

Tales of Convict

Jokesters

Stena walls do not a prison make, but from bars a case, so far as the humorist is concerned. This was abundantly shown recently by the disclosure that inmates of the Missouri State Penitentiary had perpetrated many hoaxes upon the outside public through the medium of letter writing. With time hanging heavy on their hands, many of these convicts, and public letter writers, and they have proposed marriage to girls that they have never seen, have ordered goods beyond their ability to pay, and have entered into negotiations for the purchase of large tracts of land—all with an income of \$1.50 a month from the state of Missouri pays them for their enforced toil.

There are 2,772 men in the state penitentiary at Jefferson City, and they are allowed to write two letters each, says the Kansas City "Star." It makes a total of some fifty-five letters that probably go out from the prison each week. Practically every letter bears this return address on the envelope: "Box 47, Jefferson City, Mo."

Everyone in Jefferson City knows that Box 47 means, and probably, at least many persons throughout the state, but just as probably, there are many more thousands and tens of thousands who have not the slightest idea that Box 47 is not the address of a large factory in Jefferson City or a mercantile house, or some kind of the sort.

There are factories inside the prison grounds, several of them, and that gives the men ideas they put into letters to impressionable girls whom they have never seen.

"I am so busy in my shoe factory that I cannot get away at present to come to see you," the convicts write, with their tongues in their cheeks, and the thrilled girls at the other end of the line tell their friends about the rich unknown friend they have made in Jefferson City.

Or, if the prisoner is a little more modest in his ideas of impersonation, he will say:

"I am working in the factory at one of our most, dearest, and saving my money."

Of course the girl thinks the "one of our most" means \$150 and is glad she has won an honest, sensible, hard-working man, when the facts are that the "one of our most" means \$1.50 and the prisoner is "working hard" because the State of Missouri is compelling him to do so. Sometimes a postscript is put on the letters that says:

"Of course, I am getting all expenses, including an allowance for board and room."

Then, too, there often will be this promise:

"I certainly will come and see you as soon as I get away."

This, really, is not quite such a compliment as the recipient of the letter imagines it to be, but she does not know that.

Once, fairly recently, an inmate returned that received the careful attention of the prison mail clerk, and "litters" at the penitentiary were reading the Sunday papers and noticed in the society columns the announcement of an important social event at a large Missouri city. The next day the society girl whose parents had given the party received a letter from "Box 47, Jefferson City, Mo."

"I know you will recall meeting me," the unknown writer said. "There was such a crowd at your recent reception that I did not have a chance to have the little talk with you I desired so much, therefore, I know you will not think it presumptuous of me to write."

The letter then gave elaborate details of the house, the arrangements of the rooms, the furniture of each, the decorative effects, etc., and it was patent that any one who had been in the house could have written the letter.

The young girl replied to "Box 47" readily, and then a rapid correspondence sprang up. The mail was so crowded as "the heavy rush of business at the factory would permit," and the romance was going ahead swimmingly in every respect.

When a cabinet-sized photograph with the imprint of a nationally known photographer arrived at Box 47 for the prisoner the mail clerk opened it, of course. He saw therein the face of a beautiful girl, young, innocent, with eyes of trust and confidence in her smile.

Next he got into the game. He looked up the number of the prisoner and found that the man was a negro who had served three terms for an unimpeachable offense and now was on life on the same charge. He told the negro before him.

"Why do you start writing to this girl and do it as familiarly as you do?" he was asked.

"I wanted to be getting letters from her, and I knew if I just wrote to her I would get them," the man replied.

"How did you know the details of her house?" the mail clerk persisted.

"How could you fool her?" the man replied.

"Well, you see," the negro said, "I did a little business in that town once and her

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NEW Fall SUITS Attractive in Style and Price

Our new stock of Suits for men embodies all the style features of the best Ready-to-wear Suits of the season, and we have a big variety to select from. There are Tweeds, Worsteds, Cashmeres, Serges, etc., in the most likeable patterns. We direct your attention to the lines below which are offered at very special reductions Friday and Saturday.

