

# INDETERMINATE TERMS BLAMED FOR PEN RIOTS

Priest, Stateville Chaplain,  
Says Convict Revolts Not  
Aimed at Warden.

JOLIET, Ill., March 20.—The Rev. Eligius Weir, 83, Roman Catholic chaplain at Stateville prison, where \$300,000 worth of property was destroyed by rioting prisoners, told the United Press he had feared for several years such a riot would occur, but said he did not blame prison authorities for it.

Father Weir, a gray-haired, round-faced, kindly man who has been chaplain five years, recalled how he, Warden Henry C. Hill and deputy warden Frank Kness walked unarmed and unharmed among the rioters.

He said it proved the convicts had not rebelled against them, but against the parole board, at which all their riotous shouts were directed.

## Blames Indeterminate Terms

"Besides the evils of overcrowding, the necessary evils attendant to application of the Illinois indeterminate sentence laws were responsible for the riot," said Mr. Weir.

"For several years the men in the 'stir' have objected to these laws and the manner in which they have been used," the priest said. The expression "stir" was only one of many prison terms he used.

"The necessity of the pardon and parole board defining how long a man shall serve under an indeterminate sentence gives rise to much of the trouble," the chaplain explained.

## Urges Change in Law

Under this law, a man is sentenced to serve one to ten, one to twenty, one year to life, or some other indeterminate period. His release depends partly upon his behavior. Although he is sentenced by a judge or jury, it becomes the duty eventually of the parole board to say whether he shall serve two or fifty years of "a one year to life" sentence.

"I have gone to Springfield myself several times to plead that changes be made in execution of this law and Warden Hill also has pleaded for changes," Weir said.

## Hearings Only Once Yearly

"One of the principal objections of the prisoners is that although all ten members of the board pass upon the parole applications, only three

# Braves Rioters



Rev. Eligius Weir, above, Roman Catholic chaplain of the Illinois State penitentiary, walked unharmed among multitudes of convicts trying in vain to quiet them.

of them actually come here to hear the cases.

"The men object also that where they formerly were given hearings every eleven months they now are allowed to appear before the board only once each year.

"And when they do appear, they claim, they are allowed only one or two minutes to present their cases. They say they are worn at by the board members.

Here the chaplain interjected an opinion of his own.

"I know personally," he said, "of at least twenty-five men in this penitentiary who were sent here for crimes they didn't commit."

The chaplain said there had been much rebellion since a law was passed in 1929 reducing the penalty from ten years to "one to life" for certain crimes.

There were, he said, 847 prisoners who believed they should benefit by this law, although sentenced before it was passed.

Of these men, whom he described as being "caught in the pocket," only 131 actually benefited from the new law, he said.

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# HOW BLUE ARE BLUE EYES IS LEGAL PUZZLE

Optical Colors Sometimes  
Illusion, Science  
Declares.

## By Science Service

WASHINGTON, March 20.—

Mendel's law regarding inheritance will not often serve as a welcome aid to the harassed judge who must decide cases of disputed parentage. This natural "law" recently was cited, supplementary to man-made laws, in a case where a man with brown eyes claimed to be the son and heir of a couple, both of whom, it was testified, had blue eyes.

Scientists agree that parents having blue eyes do not have brown-eyed children, but this fact will not help the judge as much as it might appear because many individuals with blue-looking eyes do not have eyes which would be scientifically classified as "pure blue."

Take a close look at the eyes of some blue-eyed person. If you use an ordinary reading or magnifying glass you will very likely discern a dark ring around the pupil of the eye. Or you may see streaks like the spokes of a wheel coming out from the center of the eye. Or you may see tiny flecks of color scattered over the entire surface.

Brown or black eyes are given their color by a pigment in both the front and back walls of the iris. Eyes which are without this pigment are completely colorless, but appear

pink because of the color of the blood vessels. Such eyes are seen in albinos. Blue eyes have the pigment in the back wall of the iris, but none in the front. The blue look is due to the reflection of light through the colorless front walls.

The color of eyes may also change during the lifetime of an individual as a result of injuries or diseases of the eye. And there is a normal change due to age.

Nearly all infants of the North European races are born with blue eyes, and this color may persist until the child is 8 years old. Then when they grow older the color may fade from the eyes, the eye color changing from brown to a pale bluish shade by a process of color absorption similar to that which changes brown hair to gray.

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332-334 W. Washington Street

# LILY READY FOR EASTER

Freak Plant Expected to Bloom by Time Lent Ends.

PLAIN CITY, O., March 20.—A freak lily, owned by Perry Ingle of this city, that blooms once each year, is expected to be in bloom by Easter time. The flower, a product



of Asia, is called "snake lily." It grows on a board.

Its bloom is ten inches in diameter and the plant now is fifty-six inches tall. It has bloomed annually for the three years Ingle has owned it.

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# FARMER DREW \$1,300 TUESDAY, NOT SEEN SINCE

Cash Taken in \$10 Bills;  
Eminence Man Hunted  
by Police Here.

Indianapolis police today were searching for Elva Rhea, a farmer of Eminence, Ind., who disappeared Tuesday morning from his home after drawing \$1,300 from a bank at Martinsville.

Rhea, who had been suffering from a flu attack, left his home at 9 Tuesday morning saying he was

going to Martinsville to get medicine.

He drove his 1927 Ford coupe into Martinsville and drew out \$1,300 from the Martinsville Trust Company with the request that he be

Mrs. Rhea told police financial worries might have caused his disappearance.

A daughter, Fern Rhea, is employed in this city. A son, Charles, 10, lives at the home a mile west of Eminence.

The day of his disappearance Rhea wore corduroy trousers, a dark cap and blue shirt. He was 5 feet 5 inches in height. He had gray hair and eyes and was slight in stature and thin of face.

Fear that despondency may have caused him to take his life may result in a searching party dragging White river.

Homer Rhea of Crown Center, Ind., a brother of the missing man, says he had no enemies, although the possibility of foul play is feared.

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THE FAIR

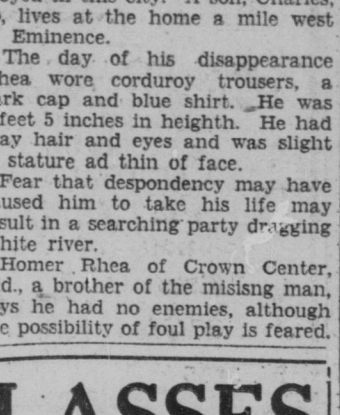
311 West Washington St.

# Rin Tin Tin Could Do No More

By United Press

BOSTON, March 20.—Held up in his south end store, Charles Smith

grappled with the bandit, disarmed him, chased him nearly a mile, cornered him on a roof and turned him over to the police.



One of several gardens at the display

# Garden and Flower Show

at WIEGAND'S continued today,

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Day and Evening.

Admission 10 Cents

Children Free

All Proceeds to Riley Hospital.

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