Discretion of Judge

The steady increase in the number of automobile thefts in the state of Illinois has resulted in passage of a law providing more stringent punishment. Under the Wood's law, which has received the approval of Governor Small, a penalty of one to twenty years in the penitentiary is provided.

In addition to the penalty fixed for the theft of motor vehicles the same punishment is provided in the case of offences receiving or concealing machines known to be stolen.

A former law passed by the general assembly which carried a penalty of two to fifteen years for the theft of an automobile was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court, leaving the only possible punishment under a charge of larceny, carrying a sentence of one to ten years. Under the new law this maximum is doubled.

Considerable support was thrown behind the measure from all sections of the state. The argument was presented that in a large majority of robbery cases this crime was preceded by the theft of an automobile.

NEW DIRECTORY OF MINERAL OPERATORS

A new directory of mineral operators in Illinois has been issued by the State Geological Survey together with a large map showing the locations of all mines, pits, quarries, oil fields, refineries, smelters and other plants.

The directory gives the names and addresses of operators and their plants, mines, etc., with key numbers referring to the map, thus making available the most recent and accurate information concerning the industries which depend upon mineral resources.

The map and directory may be obtained for fifty cents in stamps by addressing Dr. M. M. Leighton, Chief, State Geological Survey, Urbana.

INTERESTING MAPS OF NATIONAL PARKS

BY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Grand Canyon, General Grant and Sequoia Are Those Included in New Publication; Details

Two notable topographic maps of western National parks have just been published by the Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior; one is a map of an area including the Sequoia and General Grant National park, California, and the other a map of the east half of the Grand Canyon National park, Arizona.

The maps are printed in three colors—black showing the works of man, blue showing the rivers and other water features, and brown showing the contour lines of altitude that are the distinguishing features of a topographic map. Both maps appear almost like relief models of the areas they portray.

Map of Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon map includes the part of the Grand Canyon extending from its head southward and westward to Crystal Rapids and bounded on the north by the Kaibab Plateau, on the east by the Painted Desert, and on the south by the Coconino Plateau. The great contrasts in topography between the canyon slopes and the surrounding plateaus and those between the walls of the main canyon and of the Granite Gorge are clearly shown. The sculptural details of the canyon walls, as well as the buttes and the temples that stand out from the main slopes, are faithfully represented on the map, and the fact that the surface of the Coconino Plateau descends southward away from the canyon rim is well shown along the southern margin of the map. The numerous rapids along the Colorado river are indicated by symbols, and the loca-

tion of the trails, camps, and springs, are shown. The Grand Canyon measures 41 by 65 inches and is sold by the Geological Survey at 25 cents a copy.

The map of the Sequoia and General Grant National parks embraces an area in eastern California, situated mainly in the Sierra Nevada, and includes these two parks, the Sequoia National Game Reserve, and considerable portions of the Sequoia, Sierra, and Inyo National Forests. The northeast corner of the area lies in the Inyo mountains, and the east side is crossed by Owens Valley, whose floor is shown to lie some 3,700 feet above sea level. West of Owens Valley the great eastern wall of the Sierra rises abruptly 5,000 to 7,000 feet and is topped by many summits that stand 12,000 to 14,000

feet above the sea. Among them is Mount Whitney, 14,501 feet, the highest point in the United States. The western slopes of the Sierra, which occupy the greater part of the area shown on the map, are seen to be deeply trenched by the rugged canyons of Kings, Kaweah, and Kern rivers—the Kings river canyon one of the deepest in the world. This part of the area abounds in gorges, domes, alpine meadows, glacial cirques, and cirque lakes, there being several hundred small lakes among the higher summits and divides. The

area also contains a dozen groves of the "Big Trees." This map measures 32 by 29 inches and is sold by the Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., at 25 cents a copy.

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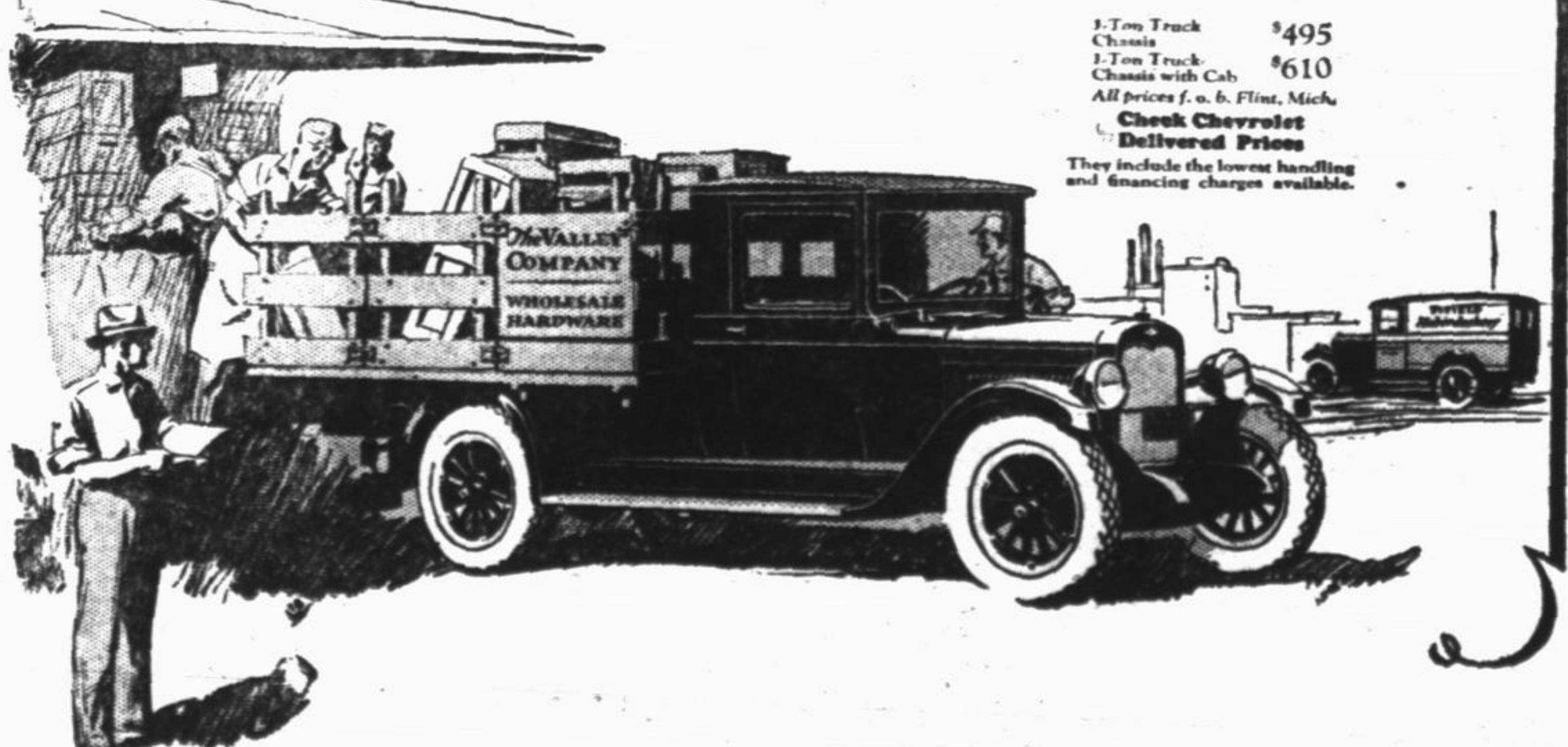
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