# CONVICTS MAY BE PUT TO WORK ON BAY VIEW PARK

Workhouse convicts may soon be seen at work on city property outside the workhouse, according to the indications appearing at the meeting of the board of public service this morning. Milton Taylor was appointed as a committee of one to arrange with Superintendent Fred Ritter to secure the voluntary consent of twenty-five of the convicts to work under guard at Bay View park in grubbing out the scrub oak with which the place

seems to be infested.

severely dealth with.

There are a number of convicts at the workhouse who could well be spared, and as there is no money in the park fund with which to employ other labor, it is believed that this action will solve temporarily a troublesome problem. If the plan is carried out the men will be taken down to the park in the morning under guard, with dinner furnished, and will be brought back at night.

Of course, attempts to escape will be

TOLEDO, O., SUNDAY MORNING. DECEMBER 6, 1903.



HE editor said, "Get up an illus- | The first dally duty of the superintend- | camera, was preparing for a rapid move a day amid the surroundings of Toledo's | the assistant matron, Mrs. Ladenburg. workhouse, where the inmates were in

for the cheery good nature and whole- betterment of all things that need it. souled hospitality of Superintendent Rittor, who aided me at every turn, I would are met by the superintendent and mahave been unable to spend the entire day | tron as soon as they are discovered, but

is that the present workhouse is entirely mates are discussed. too small for a city the size of Toledo. With its present quota of about 115 intime when new and more commedious superintendent saw personally that all for the privilege of occupying state property. In ten years this rental would be quite a nucleus for the starting of a new institution.

Another strange thing is that not many matron. people of Toledo know where the work-Many go down the west hank of the prisoners was noticed in one end of the canal. They are thus opposite the place yard. The reporter fearing a mutiny

thought of being obliged to spend | I. M. Cary; the matron, Mrs. Ritter, and | tendent:

The accompanying photograph shows most instances poverty stricken, and the four executive heads of the instituand control of the prisoners, especially right to tell you about it" There was good cause for dreading and the women prisoners, is considered. Redisliking it, as I found after paying the ports are made and conditions given as | Kitter, "let us hear your story." institution a visit; and if it had not been discovered each day, plans laid for the

Of course, urgent conditions that arise at this morning session improvements of The first fact that impresses a stranger quarters and the management of the in-

The next duty of the superintendent the day I was there was to pay a visit mates it can not care for any more, and to the brick kiln, where the work of the it must be a question of only a short guards and prisoners was inspected. The quarters must be sought. The city pays | details, such as cleaning up the yard a yearly rental of about \$400 to the state around the kilns, putting away the tools, etc., etc., were cared for

> Nearly all the inmates greet the superintendent with a glad word and an inonly as to his condition, and that of the is

Within ten minutes after Superintenhouse is, and of those who know its lo- ent Ritter started to inspect the condication, but few know how to get to it. | tion of the yard, a discussion among the and can not get across except by swim- was about to break out, or possibly the | prisoners objected to the presence of a

trated story about 'A day with out of the workhouse is the morning in the direction of the office, when sudthe workhouse superintendent'. ' consultation, which Superintendent Rit- denly one of the inmates stepped forward

guards had a little trouble this morning, and we thought we would tell you about whose love for the demon drink had tion in consultation. At this time all it, as we know that our complaints are caused many of them to be placed in the | matters pertaining to the government | always listened to. Can we have the

"Of course, boys," said Superintendent

Guards and prisoners crowded around the superintendent, utterly ignoring the I instinctively shuddered at the ter has with his assistant superintendent, and doffing his ear, said to the superin- were engaged in relating what seemed to the members of my family, a misunder-"Mr. Ritter, us fellers and them two cerning a dispute between the prisoners given the straight of the affair, everyand guards, the camera caught this thing was settled." mixed crowd.

> to be straightened out, according to the satisfied look on both the guards' and prisoners' faces. The superintendent evidently had settled it to the satisfaction of all concerned.

about, Superintendent Ritter said: "It of condition, will receive a reprimand presence of the reporter. While they was only a difference of opinion between from the superintendent as not a single the reporter to be a trifling matter con- standing, and when both sides were

The work of the teamsters was the next In a few minutes the squabble seemed thing that claimed the superintendent's accompanying photograph was secured, attention. The big, handsome horses are kept in fine condition by the prisoners, who are detailed as teamsters. But the luckless attendant who shirks his

duties. However, the photograph was taken while the superintendent was goodnaturedly protesting. About 4:30 o'clock the supper bell began to ring, and the prisoners to the number ct about 25, arrived from Bay View park on a street car. The male prisoners were sent to the tollet rooms

to the barn is carefully looked after, the

teamsters are required to bring out the

horses so they can be inspected in the

open air, and not in a dark stall. When

the animals were brought outside the

but only under protest of Mr. Ritter, who

said the fact that he examined the work-

house horses was of no interest to the

public, and only a minor detail of his

to prepare for the evening meal. As they were lined up after leaving the car tefore being tuken into the dining room, Superintendent Ritter walked along the line inquiring as to the condition of chicken, mashed potatoes, brown grayy, the men and joking with them.

Of course, it is impossible, according quote Mr. Ritter's words, "There was to the present city ordinances to compel prisoners to work outside the workhouse, chicken bones and celery tops." but each morning volunteers are called lersened by one day in every ten and also able appetite for onions, pepper sauce and one quarter of a day in addition taken other hot eatables. off their time. There may be an ordinance passed soon that will allow the as the average person eats apples and worl house board to compel prisoners to even after the food has been highly salt-

work on city work. marched into the dining room a signal deluge their food. was given and all sat down to their sup-

stew, and bread and coffee. oners had devoured his plateful and was "real thing."

When asked what the conference was | work, and whose animal is not in the best | drumming on the table. This was only an instance of the solicitude taken in the prisoners by the superintendent.

"Aren't you afraid that some of the repoint of the animal escapes the eye of leased prisoners will meet you down town Superintendent Ritter. The cleanliness after dark and do you bodily harm?" of the stable, and everything pertaining asked the reporter of the superintendent,

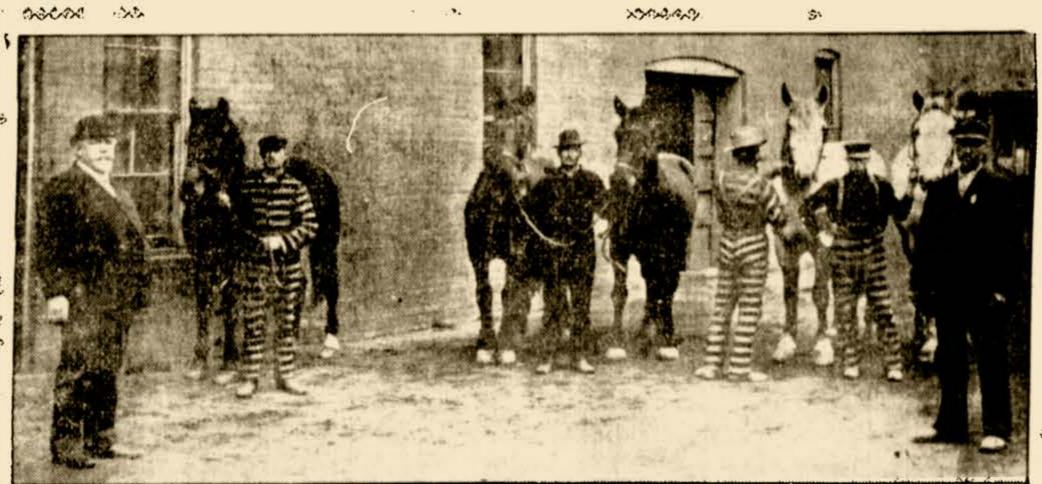
"Why, bless your soul, no," sald Mr. Ritter. "I never go armed and only have a pen knife. My thoughts are the farthest from ever being attacked by prisoners. I have had men meet me on the street and shake hands with me, and inquire as to my welfare, whom I formerly had as boarders at the workhouse. I nover punish a prisoner unless he gives me a good and sufficient cause, and then the punishment is given more as a humiliation of the man's feeling than as a chastisement. I never fear violence being done to me, as I have never done anything while I have been superintendent that would cause me to be solicitous about my own welfare."

