

VERMONT ADOPTS ELECTROCUTION

Measure Is Signed by Gov Fletcher.

House Passes Bill Segregating Imbeciles and Criminals.

Sends It to the Senate for Minor Amendments.

MONTPELIER, Vt., Jan 24—Electrocution was substituted for hanging as the official form of capital punishment in Vermont, when Gov Fletcher signed a bill to this effect today. Both branches of the Legislature voted last Tuesday in favor of replacing the gallows by an electric chair.

Officials stated that the execution of Arthur Bosworth, who was to have been hanged today for the murder a year ago of Mabel Labelle, would be the last official hanging in this State. Bosworth was respite this week by Gov Fletcher, who advanced the date of the murderer's execution to Jan 2, 1914.

The use of the electric chair has been advocated since the execution of Elroy Kent at the Windsor Prison on Jan 3, 1912. The rope used to hang Kent broke when the trap was sprung and the body fell to the floor.

The prison physician said that Kent suffered "no conscious thought" after the trap was sprung, but in order to complete the execution the broken end of the rope was fastened to a balustrade in the rear of the gallows and the body allowed to swing for many minutes before it was taken down.

The House today passed by a vote of 95 to 52 the Senate bill authorizing and providing for the segregation of imbeciles, feeble-minded, confirmed criminals, etc, and the measure has gone to the Senate to concur on some minor amendments. Opposition was made to the measure by several members on the ground that it is unconstitutional and anti-Christian.

The bill providing for a uniform law in regard to the sale of morphine and other hypodermic and narcotic drugs, such as opium and cocaine, introduced into the Legislature by the New England Watch and Ward Society, was passed today by both houses, and has gone to the Governor for his signature.

The new law limits the amount of drugs which a doctor can dispense, and imposes even stronger limitations than the Massachusetts law, providing that these drugs can be sold only on presentation of a doctor's certificate bearing both the name of the patient and that of the person presenting the certificate.

The bill was introduced by Senator H. H. Blanchard of Springfield, the New England Watch and Ward Society being represented by a Legislative advisory committee comprising Pres Benton of the University of Vermont, Dr Charles S. Claverly, chairman of the State Board of Health, and Hon S. Hollister Jackson of Barre.