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CRIME ON THE INCREASE

It is apparent to the most casual observer that crime of various kinds is on the increase in North Carolina, and expecially is this so of homicide.

Men of more or less high standing In society and prominent in other respects, have with remarkable frequeney flagrantly put at nought the injunction "thou shall not kill," and without sufficient provocation taken the lives of their fellow man.

While conditions and change of temperament due to those conditions may in a manner be responsible for the increase in this crime, we must look to some more tangible reason for an exguse for it. And in the search one thing that has undoubtedly played an important part is the comparative impunity with which men commit this crime. Prior to the meeting of the legislature of 1893, culpable homicide in North Carolina was divided into two classes-murder in the first degree and manslaughter. The legislature saw fit in that year to sub-divide this, ereating what has been known since as murder in the second degree. Without questioning the wisdom or intentions of that body of lawmakers, it is notoriously evident that the act has failed in its declared purpose of lessening this particular crime. Under the old law it was only necessary for the State to prove the killing and the malice and premeditation was presumed, making it incumbent on the defendant to show that it was not so to make a lesser crime. With the existing law the State is compelled to prove these factors in murder or the criminal goes unwhipped of justice. While this is extremely humane, and of course we should not depart from the advanced laws of humanity to our detriment, it is manifestly unjust to lawabiding citizens, as it has proven itself in number of cases in our State to be the loophole by which men have escaped punishment, for it is very hard to prove premeditation to the satisfaction of the average jury.

Men, under the slightest provocation have taken advantage of conditions and this loop-hole of escape to avenge their personal grievances, secure in the thought that the worst possible harm that could come to them for their act would be confinement in the State prison with a probability of an early release.

the rapid increase in the number of contest for the trophy. The race may seems that a return to the old law will later than Sept. 15. have a good effect.

How often has North Carolina of late years been forced by a vivid reminder of the miscarriage of justice to the realization of the insufficiency of the present law. As a citation take the Wilcox case. Wilcox was guilty of murder or he was an innocent man. But due to a doubt in the minds of jury and aided by this law a guilty murderer goes unhung or an innocent man suffers the punishment of a criminal.

Another great factor no doubt, in the frequent miscarriages of justice in North Carolina in the crime of murder is the manner of selecting juries in capital cases, which, with all due consideration for the protection of a defendant, is entirely unfair to the State: and the State is the people, who are to be considered equally with the defendant. This rule gives the defendant the unfair advantage of odds of four to one.

The people of this State are crying for protection of life against those who regard it cheaply and the law should be so remedied by this legislature as to make it at least possible anyhow, to convict men who are so notoriously guilty as some have been in this State in recent years.

Let the legislature change the rules of evidence, abolish the law creating murder in the second degree or make the selection of a jury fairer to the people.

CHURCHMEN.

Because he could not persuade his parishioners to give up raising tebacco the Rev. Frank P. Bachelor, pastor of the South Congregational church of Hockanum, Conn., has resigned his

Rev. E. W. Bishop, minister of South Church, Concord, Mass., is conducting a daily Bible class of 139, who have enrolled and promised to read daily. The present course on the history of larnel will cover eight months.

Rev. George Cocking of Waterioo.

Ind., has written a book entitled "From
the Mines to the Puipit; or, Success
Hammered Out of the Rock." He is an
Englishman and labored for fourteen
pears in the tin mines of Cornwall.

Or. Edward Everett Haie says if he ware a millionaire he would buy a large tract of land near Hoston, divide it into four acre lots, build a small house on each lot and present them to the poor at a nominal reutal and at the end of ten years give them the houses.

The SPORTING WORLD THE WHISKERLESS FARMER Convict's Daring

Royal Golfers.

The claim of golf to be described as a "royal and ancient game" is well maintained by the support given to it by the Item.] present reigning house, says a London newspaper. Recently at Gopsall, where the king and queen were the guests of Earl Howe, himself a good golfer and frequently appearing in parliamentary tournaments, their majesties visited the golf course on Lord Howe's estate. Willie Park, Jr., had been engaged to give a display of driving before the royal party, and no easier or more graceful swing can be seen among the professionals than that of the former Musselburgh professional. Afterward the prime minister and Mrs. Sassoon played a foursome against Lord Herbert Vane Tempest and Lord Howe, the last named couple winning.

Monroe and Sharkey.