The last Thanksgiving dinner was heartly enjoyed by the prisoners and was a source of delight to the superintendent. The menu consisted of roast pickles, celery, bread and coffee, and to nothing left after the dinner excepting

Another very-curious condition that is for and those who respond get their time | found among the prisoners is their insati-

Onions are caten in the same manner ed and peppered, the prisoners grab the When all the prisoners had been pepper and salt shakers and still further

Just why this appetito is present is difper, which consisted of savory beef ficult to state. Some claim it is due to the fact that as nearly all of the pris-"Here, get this man another plate of oners have been drunkards and have been stew," said Superintendent Ritter to one accustomed to squirrel whisky, the hot of the guard walters, as one o. the pris- foods are the nearest approach to the



THE MORNING INSPECTION OF HORSES. or a roman or vivous. a cisc. in the con



THE MORNING INSPECTION OF HORSES.

### CITY TREATS ITS HORSES BETTER THAN PRISONERS

#### Workhouse Inmates Are Denied Exercise During Winter Months.

PLEAD PITEOUSLY FOR

A LITTLE SUNSHINE

No Money to Provide Guards, Enough to Watch the Inmates While Given Exercise.

"For God's sake, give us work. Take us out of these holes and give us something to do,"

That is the constant plea of scores of men crowded into the narrow cells at the workhouse,

All they want is a chance to get out of the foul smelling prison, a chance to breathe the fresh air, a chance to draw the impurities out of the lungs, weakened by the unsanitary conditions that exist.

And they are willing to work at anything, no matter how hard the labor. Willing to labor in the low, cramped yard, until bones ache from

EVEN ANIMALS ARE TURNED LOOSE IN PASTURE LOTS TO EXERCISE. BUT THESE UNFORTUNATE HUMAN BEINGS ARE RATED LOWER THAN THE ANIMALS

But the city denies them the right to a bit of sunshine and light and air. THE CITY HASN'T MONEY ENOUGH TO EMPLOY SUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF GUARDS TO EXER-CISE HUMANITY.

als," said John Doelker, commenting on the continement of the prisoners.

"They don't go out of here pundoor, ished for their crime. THEY GO I can't get around very fast," he DUT WITH A SPIRIT OF REVENGE apologized.

"What's the matter?"

"What's the matter?"

"What's the matter?"

"Rheumatism. My wight

"The stench arising from this trough is something horrible.

"For two hours after the other boys bring down their buckets we can scarcely breathe. Sometimes we lay down on the stone floor to get better air."

"What's the matter?"

"Rheumatism. My wight

o work. If we had a modern workouse we could find work for these
aen 10 months in the year. As it matism all over. Say but this place
s now, we only work them six is a fright. It's something awful in
nonths. WE COULD EARN MORE here. Sometimes you can scarcely
'HAN ENOUGH IN THE EXTRA breathe.

OUR MONTHS TO PAY THE IN'I'VE BEEN HERE NINE
EREST IN A MODERN PLANT.'

MONTHS AND HAVE HAD RHEU-

hysical condition and you find con-rmations of the report that the pres- "But you can sleep at night,"



Narrow Cells at Workhouse.

When One Prisoner is Standing Up the Other is Obliged to Crawl Into

But they are confined in cells all His feature looked like putty.
day and night. Hollow, sun en eyes stared at you without a semblance of life.

OI'R MONTHS TO PAY THE INEREST IN A MODERN PLANT."

Evidence Is Visible.

Talk to these prisoners of their hysical condition and you find conmittees of the report that the present workhouse is a tomb.

"I'VE BEEN HERE NINE These are only a few of the stories to do by the men behind the bars at the workhouse EVERY ONE TELLS THE SAME STORY. IT BECAME SICKENING IN ITS MONOTONOUS REPETITION.

A condition of affairs exists in the was suggested.

"But you can sleep at night,"

"But you can sleep at night,"

A condition of affairs exists in the was suggested. "I'VE BEEN HERE NINE MONTHS AND HAVE HAD RHEU-

mations of the report that the presnt workhouse is a tomb.

Men who have been confined in
ne workhouse for more than two
onths are in the worst condition.

"I've been here less than two
onths and have lest 20 pounds."

"But you can sleep at night,
was suggested.

"Sleep," and the prisoner and his
cellmate laughed. "Sleep, why we
don't sleep here. You ought to try
it once in these cells in this almosphore. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT

Ilow ('ourt Order Is Violated. said one young man who works in IT IS TO GET A STRAIGHT the engine room.

This policy makes the workhouse "I ache in every bone in my body. HOUR AT A TIME AND THEN officials violate the very order of the I have rheumatism in my shoulders." TOSS FOR AN HOUR OR SO.

court in sentencing these men.

This young man's face was drawn
The commitment rends: "No part
of this sentence shall be solitary confluctured in cells all

This young man's face was drawn
and ghastly in its prison pallor.

An old timer, a nine months' inmate, was found on the second tier.

But they are confined in cells all

His feature looked like putty.

The rest we get here is worse
than no sleep at all."
One of the worst places in the
prison is the north side. The dump
trough is located on this side.

a tearful plea to be taken away from

that section.

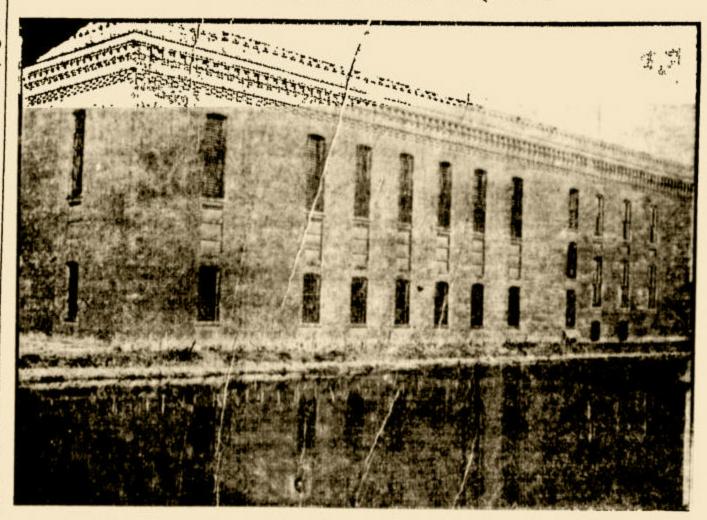
"The stench makes us sick," said the biggest boy. "Besides I've got pains in my shoulders from the dampness, Can't you get us out?"

dormitory for women that can only be hinted at.

All the women who are sentenced to the workhouse are put in this one dormitory, hardened criminals thrown in with the novices.

Because of this the moral tone of the dormitory at times, sinks down to the lowest depths of deprayity. Practices are indulged in that are beyond belief.

