

BRAND AND SYKES

APPEAL IN VAIN

But Pardons Court Spares Lives of Two Slayers and Frees Ten.

Two lives were saved by the Court of Pardons yesterday afternoon and clemency was shown to ten murderers. The court met with Governor Woodrow Wilson presiding for the last time before his inauguration as President of the United States. The session was set for yesterday by the Governor so that those who were fortunate enough to be shown clemency could spend Christmas with their families. The Secretary of State's office worked overtime issuing the papers, and the prisoners were granted immediate release.

The two Camden boys, Frederick Coursey and Harry Duffield, under sentence to be electrocuted December 29, had their lives spared. These boys, both of whom are under 21 years of age, attended a moving picture show and then attempted to duplicate the hold-up picture by murdering a Camden saloonkeeper. Coursey was given 30 years in the State Prison in lieu of his death sentence, and Duffield was given 15 years.

The court refused to grant clemency to David H. Brand and John Sykes. Brand's brother was at the State House during the entire day and interceded with the members of the court for his brother's release. The Brand case has been annually before the Court of Pardons since he was sentenced January 4, 1907. There was also a very strong effort made to get clemency for Sykes, who is serving a 16 years' sentence for the embezzlement of trust funds. Another notable Mercer County case considered was that of Bartholomew Zdanwicz, who is serving a life term for murder. His application was refused.

Another case considered by the court was that of Charles Ford of Camden, who murdered his paramour, Effie Wagner. During the absence of Governor Wilson from the state, Acting Governor Prince granted Ford a reprieve to January 6, so that his case might come before the Pardons Board. His appeal was dismissed and he will now be electrocuted.

The court granted a parole to William Leist, the young Newark drug clerk, who is in the Rahway Reformatory for manslaughter. Leist misinterpreted a physician's prescription, and, instead of making nine pills with one and one-half grains of morphine in each, he put nine grains in each pill, with the result that the patient died.

Leander J. Smith of Camden, under sentence of death originally for murder, had his sentence commuted to life imprisonment in 1903. He was paroled. Other murderers shown clemency by parole were Paul Bernack, Essex County, manslaughter, 10 years; Philemon B. Crelin, murder, Essex County, 20 years; Domenica Scala, Essex County, manslaughter, three years; William Schneider, Essex County, manslaughter, five years; Casimer Teresnick, Hudson County, murder, 20 years; Bartholomew Sorroco, Passaic, murder, 20 years; Patrick Carroll, a Hudson County murderer, who was paroled in 1891, was restored to citizenship.

In the report of the Prison Committee, which is composed of the lay members of the Court of Errors and Appeals, it was pointed out that there are 1,538 prisoners in the institution. The committee said that the prison was deplorably crowded, and in many instances there were two prisoners in a cell. Out of the 208 cases from the institution, 88 were refused outright. The Central and South Jersey paroles granted were:

Atlantic County—Robert Brooks, breaking and entering and assault and battery, four years; Antonio Tedesco, atrocious assault and battery with intent to kill, 12 years; O'Dulla L. Vasquez, atrocious assault and battery with intent to kill, 12 years.

Burlington County—Adam Popiel, assault with intent, six years.

Camden—Thomas Burnett, indecent publication, two years and six months; Charles Horner, atrocious assault and battery, two years; Thomas Pierce, assault and battery, three years; William Rolla, rape, three years.

Cumberland—Albert Stevenson, burglary and receiving stolen goods, seven years and \$2,000 fine, fine remitted.

Hunterdon County—Oroni Caspera, robbery, 10 years.

Mercer—Clarence Bloom, carnal abuse, seven years.

Monmouth—John E. Mount, desertion, one year; David Williams, arson, ten years.

Somerset—John Lahey, assault and battery with intent to rob, breaking jail, 10 years; James Regan, assault and battery with intent to rob, breaking jail, 10 years.

The following inmates of the Mercer County Workhouse were paroled:

Nellie E. Cope, petty larceny, one year; John Grego, desertion, one year; Samuel A. Wertz, robbery, 18 months; Richard Williams, simple assault, one year.

John A. Rech of Atlantic County, who was sentenced to 20 years for second degree murder and who was paroled July 20, 1904, was granted a full pardon.