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### **Memorandum of Instructions for carrying out the details of an Execution.**

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1. The apparatus for the execution may be tested in the following manner:—

The working of the scaffold should be first tested without any weight. Then a bag of sand of the same weight as the culprit should be attached to the rope, and so adjusted as to allow the bag a drop equal to, or rather more than, that which the culprit shall receive, so that the rope may be stretched with a force of about 900 foot-pounds. The working of the apparatus under these conditions should then be tested. The bag must be of the approved pattern, with a thick and well-padded neck, so as to prevent any injury to the rope and leather.

2. After the completion of this testing the scaffold and all appliances should be locked up, and the key kept by the Governor or other responsible officer until the morning of the execution ; but the bag of sand should remain suspended all the night preceding the execution, so as to take the stretch out of the rope.

3. The executioner and any persons appointed to assist in the operation should make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the working of the apparatus.

4. The lever should be fixed so as to prevent any accident while the preliminary details are being carried out.

5. Death by hanging ought to result from dislocation of the neck. The length of the drop is determined according to the weight of the culprit.

6. The required length of drop is regulated as follows:

At the end of the rope which forms the noose the executioner should see that 13 inches from the centre of the ring are marked off by a line painted round the rope ; this is to be a fixed quantity, which, with the stretching of this portion of the rope and the lengthening of the neck and body of the culprit, will represent the average depth of the head and circumference of the neck after constriction.

About two hours before the execution the bag of sand should be raised out of the pit and be allowed another drop so as to completely stretch the rope. Then while the bag of sand is still suspended, the executioner should measure off from the painted line on the rope the required length of drop, and should make a chalk mark on the rope at the end of the length. A piece of copper wire fastened to the chain should now be stretched down the rope till it reaches the chalk mark, and should be cut off there so that the cut end of the copper wire shall terminate at the upper end of the measured length of drop. The bag of sand should be then raised from the pit, and disconnected from the rope. The chain should now be so adjusted at the bracket that the lower end of the copper wire shall reach to the same level from the floor of the scaffold as the height of the prisoner. The known height of the

prisoner can be readily measured on the scaffold by a graduated rule of six feet long. When the chain has been raised to the proper height, the cotter must be securely fixed through the bracket and chain. The executioner should now make a chalk mark on the floor of the scaffold, in a plumb-line with the chain, where the prisoner should stand.

These details should be carried out as soon as possible after 6 o'clock, so as to allow the rope time to regain a portion of its elasticity before the execution.

7. The copper wire should now be detached, and after allowing sufficient amount of rope for the easy adjustment of the noose, the slack of the rope should be fastened to the chain above the level of the head of the culprit with a pack-thread. The pack-thread should be just strong enough to support the rope without breaking.

8. When all the preparations are completed the scaffold should remain in charge of a responsible officer while the executioner goes to the pinioning room.

9. The pinioning apparatus should be dexterously applied in some room or place convenient to the scaffold. When the culprit is pinioned and his neck is bared he should be at once conducted to the scaffold.

10. On reaching the gallows the duty of the executioner should be as follows:—

(1.) Place the culprit *exactly* under the part of the beam to which the rope is attached.

(2.) Strap the culprit's legs tightly.

(3.) Put on the white linen cap.

(4.) Put on the rope round the neck quite tightly (with the cap between the rope and the neck) the metal eye being directed forwards, and placed in front of the angle of the lower jaw, so that with the constriction of the neck it may come underneath the chin. The noose should be kept tight by means of a stiff leather washer, or an india-rubber washer, or a wedge.

(5.) Go *quickly* to the lever and let down the trap doors.

11. The culprit should hang one hour, and then the body should be *carefully* raised from the pit. The rope should be removed from the neck, and also the straps from the body. In laying out the body for the inquest, the head should be raised three inches by placing a small piece of wood under it.

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