#### THE WORKHOUSE PRISON



The shadow of the prison in the water shows the location of the first floor of the prison. This floor is fully eight feet below the water level of the canal. A half hundred prisoners are confined in this section be-

The second floor is shown on a level with the canal bank. This bank is within 10 feet of the prison walls through which water seeps.

## EXTRA BROWN STAMP

The Toledo News-Bee - Feb 24, 1906

## NEW WORKHOUSE MUST BE BUILT

Servers Unanimons on the Question. ESTIMATES OF COST MADE

Board Will Consider the Matter as Soon as Superintendency

Is Settled by the Courts.

r S

.

A new workhouse for Toledo is

considered by members of the board of public service to be one of the most important needs of Toledo.

The disclosures in The News-Bee of the unsanitary conditions of the city's prison has aroused the servers.

of the unsanitary conditions of the city's prison has aroused the servers. Some action looking towards legislation for a new institution is to be taken at once.

THE SERVERS SAY THAT NOT ONLY FROM A HUMANITARIAN STANDPOINT, BUT FOR BUSINESS REASONS AS WELL, A MODERN WORKHOUSE SHOULD BE BUILT. The city leases the present site at an unusually low rental. This lease expires within a few months. For business reasons a new lease will undoubtedly be taken.

In the event that a new workhouse is built, the island could be used for other purposes.

other purposes.

Estimate of the Cost.

A rough estimate for a modern workhouse has been made. To include the farm feature, it is estimated that the cost will be about \$100,000. A site at the outskirts of the city is regarded as the best.

It is claimed that with a well-equipped workhouse it would be possible to manufacture brick ten equipped workhouse it would sible to manufacture be months in the year. The plant runs six months.

Assistant Superintendent estimates that over a millied brick could be made in the months. brick ten present

million extra estimates that or brick could be made in these brick could be made in these months.

This would provide an additional revenue of \$7,000, which would pay the interest on \$100,000 and leave a surplus to pay off the bonds.

This increased revenue alone would pay for the new plant in less than 20 years, says Oscar Sabin.

"Toledo should have a new workhouse," said Member Tonson. "It would be good business to have a workhouse that is more than self sustaining."

Doelker

alono in less

work-

workhouse that is more than self sustaining."

"I WOULDN'T KEEP A DOG IN THE WORKHOUSE."

That is the way Oscar Sabin voices his opinion of the place.

"Humanity and every other good interest demands a change. It's criminal to send men there.

"As soon as the superintendency of the institution is settled we will have some estimates made on the cost of a modern workhouse."

## THE TOLEDO NEWS-BEE

AN "OULD SOD" TALE

By Seumas MacManus Will Appear in next Sunday's Times-Bee.

## TRUST MEMBERS SCATHINGLY REBUKED AND SENTENCED TO WORKHOUSE

Makes it Plain That Law Is Supreme.

MORRIS STERN IN ACTION

Saw the Shame in Violation of Law Under Guise of Business and Cave Voice to Feeling.

To those who crowded the courtcom of Common Pleas Judge Morris on Friday morning when a large num-



a vindication of the law.

recognized no distinction between montment was especially significant. other than as they had offended and

mean and sordid outfine, received a the trust cases. He announced firmany a visit. considerably lighter sentence than whether present or absent. other men clad in fine cloth and drawn from wealthy circles of society and

Careful in Explanation.

Judge Morris, somewhat slight of stature, gray haired, and with a gray mustache, represented the law. He was careful to explain in his remarks to the men on whom he passed WHOM HE CHARGED WITH HE sentence that he was there to administer the law in accordance with the desires of the people who had created

The law had been created to repress combinations of capital and to maintain active competition between dealers in the accessition and comforts of lite, so that the consumers, which were the people, would always be able to avail themselves of such reduc-

tions in the price of living as natural conditions brought about. Before Judge Morris spt the men

had been brought into court by of-fleers of the law

When Extremes Met.

First under the eye of the judge sat a row of poorly dressed prisoners who were handcuffed. These men since recognized as crimes and which the court sex of Detroit was sent environment has not developed out only by the station on Thursday ture and refinement. Their crimes only by the station on Thursday are ordinary ordinary and they were ers could patrolmen Schlagheck and, termed ordinary criminals. termed ordinary criminals.

Back of thees handenffed men were massed the other criminals. Their act was not recognized as a crime prior to 1898, but in that year a long suffering public demanded and the dom Fergusez and he was hus-got certain legislation which made it limitary from the excited enemies, a crime punishable by a fine and in- fend claimed that the prisoner inprisonment for any men engaged in the sale or manufacture of commodities to agree upon prices or conditions under which the public should purchase these commodities,

Continued on Page Phirteen, from lopement.

### JUDGE MORRIS GAVE DECISION WORKHOUSE, CELLS AND THE BRICK YARD MILE AFTER 2 MONTHS' DELIBERATION

Brick Men Drew \$1,000 Fine-Lumber and Bridge Men are To Go To the Workhouse for Six Months, After Listening to a Scorching Lecture From the Bench on Respect for the Law.

#### THE MEN WHO WERE SENTENCED TODAY

THE BRICKMEN.

Frank Gorman, president Toledo Lawrence Burkhart, brickyards on

R. E. Kelly, out-of-town brick

Richard Clark of Spear & Clark brick manufacturers.

Frank E. Tracy, brick factory, Owen and Foutz streets. William Howell, president Toledo

Brick Supply company. Adam R. Kuhlman, vice president 'oled Builders' Supply company, and vice president of the Toledo Brick Supply company.

Albert Macomber, proprietor Auourndale brick works.

THE BRIDGEMEN.

Harry Hammond and W. N. Cleve and, both of the firm of Huston &

THE LUMBERMEN.

Sentenced to six months in the Marcus V. Barber and Rowland

Starr of Barbour & Starr. Edward J. Goulet of Goulet & Co. Hiram R. Kelsey and George L. reeman of Kelsey & Freeman.

manager of the East Side Lumber Clarence II. Packer, secretary and bell company.

William J. Spear of Spear & Clark, | treasurer of the Buckeye Lumber

David Trotter of Trotter & Co. James R. Campbell of the Camp ell company.

G. Brewer of Arnsman & Brewer. John H. Puck, vice president of

Howard M. Smith, president the W. H. H. Smith company. Edward E. Washburn and Charles

W. Harris of Washburn & Harris. August J. Van Karsen, Eben D. Hopkinson and Frederick Hahn of Van R. Karsen & Co.

Frederick E. Witker, president, and William J. Witker, secretary and Reuben Kimball, treasurer and treasurer of the Wither Manufacturing company.

George W. Campbell of the Camp-

HOWING no discrimination between the "eminently respectable business man" and the friendless thief, Judge Lindley W. Morris, of the common pleas court, on Friday sentenced representatives of both classes to prison. "The law must be enforced," was the keynote of an address delivered to the accused before sentence

The court stated several times that the imposition of fines was only a farce, did no good and practically put a premium on raising the price of commodities. In imposing the prison sentence Judge Morris was 'putting more teeth into the Valentine law," as Judge Kinkade tried to do in the ice cases.

THE LUMBER MEN WERE GIVEN SIX MONTHS IN THE WORKHOUSE

THE BRICK MEN WERE FINED \$1,000 AND COSTS.

