

COMMUTATION FOR YOUTHFUL SLAYERS SENTENCED TO DIE

Pardon Board Gives Coursey Thirty Years, Duffield Fifteen

They Held Up and Killed Karl Kellman in Camden, Wilson Heads Board

Special to The Inquirer.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 23.—Apparently with the Christmas thought, "peace on earth, good will toward men" in mind, the New Jersey Court of Pardons, sitting for the last time with President-elect Wilson, met here this afternoon and took action that will not only result in the saving of the lives of the Camden youths, but that will also return them to liberty in a comparatively few years. Frederick Coursey and Harry Duffield, each of whom is less than 21 years of age, were the two boys who had been sentenced to die in the electric chair four days after Christmas.

They had attended a motion picture show and tried to imitate one of the films by holding up and killing Karl Kellman, a youth. The court today changed Coursey's sentence from death to thirty years' imprisonment and Duffield was sentenced to fifteen years.

Ford Goes to Chair

The case of Charles Ford, also of Camden, was considered, but his appeal was dismissed and he will be electrocuted. The man killed his paramour, Effie Wagner.

William Leist, a Newark drug clerk, whose mistake in filling a prescription caused a patient's death, was granted a parole. He is now in the Rahway Reformatory for manslaughter.

A parole was granted Leander J. Smith, of Atlantic county. The man was first sentenced to death, but this was commuted to life imprisonment and now he will go free.

Paroles were also granted to these murderers: Paul Bernack, Essex county, manslaughter, 10 years; Philemon B. Crelin, Essex county, 20 years; Domenica Scalla, Essex, 3 years; William Schneider, Essex, 5 years; Casimer Teresnick, Hudson, 20 years; Bartholomew Sorroco, Passaic, 20 years; Patrick Carroll, Hudson county, paroled in 1891, restored to citizenship.

Many Get Liberty

A number of other prisoners from all parts of the State and serving short terms were granted conditional freedom. Governor Wilson did not relish today's proceedings and so expressed himself to the newspaper men, when he said: "It pulls at the sympathies so." He had arranged today's meeting so that any convicts freed would be able to get home by Christmas.

There was much local interest in the cases of David H. Brand, in prison for abetting arson, and John Sykes, a lawyer, serving time for misappropriating clients' funds. Neither were shown clemency.

EXPRESS SATISFACTION AT PARDON OF YOUTHS

Aside from those immediately concerned with the family of the unfortunate youth, Karl Kellmann, who met death at the hands of the two youths, the commutation of the death sentences imposed on Coursey and Duffield to imprisonment, was received in Camden last night with general satisfaction.

While the murder of Kellmann was absolutely without excuse or provocation, the fact that the defendants are so young and also that they were in such a state that they were hardly accountable for their murderous act, it was the belief that neither boy would go to the

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electric chair next week, the time set by Judge Garrison.

Even the jury that convicted Duffield signed the petition asking commutation in his behalf. Prosecutor Boyle did not go out of his way to send the boys to their deaths, he simply presenting the facts in behalf of the State.

John L. Semple, Duffield's lawyer, has had much experience in murder trials. This is the nineteenth person accused of homicide whom he has defended and but one was executed. That was Theodore Lambert, a negro, who shot William Kairer, a baker, and he was hanged only after the United States Supreme Court had refused an appeal.