MEN'S NAVY SERGE SUITS—The ideal suit for fall and winter wear, so smartly stylish, so dainty in appearance, so comfortable, and above all, so extremely serviceable that you'll wonder why we offer them at so low a price; sizes 4, 5, 6 and 7. Reg. \$27.00 suit. Friday & Saturday \$24.00

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MEN'S RAGLANS—New English. Coats, just opened, made with stylish label collar and belt. Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42. Regular \$13.00 each. Friday & Saturday \$10.50

MEN'S FANCY OXFORD SHIRTS—In assorted stripes; neck bands and soft double cuffs. Sizes 14 to 16½. Regular \$2.75 each. Friday & Saturday \$2.50

MEN'S HALF HOSE—Grey, Fawn and Black, all Wool. Half Hose of excellent quality. Sizes 10, 10½ and 11. Regular 50c. Friday and Saturday 69c.

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MEN'S SHIRTS—Tunic style with stiff neck band and soft double cuff. A choice selection of neat stripes. Sizes 14 to 16. Regular \$1.75 each. Friday & Saturday \$1.60

MEN'S GREY FLANNEL SHIRTS—Good roomy sizes, from 14 to 16½. Made with collar attached to button at the points. Regular \$3.25 each. Friday & Saturday \$2.90

MEN'S TWEED SUITS—Assorted patterns of Dark and Mid-Grey, all new just opened; all sizes. Regular \$14.50 each. Friday and Saturday \$12.50



PLAID COTTON BLANKETS—Heavy fleecy quality, in assorted checks of various colors. Size 66 x 80 inches. Regular \$7.80 pair. Friday and Saturday \$6.75

GREY COTTON BLANKETS—With Pink or Blue bordered borders. Real good quality at their regular price. Size 54 x 74 inches. Regular \$3.80 pair. Friday & Saturday \$2.95

WHITE COTTON BLANKETS—With Pink or Blue borders. Exceptionally good quality. Reg. \$3.70 pair. Friday and Saturday \$3.25

WOMEN'S SILKETTE HOSE—In Browns, Fawns, Greys and Heather mixtures; a real good quality and suitable weight for early Fall wear. Regular 55c. pair. Friday and Saturday 48c.

WOMEN'S BLACK AND BROWN COTTON HOSE—Hard wearing quality in fine plain make. Special for Friday and Saturday 18c.

CHILDREN'S BROWN RIBBED HOSE—Extra long length, strongly reinforced toes and heels. Sizes 6, 6½ and 7. Regular 23c. pair. Friday and Saturday 19c.

WOMEN'S HOSE—In Dark and Fancy mixtures. The newest shades. All sizes. Regular \$1.25 pair. Friday and Saturday \$1.10

WOMEN'S STANFELDS' VESTS—Medium weight, with round high neck and three-quarter sleeves. Finished with silk croch edging. Sizes 36 to 42. Regular \$1.35 each. Friday and Saturday \$1.08

WOMEN'S CANTON CREPE JUMPERS—In Copenhagen, Black and Sand, Brown, Navy, Black and Fawn. Beautifully trimmed with embroidery and beads in panel effects, in shades that contrast. Long and short sleeves; round or roll collars. Sizes 36 to 44. Regular \$4.50. Friday and Saturday \$3.35

WOMEN'S APRONS—Extra quality White Lawn in plain or with bib tucked and embroidered. Regular \$1.10 each. Friday and Saturday 89c.

MISSES' WHITE COTTON CORSETS—For sizes from 9 to 15 years. Made with straps at shoulders, hose supporters, and serviceably bound with fine white tape. Regular \$1.35 pair. Friday and Saturday \$1.19

MISSES' WHITE COTTON CORSETS—Medium bust styles with long hips, nicely trimmed with embroidery and finished with four strong hose suspenders. Sizes 21 to 30 inches. Regular \$1.40 pair. Friday and Saturday \$1.18

MISSES' WHITE UNDERWEAR—Medium weight fleecy vests, of good wearing quality, finished with white tape at neck and down the front. Sizes 34 to 40. Regular 75c. each. Friday and Saturday 62c.

WOMEN'S FANCY SILK & WOOL JUMPERS—Shades of Sand, Jade, Orchid, Honeydew, Copenhagen, also Black and White; made in roll collar and round neck styles, with trimmings of White Silk military braid. Regular \$3.25 each. Friday and Saturday \$3.25

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home was one that I went in, and I remembered how it looked."

The photograph was returned to the girl, with a brief note telling her the facts, as easily and as sympathetically as possible. "It probably took her a long time to get over it, but it showed the folly of writing to someone whom one cannot place."