For the first time in the history of Ohio agents of the notorious bridge trust were ordered to prison. They are Harry Hammond of Toledo and W. N. Cleveland of Co-

SENTENCES WERE SUSPENDED FOR TEN DAYS TO GIVE THE MEN TIME TO ARRANGE THEIR AFFAIRS BEFORE GOING TO THE WORKS.

The only hope of the sentenced men to avoid prison is to secure paroles from the gation for years, and that they had cases) charge but one violation of the indicate the law. It is true that the act comboard of public service.

Following are

Hot Dr

the court,

at all times during

Hot Tea (per cup).

Hot Ten (per pot). We list Multed Milk. Hot Lemonade Hot Clam Jules Hot Clam Jule

Ham Sandwich
Minced Hum Sangwa
Sarding Sandwich
Tongue Sandwich
Cheese Sandwich
Lettuce Sandwich
Beof Sandwich

Broad and Butter ... Parker House Holls a Doughnuts, two ..... Boston Baked Beans.

Silved Oranges Silved Bananas and

Saturday

Finisht hand embroidered F. morning only, at Oue-Half Price

Hot Coffee

Hot Cholocate

made in sentencing Boyce, convicted of manslaughter, to seven years in the penitentiary. Referring to other troup 3 Boyce had been in, the law for crimes committed against Judge Morris said: "You haven't lear squit ything by this exsociety, the proceedings appeared as perience." In view of the fact that the For on that occasion Judge Morris not learned anything from the experier or than ice men, this state-After sentencing Boyce, sending with a cold or , a hold-up man,

to three years in the penitentiary, Julia a cold or accomplice of the it cannot longer be said that the law tormer, to six months in the workhe clean, satisfying arry, a one-legged is only powerful against the poor and the appressed, for one man in stained negro burglar, to two years in the and ragged ci thing convicted of a youthful thief, to the Mansfield ref your Fountain roo Morris took up to six months imprisonment in the treme hard to handle

The court reviewed the history of whose crime has been tolerated and each trust, and could find nothing termed "business." for the members of such trusts.

A Scathing Rebuke.

He administered a scathing i buke to the local lumber dealer. ING DISCRIMINATED AGA THEIR NEIGHBORS AND IN pair VOR OF OUT-OF-TOWN Blocted IN THE LUMBER TRADE. Rossini

He declared it to be is his comprehension how all other respects ... Datiey citizens, could so phiaritone. associates in church. ... Setected

and social circles, frovatore". Vordi Particularly did t Chorus and since its passage !"

the Valentine act WAS ened by the IFPTLY NIPPED belief in its in TIV

made of the found the man holding a Urgir-Hungarians at bay in Bir-

essary with a murderous looking The weapon was taken long the dom Ferguscz and he was huspronthe wife of another Hungarian priago with him, and when the hus-

of the woman returned home have night he found her trunk and promptly stopped the pro-LARBORRADORRANIA

Judge Morris' action was foreshadowed by a remark that he; court fell upon their cars ma hung their heads in shame, some looked defiantly at the court, while others shifted nervously

from one position to another. It can be stated almost certainly that the service board will not parole the trust prisoners without an expression from the judge that such

Marcus V. Barbour of the lumber trust is in Europe. He will serve his sontence when he returns.

First Prison Sentence.

Saturday we les Sternberg, a In sentencing Hammond and Cleveland, members of the bridge trust, d be sentenced, workhouse, Judge Morals has estabthe point where something must be

> and the numerous convictions so weal. It is impossible to slur over cured, this is the first time that what should be done to check the bridge agents have ever received a particular disposition of 30 many tion of the Val- workhouse sentence.

The fight against the bridge trust THE begun by The News-Bee .nree years FINED \$1,000 ago, resulted in indictments in Henry, Putnam, Eric, Allen and Lucas

members the In each of these countles the cases of sevagents were let off with a nominal Sandwichemuch consid-

rt lectured indictments and the charac . of the less annoyance. The

'After thorough consideration of i Baked Beans: who had the indictments in the plumbers' ances for cases, I decided that they were fruits in Season work at good."

Judge Investigated.

Judge Morris then asked W. N. of the poor Should Know Right. Cleveland and Harry Hammond, the convicted bridgemen, if they had



anything to say before sentence was singly or in combinations, the prin-passed. Their attorney. Harry ciple of right and wrong should Chapman, of the firm of King & govern all good citizens in all trans-Tracy, said that his clients had been actions.

He called the court's attention to the fact that at the time they were accused in the indictments of operating in Lucas county was after the line law unconstitutional, and before the supreme court had declared it constitutional.

The other defendants had nothing

Judge Morric then continued: "The offenses charged in these in-dictments are lightly considered to be extremely serious by seeple inter-ested in the welfare of the country. The question of combinations is ex-

lished a precedent. the point where something mus: be in all the criminal prosecutions of done to stop the usages growing up drastically con- the bridge trust in Northwestern Ohio to the detriment of the common business men, such as are present.

statements about giving the careful consideration, especially that ken up, except on the surfect? in the hands of the prosecution, in competition been restored? I have "an effort to learn whether the men looked in vain, but I am not conwere misled in regard to the lagality vinced that a change has been made, of the nets."

Considers Suggestion.

they perfected a schema is got mone obeyed the per le are emitted to on the men composing the firm.

They perfected a schema is got mone obeyed the per le are emitted to on the men composing the firm.

Special is were made for Frank singsestion about prosecution in several countries has little in it to so go no the men composing the firm.

Special is were made for Frank singsestion about prosecution is a failure of the men composing the firm.

Special is were made for Frank single countries has little in it to so go no the men composing the firm.

Special is were made for Frank and Edward is who is no longer the or extend mer company that company that was indeeded. tentiary is of great interest, because the other and plumbers evidently intend to fight BUSINESS WITH THE SINGLE.

Three Bargain Specific took which will be worth you to their cases.

In these cases the defendants which will be worth you to their cases.

In these cases the defendants which will be worth you to their cases.

In these cases the defendants which will be worth you to their cases.

In these cases the defendants which will be worth you to the circumstances. I have laken great paths to find out the character of the business entant to the character.

Saturday nations only we deat the character of the circumstances. There is soft that the character of the circumstances. There is soft to the period and the count to the character of the character. There is soft to the period to the character of the character of the circumstances. There is soft to the period to th

"Whether they apply to personsprice of the commodity,

also true that the defendants bave been caused some annoyance by having to defend proper indictments, "But these cases involve more

than the convenience of the defendants. If this violation of the law continues, none can tell what atti-tude will finally be taken by the peo-

tion in trade.
"This law was passed in 1898. Whether it has been effective is open to doubt. The results have not been satisfactory to persons having the welfare of the country in mind.

most ten years, and yet there is but one exception-and that in this county a year ago-where a fine was the only pun-Ishment imposed. The fine may be from \$50 to \$1,000.

Trusts Not Curbed.

"Have trusts been checked? Have these combinations been broeven in a little degree. Business has und asked for statements in regard to the sentences. The attorneys proceeded as before

20n- after all these prosecutions have the scarcity of lumber and the increased

"WHAT IS A NOMINAL FINE

be almost making a premium on the

The sentencing of the brick and lumber men was the end of one of ple against those who are disposed the divisions of Prosecuting Attor-to plunder by climinating competi-ney Wachenheimer's campaign workhouse sentences on Fr' morning: "My views on the subagainst the trusts in Lucas county. of prisons are sufficiently well and sufficiently well misunders

grand jury which was sworn Apri;

1. For two weeks the jury investigated the business conditions in Toledo, with the result that it presentledo, with the result that it presentledo accurations against the alleged the business conditions in Toledo, with the result that it presentledo, with the result that it presentle ed accusations against the alleged ing to deal with economic questions brick, lumber and plumbing com-; by means of criminal statutes is the the Valentine anti-trust statutes.