Jack Monroe, the doughty Montana miner-boxer who now makes more money every week in vaudeville than he earned in the mines in six months,



JACK MONROE. THE MINER-BOXER should make a good showing when be

meets Sailor Tom Sharkey next sum

Sharkey is confident, as usual, of defeating his opponent, but the miner is sure that Tom will go down and out in short order. The bout is scheduled to take place either June 13 or July 4 in Butte, and both men will train industriously.

Big Driving Prise.

The Gentlemen's Driving club of Cleveland has decided to offer a gold tropley valued at \$5,000 for the best horses that can be raced for it. Any club that wins three times becomes its owner. To be eligible a horse must have started in at least two matinees and not have started in a public race Something should be done to stop for at least thirty days prior to the ers in North Carolina and it take place as early as Aug. 15 and not

> The contest will be open to amateur reinsmen, and an amateur is described in the deed of gift as one who never accepted wages or hire as a trainer or driver.

Paris-Madrid Auto Race.

Entries for the Paris-Madrid race. which starts on May 24, closed recently with the automobile clubs of France and Spain, though entries may be made up to May 15 at double fees. The fees are: Motor cycles weighing up to 110 pounds, \$10; small vehicles, weighing from 550 to 800 pounds, \$40; light vehicles, weighing from 881 to 1,430 pounds, \$60; heavy vehicles, weighing from 1,431 to 2,200 pounds, which is the maximum limit under the international rules, \$80. The order of start will be decided by vote.

Terre Haute and the "Big Circle."

President Hams of the Terre Haute Trotting association says the association dropped out of the grand circuit meetings because Terre Haute is on the wrong place in the map and has had enough bad experience getting a tail end of the meetings and the bad weather after the middle of September. The Terre Haute association will not enter any circuit and will fix its dates independently of the circuit dates, but with regard to the best results for Terre Haute.

Better "Get a Move On," Murphy. Eddie Murphy is one of the most popular of St. Louis pitchers, but if he does not report in good shape he probably will be released, even though he the people on the other side of us. has been a member of the National Detroit Free Press, league team for two seasons. Last season Murphy was only an expense to the club. Apparently in good health, he complained of a sore arm or a tired feeling. He was carried along all season and pitched but few games.

Martin Home Again.

Jockey "Skeets" Martin has returned to Frisco after a profitable year in England. Martin first came into prominence while riding at the old Bay Dis-trict track, not far from the Golden Gate. He will remain at his home three or four weeks and will, in all probability, accept a few mounts.

Schreiber Buys Mand Ferguson.
Barney Schreiber has bought of Garnet Ferguson the Prince Royal mare
Mand Ferguson. She will be bred to

Rode For "Lucky" Baldwin. Emanuel Morris, who is now riding umpers, was a good boy on the flut on years ago. He rode for E. J. Bald-

[The Ontario (N. Y.) farmers' grange has passed resolutions to the effect that hereafter all members will "eschew the wearing of whiskers and beards."-New

And are the festive lilacs doomed? Will goatees go no more? Are sideburns sidetracked for all time And galways gone before? Farewell, farewell, bewhiskered face!

That you're passe, though poultry' The farmer's face goes bare!

What will the comic artists do When drawing pictures of The victim and the green goods man-Those portraits that we love? How can we tell, without a tag,

The guileless farmer's mug, Without the fringe we've grown

That human hirsute rug?

The century is on the move; Our ideals, shattered, fall, But of the changes we bewall This is the worst of all, And yet some men will benefit In dollars-likewise cents-For razors will be catalogued

Among farm implements!

The winds of winter moan alone Unchecked by whiskers red, And Uncle Josh gives up his beard For stuffing for a bed. While on the page with plows and hoes, With rakes and drills, he sees

> Send For Our Razor No. 9 Mow Yourself With Ease

-Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Just In Time.



Poet-Oh, the beautiful sn-

-Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Taken Orders.

When Miss Lucy wanted particularly fine chickens, she always drove over to see old Aunt Etta, who had a scrap of a farm and made a specialty of raising chickens for the quality folks.

One day, as the lady stopped in front of the cabin, Aunt Etta came out and hung over the gate.

"Chickens!" she exclaimed in answer I ain't got one chicken left! They're all done entered the ministry!"-Lip- second and third floors. He was twenty

Close Quarters Preferred.

Helen-I wish I had some kind of enchantment to cast over him to keep him fond of me.

