

Convict Life in Auburn.

Gambling, says a Syracuse Courier, is carried on in Auburn Prison to a great extent. The convicts do not use cards, as one would suppose—those are too liable to detection. They bet on events, changes of the weather, the time of day, and everything of that character. They also "odd and even," "flip," "match," "roll," "throw for the crack," and the like.

Convicts are not supposed to carry money, but they do, just the same, and sometimes considerable. They sew their money up in their clothing, and it is seldom that it is discovered. Occasionally a man will be found with \$10 or \$20 in coins in his coat collar or other parts of his clothing. There are pawnbrokers and money-lenders.—These criminal shysters are more exacting than the "uncles" of the street. If a keeper or guard can be "bought," the convicts will pay him a good salary right along to perform services for them, such as bringing in papers, tobacco and edibles and taking out letters. Some convicts keep up a regular correspondence with friends outside.

The New York morning papers reach Auburn at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and the same day the convicts may be found reading the news of the day "on the sly," in their cells. How the prisoners secure newspapers is a mystery to many. The foreman of the shops, or perhaps, the officers, bring them in. The convicts will give a great deal for New York papers, and they will have them at any price.—The prisoners keep well posted on the events of the day, and discuss with intelligence any subject that is being treated in the papers. The men are bartering constantly, and some become possessed of considerable "property," which, however, they must at all times keep concealed.

Not so very long ago an enterprising convict established a distillery in the prison and engaged in the manufacture of liquor. He excavated beneath a stone in the floor of the kitchen, where he was employed, and set a small tube in the hole. With hops used in making yeast and corn and barley used in making bread and soup, he produced a potation that would intoxicate. Drunkenness became quite prevalent, and finally the distillery was discovered and the "moonshiner" was put in the prison jail on bread and water. While he ran the distillery he did well and would, in a short time, have been comparatively wealthy.—"Beer," as it is called, is made to this day from bread crusts, but the makers have to exercise caution. One man had raised a quantity of tomatoes on the window sill of his shop and sold the crop for a large sum.

The Law's Delay.

A New York letter says: The "how not to do it" system pervades the law courts of this city, which are all disgracefully slow and behind with their work. Civil cases sometimes linger for years till both plaintiff and defendant forget all about them or settle matters amicably out of court. The courts sit only a few hours per day, and there are adjournments over Saturday and Sunday, and a long, long vacation every year.

Even when there is a rush of business the death of a petty judge or superannuated lawyer whom the public cannot be expected to care two cents about is sufficient to provoke an adjournment over the funeral on the motion of some counsel anxious to get off for a holiday. It would seem that until the vast arrears of work are got through, judges should sit every day a reasonable number of hours and show the public and taxpayers that they mean to earn their big salaries.

Criminal law is a little quicker than civil but still lamentably slow. Murderers taken red-handed lie in the Tombs awaiting trial until their crimes are forgotten. A bank burglar sentenced to twenty years in the State prison over twelve years ago still lies in the Tombs waiting till the district attorney is ready to argue some point of law raised by the counsel. A reputed Manhattan Bank burglar has been nine months in prison, and when his attorney moved for his trial or release the other day the district attorney said he was not quite prepared to go on, and set a day next week when he would be prepared to name a day for the trial.

Murder and Suicide.

DETROIT, Sept. 20.—A terrible tragedy occurred at the residence of Andrew Tiffany, about two miles west of Junesville, Hillsdale county, on Saturday afternoon.—Henry Lindley, a hired man in the employ of Mr. Tiffany, who is supposed to have conceived a passion for his employer's second daughter, Alice, called on her and shot her, killing her instantly. Lindley then blew his own brains out, falling with the weapon under him. The only cause known to which the crime can be attributed is unrequited love. The murdered girl was eighteen years old. She and Lindley were alone in the house at the time of the tragedy, the parents being in a neighboring county visiting the grave of a dead daughter. On their return home they found Alice and Lindley both dead.—Alice had refused to marry Lindley who had worked for her father three years.—She, it is said, was married to a man who is now in the State prison, and when Lindley shot her she was engaged in writing to her husband. After shooting her it seems Lindley walked down stairs and ended his own life as stated.

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