Nothing was done by either of the done away with." accused combinations until May 16, when the brickmer and lumber men through the!: attorneys, pleaded will RETAIN

Asked for Statements. Last Monday Judge Morris sum-

moned the attorneys for the accused in in a little degree. Business has been transa ed may be been destroyed, and the partice of the southers of the southers. The attorneys day in pleaded that the minimum sentence of the southers of the south "It has been a great expense to them and a refer or which the particular agreement under the workhouse sentence without a fine. The judge said:

"It has been a great to the workhouse of these again. The particular agreement under the business of these again. There be imposed. They based their court, continued the judge, "that za us has been transacted may requests on the statements that both the bridgemen have centified at the particular agreement under the imposed. They based their court, continued the business of these again. The particular agreement under the imposed. They based their court, and the business of these again. The particular agreement under the imposed. They based their court, and the business of these again. The particular agreement under the imposed. They based their court, and the business of these again. The particular agreement under the imposed. They based their court, and the business of these again. The particular agreement under the imposed. They based their court, and the business of these again. The particular agreement under the imposed. They based their court, and the particular agreement under the imposed. They based their court, and the particular agreement under the imposed. They based their court, and the particular agreement under the business of these again. The particular agreement under the imposed. They based their court, and the particular agreement under the imposed. They based their court, and the particular agreement under the particular agreement unde people who have been not the scarcity of lamber and the increased out that has controlled the work in a obtained any relief?

There men have formed a pool price exacted by these outstands prices. It was use asked that the number of countles for ears, and "Unless the law s repealed or firm, instead of reparate sentences from the taxpayers. Therefore the obeyed the pec, is are emitted to on the man reprostant the firm.

"If you men who are making brick who are amply abla to pay? It is no can add \$1 or n. m a thousand to check. The only check is the fact the price and the people must per that those caught are required to what does a fine signift. It would answer

Continued on Page Three.

Service Board Powerless to Parole.

JUDGE MUST RECOMMEND Attorneys Declare, There Is No

Escape for Trust Members Sent Up by Judge Morris.

know whether they had the power parole, and did not wish to say any

The charge was violation of as soon as we get to sending rich thentine anti-trust statutes, men to prison the prisons will be

## HIS PAROLE

CLINE TO REOPEN THE CASE

They will not revoke Morrison's parole unless Gov, Harris insists upon it and the governor says the board in The board of pardons last night re-

fused to recommend commutation of death sentence for Henry White die next Friday for killing Ma Basore of Franklin. As the gov put in practice his naw policy or ting with the hoard and hearin, arguments, there is little probability that he will interfere with the exe-

#### \* Watch Tomorrow's "Want" Pages of the

News-Bee for ads telling of houses for sale, places to rent

and other important things. Tomorrow is no butter day than any other day, only there will be more "Wants" to read, Read News-Bee Wants every

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### TRUST MEMBERS

Continued from Page One

"After all, when we get down to the essence of things, this proceeding is really only the throwing of of the mask. You men are here not because of a mistake, not because you have been led astray or have fallen into the error of violating a law that in your judgment should not have been passed.

you have been led astray or have fallen into the error of violating a law that in your judgment should not have been passed,
"There is a higher law for the people who require these commedities for the protection of themselves and their families and to prevent the payment of higher prices
"The books of the lumber men showed that they solemnly agreed that the management of their business should be turned over to a committee which fixed the discounts and to whom they had to report delinquents. They gave this committee the power to pass on a claim and put the claim into the hands of a lawyer. Then they all agreed to submit to a fine of not less than \$100 if they sold another foot to the man in question, unless for spot cash.
"The books show that they agreed to submit to a fine if they violated a single rule.
"An examination of the brick."

ingle rule.

"An examination of the brick trust records shows that there has been a successful pool since 1897, and that there has been a constant and progressive rise in prices since that time. There was an association to dispose of the brick and to provent intefference with that disposition.

provent interference with position.

"The evidence shows that the cost of brick in 1897 was \$5.27, and that in 1906 it was \$6.86. In that time there was absolutely no loss, and the cost of making brick did not increase 10 cents a thousand.

#### Competition Throttled.

"There was absolutely no chance for competition, and this state of facts existed before and since the passage of the Valentine act.
"It has been said that the forests are being cleared away, and that the local lumber men had to raise prices because they were at the mercy of a national lumbe; trust.

"IN ANSWER TO THIS, I WILL SAY THAT IT ISN'T NECESSARY IN THIS STATE TO VIOLATE THE LAWS TO LIVE DECENTLY AND WELL.

"It is absolutely necessary the laws be observed, and it is necessary to combine against necessary the

of Toledo.

city of Toledo.
"It is not essential, but absolutely reprehensible, to engage in business against the people of Toledo who are trying to acquire homes, and to require them to pay more for necessities than you do those who do not live in Toledo and who do not pay

live in Toledo and who do not pay taxes here.

"Those in whom you ought to have more interest are those who you have compelled to pay tribute, while those in other communities could have the commodities for less. This is neither city spirit nor patients."

This is triotism. "Any man engaged in that kind of work ought to be ashamed of him-

'How could you justify your ac-

tions?
"None of you can look your neighbor in the face and justify your position

"Although you might live in the same house, attend the same church, be members of the same society or club, you can't justify your position when you say to your neighbor, 'You can't have lumber only for more than you could buy it from another in a distant city, where I've shipped it." in a distant city, it."

The judge ref

The judge referred in this last statement to the showing made by the News-Bee, that Teledoans could have people in Ottawa order lumber from Toledo firms, have it shipped to Ottawa and then back to Teledoat less than the Teledoans could buy the lumber in Toledo.

#### Saddened by Duty.

Saddened by Duty.

"What is this statute for " continued Judge Morris. "If there is anything in my power to bring about its enforcement I shall do it. In view of this statute and my views, which I have given frankly it is my duty to impose sentence. I approach that duty with sadness. But the law should be enforced in all its terms until it is repealed and, if I understand the temper of the people of this great state, it is in no great danger of repeal"

The judge then read the penalty. "All the men before me are of more than the average intelligence and are presumed to know this law and its penalties. None has claimed ignorance. There can be no misun-

and its penalties. None has claired ignorance. There can be no misunderstanding of my position in re-

gard to the punishment that ought to

be imposed
"Fines are only makeshifts and do
"Fines are only makeshifts and do

"Fines are only makeshifts and do not bring prominent citizens to a proper relaxation of their positions, "After full consideration I've determined that the proper punishment is imprisonment in the workhouse,. The sentence, therefore, on those who have generally pleaded guilty will be that they be confined in the workhouse.

#### Minimum Sentences.

"In view of all the circumstances, especially as the defendants have thrown themselves on the mercy of the court, I shall prescribe the minimum sentences."

He then ordered the bridge agents and lumber men to serve six months in the workhouse and ordered, the brickmen to pay fines of \$1,000 and costs each. "In

brickmen to pay fines of the brickmen to pay fines of the sentences suspended for ten days.

Surprise was shown in the faces of the accused men when Judge Morris gave his first intimation that fines created no hardship on the members of the trust.

Then with one exception the men hecame stolid. The exception was Hammend, the bridge agent, whose facial expression was a cross between a smirk and a smile. He was the only one who did not search the judge's face for some expression that could be construed as hopeful. Cleveland was laboring under a great strain.