Ned-Why don't you borrow some? "Oh, dear! I'm afraid no one has any

to lend." "Why, yes. Distance lends enchant-

ment. Have you tried there?" "No, and I'm not going to. I'd rather take my chances at close quarters."-Kansas City Journal.

Unnecessary Trouble.

Lieutenant (who has been inspecting the estate of a noble landowner)-And this beautiful estate will all be inherited by your noble daughter? "Well, hardly. You see, I have no

daughter." "Indeed! Then what on earth did you

want to tire me out for by this inspec tion?"-Fliegende Blatter.

Wretch.

"George, did you ever love any other woman as well as you love me? "Oh, yes, dear; several of them." "Indeed! Why didn't you marry one of them instead of me?"

"Well. I suppose I'll be asking my-self that question, too, some day."— Chicago Tribune.

Involved Fuel Relations. Nora-The lady next door wants to borry a bucket o' coal, ma'am. Mrs. Blank-Nora, tell her that we are already borrowing our coal from



Escape From Priscu

Edward Cruse, aged twenty-five, a negro, made one of the most miracu lous and fearless escapes from the penitentiary at Columbus, O., recently that are known to the present officers of that institution. He had been in prison only two weeks, although he had served five previous terms, besides putting in seventeen months at the state reformatory. Cruse was sent in from Franklin county to serve ten years for burglary and larceny. He was always considered a man of nerve and daugerous, and his daring escape only adds to the questionable luster of his prowess.

Cruse was a prisoner in the east cell block, the oldest part of the prison. During the time that a score of prison-ers were enjoying corridor freedom he picked the lock of his cell. When night fell he mounted the stairs to the top of the cell block and after a dangerous trip across rafters, beams and insecure boards he reached a skylight.

In order to gain this point he was obliged to squeeze through an aperture that an ordinary man could not enter. But Cruse's light weight, 139 pounds, was to his advantage here. While his trip to the skylight would not have been attempted in broad daylight by a man hardened to travel at dizzy heights, the journey yet to be taken made it fade into insignificance.

Cruse crawled out on the slate covered, peaked roof. Earlier in the evening there had been a rain, and this froze as it fell. A slight snow followed, and even Columbus pedestrians strained their muscles to keep head upward on the smooth pavements. Cruse crawled up the sloping roof, which had an incline of at least 60 to 70 degrees, to the peak. The slightest hesitating movement or step would have caused a fall that would have precipitated him to the ground, seventy-five feet below. After reaching the peak he picked his way along this for fully 100 feet, and then came the herculean task of this remarkable getaway. In order to make his escape successful it was necessary for him to get down to the gutter of the roof from the peak, and with an ice covered decline of fifty feet before him and the bottom of this meeting the side walls of the penitentiary with a sheer drop of seventy-five feet the outlook was not pleasant, but he made the slide to the gutter.

The least miscalculation or insecure hold would have precipitated him over the leed roof to the gutter, where he would have fallen to a horrible death. The prison officials cannot explain how he stopped himself at the gutter. Deputy Warden Wells pointed out that when roofers work on the building in daylight they pick out favorable weather and use every precaution.

Cruse carried out the remainder of his plans with the same daring that characterized his passage as far as the gutter. He moved along the gutter unto her customer's request. "Chickens! til he was directly over the main of-Why, law, Miss Lucy; don't you all fices of the prison and in the glare of know there's been a camp meetin' and half a dozen electric lights. The buildpreachers' conference down here? Why, ing is four stories high at this point, and there are porches on the ground



CRUSE SLID DOWN THE ICY BOOF

feet above the uppermost porch roof, which is covered with tin. How he reached that roof the officials cannot explain unless with the assistance of a blanket which is missing from his cell. He then slid down the porch posts to the ground. Within twenty feet of where he alighted and at the main entrance sits an arrange of start. trance sits an armed guard.
Inside the building and not more

Inside the building and not more than two or three yards from the convenient porch post are the night cierks of the penitentiary. The officers' and residence rooms of the warden are in full view of the point where Cruse dropped to the ground, and there were a dozen persons in the department.

The guard at the main entrance saw Cruse walk across the lawn. He knew that he was a prisoner, but thought he was a trusty going across the street to the supply house. Before the man got out of sight the guard became suspi-

tain Woods said that this was one o nervicet escupse in the history

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