## Thursday, April 13, 1939.

# 17,000 CHECKS OF STATE, LOST, MISUSED YEARLY

Harrisburg — More than 17,000 checks of the Commonwealth — or about seven dollars, has declined sharpcourse of a year-are lost, stolen, mis-laid, destroyed, or otherwise misused every 12 months, according to a detailed study of Department work just announced by State Treasurer F. Clair Ross.

Carelessness and petty theivery are chiefly the blame, the study shows, although complanints range all the way from those of an individual who tossed three State checks into a fire by mistake, to the simple and unadorned "rubber check" nuisance.

Straightening out this tangle: tracking down elusive drafts; rerouting them to proper destinations; bringing theives and forgers to justice; correcting honest errors; righting misunderstandings, re-issuing lapsed checks, etc. keeps three reconciliation units and a Bureau of Investigation busy in his Department, Treasurer Ross pointed out

Direct relief checks go astray at the rate of about 500 a month, the report shows. Chief cause is petty thieverychecks stolen from hallway mailboxes, especially in tenement dwellings. But theft of these drafts, which average about seven dollars, has declined sharply since drastic treatment of relief chiselers has focused attention on recipients of these payments.

The past nine months prought investigation of nearly 5,000 checks issued in payment of Unemployment Compensation, according to the State Treasurer who disburses these drafts and who is charged with investigation of irregularities. In more than 700 of these cases definite indications of larceny or forgery sent the cases into court; and in all but two, offenders were convicted.

The majority of investigations in this classification, however, are made unnecessary by honest errors on the part of the recipients, in the opinion prisoners whose sentences are 18 monof Treasurer Ross. In other cases, however, a wife or child will receive a job insurance check and cash it without and North and South Dakota. Bennett telling the husband or father to whom it is drawn. In such instances no legal less than fees now paid to counties action is brought if restitution is made for boarding federal prisoners. and if a release is signed by the payee.

Carelessness accounts for the loss of many checks drawn against the Gen-eral Fund. Most of them are to pay per diem highway workers. Their relation to the service rendered, and in per diem highway workers. Their them cases sheriffs make a handsome the following described real estate: Carelessness accounts for the loss of mit the sheriff to charge the county lost. There is seldom any irregularity in their disappearance and few cases require prosecution.

Another duty of the Reconciliation Bureau is re-issuance of lapsed checks. These appear at the rate of about \$300 a month, Treasurer Ross says. They range in value from one cent to \$3000 and represent checks, given in payment for petty bills of the State, which recipients neglect to cash within the 60day limit fixed by the Commonwealth. They are usually presented shortly after the expiration date and are reissued without protest if found to be still in order.

The State's crop of "rubber checks" is of the ordinary garden variety. They usually come from misguided individuals who issued them to meet a tax or fee payment deadline without sufficient funds in the bank.

### ADMINISTRATRIX'S NOTICE.

Estate of Ella Mansfield, late of the Borough of Chest Springs, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, deceased. Letters of administration on said estate have been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted therete are requested to make immediate payTHE UNION PRESS-COURIER

to "kangaroo courts" and inadequate sanitary facilities in county jails, Ben-nett said, that encouraged the federal govenrnment to expad its prison system.

"The average county jail is an anachronism in our modern social struc-ture," he said. "It survives through the indifference of the public and be cause of a shortsightedness which would exploit the offender.

"By and large most county jails lack proper sanitary facilities; young and old, the sick and the well, the guilty and the innocent are allowed to mingle indiscriminately.

"In few jails is any effort whatsoever made to rehabilitate the prisoner provide him with a modicum of work or improve his pyysical and mental condition. It was because of these conditions that the federal government upon its program of establishing its own regional jails."

## ARGUMENT OVER **BOUNDARY ENDS** WITH SHOOTING

One man is a patient in Spangler Hospital and another is lodged in Indiana County jail as a result of a dispute late last Thursday afternoon over boundary lines of some lands in Montogomery Township, Indiana County, between Cherry Tree and The dispute ended in the Hillsdale. shooting of Harry E. Walker, 30, a Cherry Tree WPA worker, who was taken to Miners Hospital at 7:45 o'clock last Thurday evening by Chief of Po-lice J. S. Irwin of Cherry Tree.

The victim was not seriously in jured, hospital attaches said although doctors and nurses worked for hours removing shotgun pellets from his head face and shoulders. The prisoner is Dempsey McCreary, 57, also of Cherry Tree, who is alleged to have shot Walker for encroaching upon the Mc-Creary ground.

#### Orphans' Court Sale.

In the Orphans' Court of Cambria County Pennsylvania.

In the Estate of Matthew Montgom said upkeep of the prison will cost ery, late of Clearfield Township, Cambria County, Pennsylvania.

By virtue of an order of the Orphans' Court of Cambria County, "The laws in many juricdictions per-

All that certain piece or parcel of smith shop, barn and other farm Dullareasonably decent food, medical treat-ment, etc., and pocket the amount be-of Clearfield, Cambria County, Penn-Matthew Montgomery, deceased. Title ment, etc., and pocket the amount be-tween the cost of operating the jail and the fee received from the county." of Clearfield, Cambria County, Penn-sylvania, adjoining lands of Neason heirs, M. J. Cupples and Gerald Montgomery, deceased, by deed from It was such conditions, in addition- Adams, containing three acres and sev- John Montgomery, dated 21st July, 1921, cent of the purchase price when the Patton, Pa.

enty seven perches, having thereon er-ected a frame dwelling house, plack-smith shop, barn and other farm puice-smith shop, barn and other farm puice-

PATTON AUTO CO.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to con-tinue the sale.

Administrator of Matthew Montgomery Reuel Somerville.

TERMS OF SALE: Twenty five per

William R. Platt.

Attorney for Administrator,



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New Bodles by Fisher

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Juliette Marglen, Hollywood beau-

tician, is a fingernail expert. She

should know her business, as her

own nails are between three and

four inches long, and she seldom even chips one. Her fingernail hos-

there for nail repairs to avoid de-lays in production schedule.

CORRECTIONAL FEDERAL

JAIL WILL BE SET UP

Washington - Some sheriffs make

"handsome" profits by supplying infer-ior foods and medical treatment to

prisoners in county jails, James V.

Bennett, federal director of prisons,

charged last week in a statement an-

nouncing opening of a new federal cor-

rectional institution at Sandstone,

The \$826,500 institution, with ac-

comodations for 500 convicts will house

ths or less, principally from the states

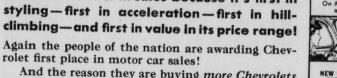
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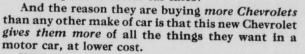
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PATTON, PENNA.

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