



Governor Donaghey of Arkansas, issued a blanket pardon to three hundred and sixteen prisoners in the state penitentiary on the ground that "under the lease system, as a burning, seething hell, consuming human beings, who are being fed into it in a manner which results in nothing but making fortunes for contractors."

According to a newspaper compilation, based on the state records, forty-three of those pardoned by Governor Donaghey were convicted of murder or manslaughter, 111 to grand larceny, four assault, five robbery, 19 forgery, thirty-two burglary, twenty-six assault to kill and seventy-six other crimes ranging from hog stealing to bigamy.

A Madrid, Spain, cablegram, carried by the Associated Press, says: Count Romanones, the new prime minister, has attained great political prominence despite a physical infirmity which has sapped his strength practically throughout his career. When a boy he experienced a terrible fall from a window which maimed him for life.

His father made a fortune as a merchant in southern France. The son inherited his father's great business capacity and despite his devotion to politics found time to swell the wealth which was left him.

The young man was educated to be a lawyer. At the age of twenty-five years he was elected to the chamber of deputies from the district of Guadalajara. When a can-

didate for re-election he was opposed by his brother, the Viscount de Irueste, who represented the conservative party. The struggle was one of the most sensational in the later history of Spanish politics. The young count was the victor and a few years later took another step up the political ladder, when he was elected mayor of the city of Madrid.

Then he went into the cabinet as minister of public instruction. Service in various ministerial posts was followed by election as president of the chamber.

The quick rise of Romanones is attributed to his conspicuous ability and his sterling character. He intends to continue the liberal and progressive policies of Canalejas, the murdered prime minister.

A Globe, Ariz., dispatch says: Posses composed of "honor system" convicts are scouring the hills and valleys of Gila, Graham and Pinal counties in search of two other convicts who broke their pledge and fled from the road camp in the Pinal mountains.

The men who escaped were Manuel Gutierrez, a life term convict, and a Papago Indian who was serving a term for horse stealing. Several of the convicts were in Globe searching for the fugitives.

A pretty story of a father's devotion is told in a dispatch carried by the Associated Press: When an automobile skidded on the muddy road—and slid over a precipice 125

feet high near San Migel, San Luis Obispo county, Fred J. Horswill, an Oakland mining engineer, was fatally injured, but his three-year-old daughter, whom he was holding in his arms, received only a few scratches.

Horswill was thrown against a rock and rendered unconscious. Both his arms and one leg were broken. His first question upon recovering consciousness was "Is my little Mary all right?"

Not until assured she was would he consider his own condition. He died on a special train that was rushing him to Oakland.

A dispatch to the Louisville Courier Journal says: George W. Perkins was the leading factor in the purchase of the Milwaukee Harvester company by the International, according to the testimony of H. L. Daniels at the hearing of the government's ouster suit.

John T. Butler, of Buffalo, vice president of the Ironworkers' International union, was taken to jail after the court accused him of committing perjury at the "dynamite conspiracy" trial.

State Senators Isaac E. Huffman and L. R. Andrews, of Ohio, were denied rehearings of the cases under which they were sentenced to prison for accepting bribes.

A St. Louis dispatch, carried by the Associated Press, says: Twenty-five thousand employes of the Frisco railway system are granted old age and disability pensions as a Christmas gift, according to a brief announcement made recently from the headquarters of the system here. The plan for granting pensions will be effective July, 1913.

Eight cars of "sweated oranges" were seized at Chicago under orders of federal Judge Landis. The oranges had been shipped from California and were subjected to the sweating process which is a high temperature used to bring out a yellow color.

**WHITE HOUSE WEDDINGS**

Washington correspondence to the Chicago Record-Herald: The advent of a presidential household with three marriageable daughters forming a part of it—something unprecedented—arouses Washington society to speculation as to the possibility of one or more White House weddings during the Wilson administration.

Although the Wilson sisters are known as "bachelor maids," there is ever a tendency toward romance in the lives of the younger occupants of the historic mansion, and therefore the possibility that one or more of the Wilson girls will bring about a change of title.

A delver into the romances of the mansion has called attention to the old thirteen superstition by discovering that the next White House bride will be the thirteenth. Alice Roosevelt, the last White House bride, was the twelfth. The one before that was Frances Folsom, who became Mrs. Grover Cleveland. Emily Pratt, a niece of President Hayes, was married in the White House during her uncle's administration to General Russel Hasting. The wedding of Nellie Grant to Algernon Sartoris was one of the most famous of White House weddings. Still going backward there was the marriage of Elizabeth Tyler, daughter of President Tyler, to William Waller of Virginia, in 1842.

During President Jackson's administration three weddings took place in the White House, those of Delia Lewis of Nashville and Alphonse Pageot, a member of the French legation; Mary Easton, a

niece of Mrs. Jackson, and Lucien B. Polk, and Emily Martin, a relative of the president, and Lewis Randolph.

The first White House wedding was in 1811, when Mrs. Madison's younger sister, Lucy Payne Washington, widow of a nephew of George Washington, was the bride.

The question asked now is whether one of the Wilson girls will flout superstition and become the thirteenth White House bride.

**A SOUTHERN ROMANCE**

Rufe was telling Zeke about a terrible escapade he had had the night before after he had crossed the dam at the river and was making for his cabin about a half mile through the dark woods.

"And jest as I stepped inter de brush—I hears a funny noise like a shoat snortin'. I looks up an' a blue light jumps out er de groun' and shapes itself into a ghost about six foot tall. Red fire was a-flickerin' out er its nose. It stood still kinder, then lifted a long bony finger an' says: 'I want you, Rufe Jackson.'

"I walks up to it and shakes my own finger right in its face. 'You mind yore business and I'll mind mine,' I says, and turns on my heel and goes right on.

"Now, what'd you er done, Zeke, in a case like dat?"

"I'd er done jest what you done, you durned lying nigger."—St. Louis Republic.

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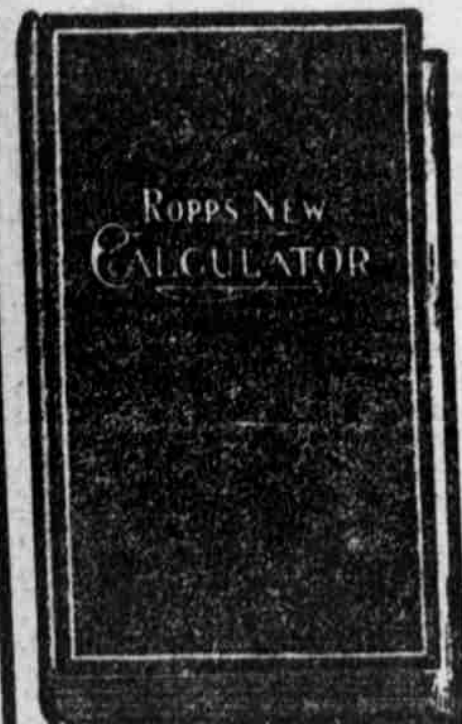
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