#### Hung Their Heads.

The other men, many of whom knew Judge Morris personally, seemed under even a greater strain than Cleveland. When he declared that their conduct was not patriotic and showed no civic pride, many of the lumbermen whered and hung their heads.

Because of the criticism they apparently forgot that they were being sontenced, and it was not until the judge declared that "fines were only makeshifts," that they looked up.

The final words numbed the accused,

cused.
No formal adjournment was taken No formal adjournment was taken at the time, but none was necessary, as nearly all the spectators left the room. The men seemed not to know what to do. After whispering among themselves for some time there was some evidence of enforced mirth, vidence of enforced mirth, men generally had no time but the mer

#### Did Only His Duty.

Did Only His Duty.

Several hastened to congratulate Judge Morris, but the judge said to all that he had only done his duty. Prosecuting Attorney Wachenhelmer was congratulated right and left. The prosecutor was greatly pleased at the sentences.

"They got just what was coming to them," he said, Generally the lumbermen said they expected to serve their sentences, They did not think there was much to be expected from the service board. It was a disconsolate lot that straggled from the courthouse. OTHER SENTENCES IMPOSED Before the bridge agents, lumbermen and brickmen were sentenced on Friday, Judge Morris fixed the punishment of several other offenders. Stephen Boyce, who was convicted of unlawfully killed Chauncey Porter on the night that Boyce and Porter's sister, Mrs. Sarah North were to have been married, was given seven years in the penitentiary. Boyce is 60 years old and frail. The judge said he could not look lightly on this crime as Boyce had not learned anything by experience and carried a revolver habitually.

Evident familiarity with court proceedure hurt the cause of John MecCoy, accused of holding up a drunken man. McCoy was given three years. He said his accomplice, James MecCoy, who turned state's evidence, had sworn falsely. James who is not

man. McCoy was given three years. He said his accomplice, James McCoy, who turned state's evidence, had sworn falsely. James, who is not related to John, was found guilty of assault. He was gentenced to six months in the workhouse—the same as the lumbermen.

James Henry, a one-legged negro burglar, was given one year in the ponitentiary.

Charles Sternberg, 20 years old, admitted that he stole a suit case containing valueble dresses, and was sent to the reformatory. McCoy was given three d his accomplice, Jam

### JUDGE BENDS TO WILL OF PEOPLE

Continued from Page One. Made Bidding a Farce.

Of this latter class two were agents for bridge manufacturers. Thees two men were representatives of a pool of bridge manufacturers which pool made competitive bidding on all bridge contracts a farce and a latter thing for some one provinger. sure thing for some one previously designated membe:

The profits which accrued to the successful bidder under this system were so large that all members of the pool made a handsome profit.

These two men could write a treat-ise on the ethics of the sentence. They have both been sentenced many times, but as th sentence always was a fine, have not suffered the profits taking ample care of that. The others were lumber dealers

The lumand brick manufacturers. bor dealers were a wealthy class. One of them, Marcus V. Barbour, was not present. His profits enabled him to journey abroad and he was at the time sentence was passed in Europe. He will serve his sentence when he gets back.

The lumbermen were unqualifiedly guilty. The brick manufacturers had an organization which was rec-ognized as criminal when the ice trust members were convicted, and they at once sought counsel, seeking whereby they could evade responsibility under the law and still reap the profits of an illegal conspiracy.

#### Offered to Plead Guilty.

They succeeded in so far as their new organization was lacking some of the aggravating features which of the aggravating features which attached to the bridge and lumber combinations, and their offer to plead

guilty under a certain section of the anti-trust law was accepted.

Conviction under this section provides for fine only and so the brick trust was not harmed other than by the shock which the fate of their fellows produced.

Around the walls of the court-room stood spectators, mainly attor-neys. The entrance of the room was jammed with people anxious to see what the law would do with the rich men; they know what is would do

men; they know with the poor men.

Then the court commenced talking. After briefly disposing of the ing. After briefly disposing of the ing. ordinary to require exhaustive treat-ment, be dismissed them, and the rich eriminal confronted him,

#### Court Prepared Rebuke.

As the court spoke he made it plain that there was shame even in a violation of the anti-trust law, which some emulient lawyers have contended against. As the court reminded the defendants that they had plundered their friends and neighbors just as certainly as did the man with a mask who entered in the night season and took by stealth or force the property or money of his victim, many bowed their honds.

As the court progressed all spirit of

levity disappeared. One man whispered something to a man standing bestder him. A while later the man returned and handed a box of cigars to the prisoner THE TENOR OF THE COURT'S RE-

MARKS HAD BEEN SUCH AS TO CONVINCE THE DEFENDANT THAT HE WOULD GO TO JAIL AND SO HE SOUGHT TO PROVIDE AGAINST TEDIOUS HOURS IN PRISON. The court was in earnest. Long before he pronounced the words which condemned the men to prison it was apparent that he intended to do so and

they were depressed accordingly. They had pleaded guilty unconditionally, however, and there is no apparent hope that they can escape the imprisThe Toledo News-Bee - Jan 17, 1912

### CITY DUNS THE COUNTY

The amount now due Toledo from Lucas county for care of county prisoners in the city workhouse aggregates \$60,000. The city charges outside counties 60 cents a day for each prisoner, and 40 cents each for Lucas county prisoners. The county refuses to pay the city anything. City Solicitor Schreiber will take up with the county authorities next week some settlement of the claim.

The Toledo News-Bee - Feb 19, 1918 JAIL, WORKS AND

## PRISON CROWDED

"Full house" is the problem at the Workhouse again. The normal capacity "over there" is 154 prisoners.

The sending over of 40 men on Monday boosted the amount to 219. And on Tuesday some 20 or 25 men were

tenced to the County Jail because of the crowded condition at the Work-

house. Now county officials are crying "full house" also. And nearly every day the cells at Central Police

Station are filled in excess of the ca-

pacity of 42.

committed to the workhouse. Many offenders have been senThe Toledo News-Bee - May 15, 1918

poor by a Council committee, of Station and workhouse are reported which Councilman Charles Scally is chairman. Bond issues to meet immediate repairs necessary will be recommended to Council,

-Conditions at the Central Police

WORKHOUSE TO COST \$90,000

New Plans Nearly Double Those Given First

The new stone workhouse, to be built or, C.c. Whitehouse farm this summer is to cost about \$19,000 or nearly twice the estimate supplied according to previous plans, which

avere pronounced unworkable.

To make up the deficit Finance Committee of Council on Wednesday night approved an additional issue of bonds for \$50,000, which Council may approve next Monday night There is about \$45,000 in a fund al ready available.

The new prison, when completed will be able to house 100 prisoners but it is not expected to abandon the present old workhouse immediately.

#### ESCAPE WORKHOUSE; THREE CAUGHT

Three negroes, alleged to have escaped from the Workhouse Farm at Whitehouse, were captured by Detectives Brown and Peters at 531 Center-st. The prisoners are Clar-

ence Lewis, Linton Horton and James Crawford, The former two live at the Center-st address, and Crawford lives on Canton-st.

All will be returned to the insti-

tution to serve out six months' sentences. Crawford, the detectives reported, dropped in on the other men for a call while the detectives were in the house.

## 300 MEN FILL **ROOMS FOR 75** IN WORKHOUSE

Prisoners Crowded Into Stuffy Rooms While Live Stock Is Comfortable

FARM IS WELL KEPT

Green Fields, New Sheds Contrast With Poor Quarters of Convicts

This is the first of a series on the Toledo workhouse. The second will appear in an early issue.