There was another case where a widow with four children appeared at the prison doors one morning and asked "to see the factory." She would not at first believe it when she was told it was the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Cleaner London

Marked Improvement in People's Health—The Crossing Steeper 1914 appears.

Visitors to London whose previous experience of the capital was gained in pre-war days make no secret of their surprise at the marked change in the appearance of the people and the condition of the streets to-day. All the health reports issued by the various London municipal bodies record a steady improvement directly resulting from greater cleanliness in transport, industry, building construction, and the personal habits of the community generally. Tar spraying of macadam roads prevent the dust clouds that formerly caused residents to keep windows closed in summer, and the close attention to road surfaces in all parts of London renders it possible for pedestrians to get about in wet weather without treading mud and filth wherever they go. Vacuum cleaning of interiors, and the exterior washing of buildings under high pressure steam are striking examples of the scientific methods that have replaced the mop and pail. Public conveyances to-day are in striking contrast to the old ramshackle "four-wheelers," the underground dirt-begrimed "thirds," or the old horse-drawn omnibus and tram-cars. Food handling is far more cleanly now than market porters are compelled to wear washable clothing. Decaying refuse, which was once so noticeable in the streets around Smithfield, Billingsgate and Covent Garden, is a thing of the past, and even in the poorer street markets the stall owners are compelled by the local authorities to clear away any waste matter which may have fallen from their stalls. Dairy men have discarded the germ-carrying milk can in favour of the sealed glass vessel for the purpose of distribution; meat and fish are no longer wrapped in old newspapers, laundries are compelled to conform to strict sanitary regulations, and barbers are also obliged to observe greater cleanliness in regard to their stalls and premises. Municipal baths have encouraged an ever-increasing number of young people to cultivate habits of cleanliness, as well as to acquire the art of swimming since this has become part of the curriculum in the schools. Health visitors attached to the borough councils constantly investigate the domestic conditions of the more congested districts. The clearance of slums in the central areas has caused scores of thousands to migrate to the model dwellings of the outer suburbs. Even the casual abatement of common lodging houses live in cleaner surroundings since the old type of "doss-house" disappeared. As the rebuilding of London progresses the authorities have become aware of the extent of the danger to public health resulting from neglect to destroy the vast colonies of rats and other vermin which infest old premises. "Rat Week" was a combined effort on the part of the municipal authorities, in co-operation with the people in Central London, to reduce the rat population. These estates largely in those areas where stables or food stores encouraged the vermin to colonise. The conversion of stables into garages has also helped to reduce the rat population, and the disappearance of the manure heaps tends to mitigate the plague of flies which was formerly so noticeable in every London house during summer. The disappearance of the crossing-sweeper and the reduction in the number of shoe blacks and chimney sweeps can be easily understood when we compare London today with the conditions prevailing a generation ago.

man, wife of the First Lord of the Admiralty, and the Nelson left the stays without a hitch to the accompaniment of loud cheering and the blowing of sirens from the numerous craft on the river afterwards.

Mr. Bridgeman, in a speech at the subsequent reception, said lest it should be thought that with the launching of the Nelson the country was starting a new competition in armaments, he could assure them that that ship and her sister ship the Rodney, now building at Birkenhead were provided for under the Washington Convention, and that when they were completed four other ships would go out of commission.

So long as there were armaments in the world, we, first of all the nations, must never let our strength at sea go down. The Nelson must be looked upon as a guarantee of the peace of the world.

Sir Eustace D'Eyncourt said the vessel had been building for about two and a half years, and it was hoped to finish her in about twelve months. He urged that something should be done to meet foreign competition in shipbuilding if we were not to lose our supremacy in that direction.

The Nelson, when completed, will be the world's most powerful warship, and will carry the heaviest artillery afloat. Her main armament will be nine 16 in. guns in triple turrets and 12 6 in. guns on the broadside.

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Red Chillies.
Ground Turmeric.
Cayenne Pepper.
Paprika.
Whole Black and White Pepper.
Ground Chow Chow Spice.
Whole Mace.
Whole Cinnamon.
Bay Leaves.
Dried Chillies.

Honey Dew Melons.
Blue Dessert Plums.
Fresh Pineapple.
Dessert Apples.
California Oranges.
Palermo Lemons.
Ripe Bananas.
Grape Fruit.

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