RATS AS SENTINELS.

THE TRICK WORKED BY CRIMINALS IN AN PHIO PRISON.

Convicts Who Trained hars to Give Warning of the Approach or Respers While They Sawed Their Cell Bars ... Sheriff Rewarded For Vigilance.

A story told by W. R. Ryan, an old Ohio sheriff, illustrates the ingenuity of criminals Ryan was sheriff of Cuyahoga county for several years and refused a third or fourth nomination for the office for the reason that the county mil to Cleveland was so old and dilapidated that the watching of the 70 or 80 prisoners was more of a job than he cared to keep. While he was still in charge a notorious criminal named Fester and an accomplice were convicted and sentenced to a long term of im-prisonment in the Ohio penitentiary. At that time the jail was crowded, and Sheriff Ryan was compelled to place both convicted men in the same cell.

The sheriff lived in the county building, and on the night following the conviction of Foster he went to bed soon after supper, intending to get up early the next morning and take the two prisoners to the penitentiary. About midnight he awoke with a start. He was trembling violently and was convinced that toouble was brewing in the

jail. "There's something wrong in the jail." he said to his wife, "and I'll bet Foster is about ready to break out. I'm going down stairs to look around.

Dressing himself, be put a revolver into his pocket and noiselessly went down to the chief jailer's room on the first floor Abe Abrams, his deputy, was guarding the jail door.

"What's the matter?" asked Abrams. "What's wrong in the jail?" returned the sheriff.

"Nothing." replied Abrams. "Haven't you heard the noise of saws?" asked Ryan.

Nope, and they ain't been working, or I'd heard 'em, as I've been laying mighty quiet."

Ryan was suspicious and listened attentively at the jail door. There was no noise except an occasional snore of one

of the prisoners.
"Abe," said Ryan, "I'm certain Foster and his pal are up to mischief. I've been feeling it in my bones all night, and I'm going to speak in two tiers under their cell and listen.

He opened the jail door noiselessly and crept through the jail until he was under Foster's cell. He had not made the slightest noise. Of that he was certain. He breathed regularly and with as little noise as possible, and he could not detect a sound which indicated that an effort was being made to saw the cell bars. Nevertheless, he could not get rid of his suspicion and remained there perfectly quiet until 5 o'clock. Then he went to breaktast, called a deputy and, placing the handcuffs and leg trons on Foster and his confederate, prepared to take them to Columbus or an early train.

'As soon as we leave," said the sheriff to Abrams, "you search the cell and telegraph me the result at Colum-

When Columbus was reached about noon, this message was handed to Ryan: Found two dozen fine file saws in cell. Ryan handed the telegram to the

prisoners, and when they read it they "You see, boys, that you may be

pretty foxy, but you couldn't beat the old man," said the sheriff. "That's right," said Foster; "but

what made you come into the jail last night and stay so long? Who put you "Nobody," answered Ryan. "I just

guessed it. But how did you know I was there? Did you hear me?' "Not a sound. You made a quiet

meak for such a big man," said Fos-

ter s pal.

"Then how did you know I was there?" persisted the sheriff.

"Now, see here, Mr. Ryan," replied Foster. "We're in for a long term, and if you will put a good word in for us

we'll tell you our secret."
"Agreed!" said Ryan. "Well, where we got the saws is either here nor there and none of your business," said Foster, "but we knew you were watching us and knew that if we wanted to give you the slip we would have to exercise more than ordinary or human vigilance. Now, the jail is full of rats, and jail rats, having been killed so often by way of amuse ment for the prisoners, are timid. Rats like meat. We saved some of our meat at supper every night and scattered it in front of the cell. The rats soon realized that we meant them no harm, and after a number of experiments they would allow one of us to feed them while the other worked. Rats have a keener sense of bearing than men, and if an outsider should appear they would run. Well, when you sneaked into the jail last night we didn't hear you, but the rats did. They scampered and we quit. When you left, the rats returned, but it was too late then, and the game

The records of county commissioners show that on the following day a requishow that on the following day a requisition was received from the sheriff's office calling for two dozen rat traps and a case of rat poison. Pigeonholed in the prosecuting attorney's office is an indictment entitled "State of Ohio versus Rodent, for aiding and abetting the attempted escape of certain prisoners of the state from the county jail of Cuyahoga county, state of Ohio." This charge nover came to trial, and the defendants suffered capital requisible prisoners. iants suffered capital punish mever captured without even a hearing.—Cleveland Letter.

Applause.

d having declared in Mrs. Sid-ring that applause was neces-tors—that it gave them confi-

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E. NEFF.

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ger trains will arrive and depart from Falls. Creek station, daily, except Sunday, as follows:

2.25 a m and 1.40 p m for Curwensville and Clearfield.

9.48 a m-Rochester mail-For Brockwayville, Ridgway, Johnsonburg, Mt. Jewett, Bradford, Salamanca, and Rochester: connecting at Johnsonburg with P. & E. train 3. for Wilcox, Kane, Warren, Corry and Eric

10.27 a m-Accommodation-For Sykes, Big Run and Punxsutawney.

10.28 a m-For Reynoldsville.

1.15 p m-Buffalo Express-For Beechtree, Brockwayville, Ellmont, Carmon, Ridgway, Johnsonburg, Mt. Jewett Bradford, and Buffalo.

1.25 p. m.—Accommodation for Punxsutawney and Big Run

4.10 p. m.—Mail—For DuBols, Sykes, Big Run Punxsutawney and Clearfield.

7.40 p. m.—Accommodation for Big Run and Punxsutawney.

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