By ELMER WILLIAMS.
At Toledo's model workhouse farm there are two "bull pens."

One is the great white barn, an immaculate, clover-sweet building where "Joe," head of the Holstein herd, resides in stately contentment. The floor for his pen, which is about 20 feet square, is covered with more than a foot of clean, fresh straw. It is a wholesome and inviting

The other bull pen is in the main prison building, where at various times from 15 to 25 men are confined. The space for all of these human beings is just about the same as that provided for big Joc.

Of course, any normal person probably would prefer Joe's pen to the other. The men in the prison bull pen must go into a narrow cor-ridor at night and sleep on the floor. Between their bodies and the cold concrete there are thin straw mattresses

#### CURE FOR STUBBORNNESS.

Once upon a time, big Joe was a stubborn and refractory animal. But his environment has changed him. He is now a quiet, philosophic and amiable beast. The men in the prison bull pen also were stubborn and bad-tempered when sent there. Their environment has not changed them in the least.

Such is the lesson in reformation under present crowded conditions at the model workhouse.

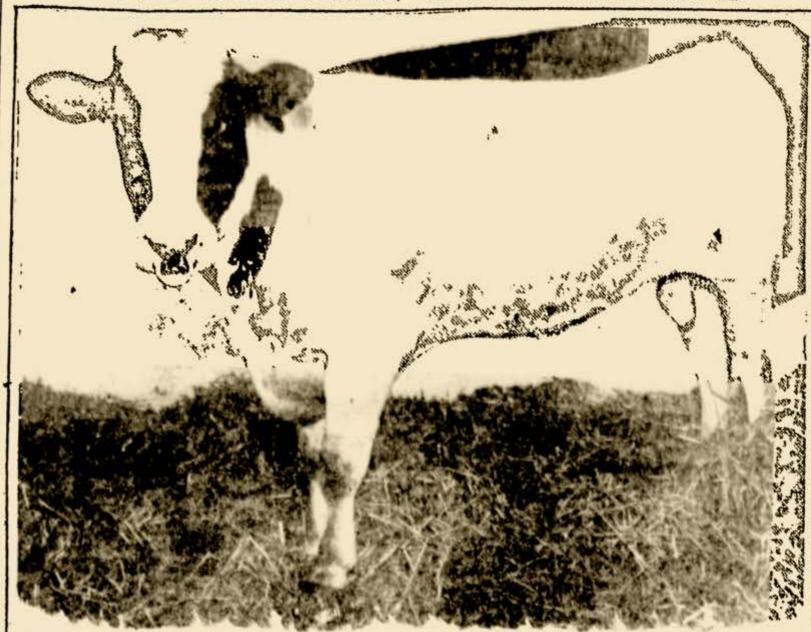
Only it wasn't intended that way originally. It was intended that the inmates, who, after all, are not vicious criminals or felons, should be given a chance thru proper environment and conditions. The farm ani-mals and vegetables have improved enormously, but the human beings

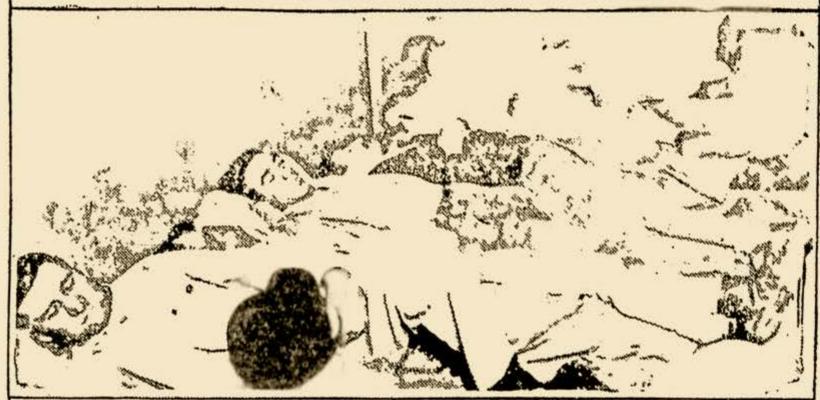
very little in proportion.

Superintendent Robert Byrne, one of the most humane and considerate of men, is among the first to He saw the place start under favor, able and encouraging conditions, scene to stir the imagination. and now, having returned as head confronting a situation that is al-

most impossible

### TWO BULL PENS; ONE IS HABITABLE





300 IN ROOMS FOR 75.

Under state health laws governing prisons, the three dormitories at the workhouse should not house more than 25 men each. Today there are about 300 inmates in these

Many buildings went up at the farm to increase the efficiency and make things more comfortable for house was completed. There are there is much spare time. wide, sanitary pens for each pig. The swine have shown, under such surroundings, an excellent capacity for development.

admit the facts. He was superin- Outside, the farm is pleasant to tendent out there eight years ago. the eye. Acres of wheat extend over gently undulating fields. It is a

But there are men who cultivate of the institution, he finds himself these acres of wheat. There are men who curry big Joe and keep his quarters spic-and-span. There are men who mow the long stretches of green grass.

When night comes these men enter the prison building. They enter dormitories that are stuffed with humanity. They lie down among closely crowded cots, or crawl up on double-deck bunks where there is layer on layer of men.

Four men must breathe the air which, according to the state laws, one man should have. Thus they share one another's nightmares.

#### NUMBER INCREASES.

oners increases. Of the 300 inmates at present, about 100 find employment outside the prison. About 50 are assigned to duty in the city, at the Safety building, Walbridge park and the contagious disease hospital. The others are confined in the "idle ward," or they do odd jobs about the stock. Not long ago a new pig the prison. For many, naturally,

In the past much was said about the "contract system," under which prisoners were accepted from six or seven outside counties at \$1 a day.

Former Welfare Director S. P. Jermain paroled many men from the workhouse because of extremely crowded conditions. The contract system, which at that time was one of the causes of congestion, was criticized and deplored. Yet the contract system goes on.

At any time the former welfare director, with 30 days notice, could have cancelled the contracts.

Early in January, after the present welfare director, John B. Merrell, took office, he made a survey of conditions and found that a large percentage of the inmates were there from outside counties on contract. There were 191 prisoners, only 70 of whom were from Toledo.

Superintendent Byrne at that time said the workhouse was hopelessly overcrowded and urged the cancellation of the contracts. Merrell also said that he opposed the contract system. He has made no new contracts, but the old agreements with outside towns and counties have not been cancelled.

Ine pictures at the top give an excellent comparison of prevail-Day by day the number of pris- ing conditions in Toledo's workhouse, where more than 300 men are confined in quarters suitable for 100 men. There are two bull pens, and Big Joe, the Holstein, occupies one. Observe his spacious, comfortable quarters, his amiable countenance, and then study the picture at the bottom showing the other "bull pen" where human beings sleep on concrete floors in squalid and unhealthful surround-

## Workhouse On Way Out

IF THERE really is a clear danger to inmates of the Toledo House of Correction, better known as the Workhouse, because of fire-safety shortcomings, then it must be corrected. But with a new five-county regional jail, of which Toledo is a partner, in the offing, it does not make economic sense to put a lot of money into improvements.

The issue arose because the Ohio fire marshal is reported ready to order major safetyrelated changes at the Workhouse, based on a survey of the facility in January. Also, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality is representing six inmates who are ready to file a lawsuit against the city, challenging conditions there.

Workhouse Superintendent Larry Cardwell estimates that it could cost as much as \$1 million to make all the improvements the state fire marshal has in mind. But, as Toledo director of natural resources William Scalzo suggested, the city should not be required to spend more than absolutely necessary on a facility that is at least 60 years old and may be closed within two years.

If all goes well, a modern regional jail, designed to serve Toledo and Lucas, Fulton, Defiance, Putnam, and Henry counties, will be constructed at Wauseon. Prisoners now detained at the Workhouse near Whitehouse would be incarcerated in the new jail. At that point the Workhouse presumably will be torn down or used for some other purpose which would make any improvements superfluous.

City officials say they are ready to install a smoke-detection and alarm system to facilitate quick evacuation of the premises in the event of fire. That much might make sense, but the city understandably is reluctant to spend \$225,000 for an elaborate sprinkler system in two buildings at the Workhouse and commit itself to other costly changes such as smoke-ventilation systems.

No one wants to equivocate when it comes to the safety of human beings, particularly those held in prison facilities. But common sense dictates a certain amount of realism in making changes in a jail facility whose days are numbered.



Is there a cardiologist in the house?

#### House of Correction vacated in 1991

#### Toledo Blade 4-3-14

#### Toledo Metroparks seeks bids for razing workhouse

#### BY JANET ROMAKER BLADE STAFF WRITER



Metroparks of the Toledo Area owns the former Toledo House of Correction that from 1918 to 1991 housed inmates found guilty of misdemeanors. The building near Whitehouse is a well-known site. THE BLADE/ANDY MORRISON

Enlarge | Buy This Photo

A building that housed prisoners at the Toledo House of Correction near Whitehouse is to be demolished in the coming months as part of the Metroparks of the Toledo Area's plans to develop the Blue Creek Conservation Area.

Bids will be sought this month to demolish the three-story structure, with work to begin in July or August.

The Toledo House of Correction operated from 1918 until 1991 and housed people serving sentences for misdemeanor crimes. The inmates grew vegetables, raised hogs and cattle, and quarried limestone on the farm.

Commonly called the workhouse, some neighbors call it an eyesore.

#### PHOTO GALLERY: Former Toledo House of Correction near Whitehouse

Some people might be interested in trying to save the old building, such as to transform it into an antique shop, but the daughter of a former workhouse guard

commented that that wouldn't be appealing to many.

"Who has fond memories of that place?" asked Susan Bechtel, who lives near Whitehouse.

Her late father, Art Romaker, was a guard there for 10 to 15 years, Mrs. Bechtel recalled Wednesday afternoon when told about plans to demolish it.

The workhouse was popular with some prisoners who would, as stories go, commit crimes at times carefully chosen to match the season.

"They would commit a crime so they could winter over in the workhouse," Mrs. Bechtel recalled. The House of Correction didn't house killers, she said, but rather people found guilty of being drunk and disorderly, maybe those late on child-support payments — "low-level crimes" she said.

Teens have been known to spin tales of ghosts, jangling handcuffs or chains, wandering about and walking through thick cell walls. More than one area resident has scrambled to take a peek inside the place, either on a dare or on a mission to capture workhouse ghosts on video.

Several other buildings on the Workhouse property will remain. They include a large white barn and a smaller, stone hog barn. A building that once housed a gymnasium and dormitories is now the base of operations for the Metroparks native-seed nursery and other land management operations, said Scott Carpenter, spokesman for the Metroparks.



Enlarge

Signs and other displays on the site will inform future park visitors of the property's past as a working prison farm.

Representatives from the Toledo Police Museum are collecting items from the jail for possible display in the museum, located at

Toledo's Ottawa Park.

Metroparks purchased 207 acres of the property, then known as Quarry Pond Farm, from the city of Toledo in 2000 to preserve it as public open space. The park system purchased an additional 137 acres from Lucas County in 2002.

Portions of the property are leased to the village of Whitehouse, and the Anthony Wayne Youth Foundation uses part of it for recreation fields. The Metroparks district operates part of the farm in partnership with Nature's Nursery wildlife rehabilitation center and the Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District.

A portion of Blue Creek, on the south side of Schadel Road, has been open for daily public use since March, 2013, with a walking trail and a quarry pond available for fishing.

In 1990, Toledo City Council agreed to shut down most of the workhouse, but the guards, operating under the name Citizens for Adequate Jails and Justice, secured more than 20,000 signatures on petitions to place the issue on the ballot.

Just ahead of the November election, an editorial in The Blade called the 70-year-old House of Correction a "depressing dump," and urged voters to support city council's decision to close the place down as a jail.

Voters, by a slim margin, repealed council's closing ordinance, but the city maintained that, vote or no vote, it lacked funds to operate the workhouse and the vote neither mandated its operation nor provided operating funds.

Contact Janet Romaker at: jromaker@theblade.com or 419-724-6006.

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### The Columbus Dispatch

>> Hot Links:

**OHIO PARKS** 

## Old workhouse near Toledo will be torn down; conservation area planned there

Monday April 21, 2014 6:18 AM

Comments: o

15

TOLEDO — A building that once housed prisoners in northwestern Ohio is to be demolished, with the site to be used for a conservation area.

The former Toledo House of Correction near the village of Whitehouse operated from 1918 until 1991 and housed people serving sentences for misdemeanor crimes. Inmates at the correction facility, commonly known as the workhouse, grew vegetables, raised hogs and cattle, and quarried limestone on the farm.

Metroparks of the Toledo Area plans to demolish the three-story building this summer and develop the site as the Blue Creek



REQUEST TO BUY THIS PHOTO ANDY MORRISON | THE BLADE

This summer, Toledo Metroparks plans to demolish a building called the workhouse near Whitehouse and develop the site.

Conservation Area. The parks system purchased 207 acres of the property, then known as Quarry Pond Farm, from the city of Toledo in 2000 to preserve it as public open space. Metroparks purchased an additional 137 acres from Lucas County two years later.

Whitehouse has leased some of the property, and a youth foundation uses part of it for recreation fields. The Metroparks district also operates part of the farm in partnership with a wildlife rehabilitation center and the Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District.

A portion of Blue Creek has been open for daily public use since March 2013, with a walking trail and a fishing pond.

Susan Bechtel, the daughter of a former guard at the House of Correction, said few people would be interested in trying to save the old building.

"Who has fond memories of that place?" asked Bechtel, who lives near Whitehouse.

Her late father, Art Romaker, worked as a guard there for 10 to 15 years, she said.

The House of Correction didn't house people convicted of murder or other violent crimes, she said. It mostly housed inmates found guilty of "low-level crimes" such as being drunk and disorderly or those late on child-support payments, and some tried to match the timing of their crimes to the season, Bechtel said.

"They would commit a crime so they could winter over in the workhouse," Bechtel recalled.

Several other buildings on the property, including two barns, will remain. A building that once housed a gymnasium and dormitories is now the base of operations for the Metroparks' native-seed nursery and other land management operations, Metroparks spokesman Scott Carpenter said.

Plans call for signs and other displays informing park visitors of the property's past as a working prison farm. Representatives from the Toledo Police Museum are collecting items from the jail for possible display in the museum at Toledo's Ottawa Park.

The Toledo City Council agreed in 1990 to shut down most of the workhouse. But the guards secured more than 20,000 signatures on petitions to place the issue on the ballot, and voters repealed the council's closing ordinance.

The city then said it lacked money to operate the workhouse and that the vote neither mandated its operation nor provided operating funds.