

THE TOPEKA DAILY CAPITAL

Saturday, December 4, 1915.

SMASH HOLE IN CEILING TO ESCAPE

**Window Pole Serves as Battering Ram
to Gain Freedom for Two
Federal Prisoners.**

Besides opening windows, the window pole in the Wyandotte county jail, Kansas City, is used by federal prisoners left there by the United States marshal for opening the roof of the jail through which they make their escape. Clem Hanney and Robert Devine, waiting to be taken to St. Paul, Minn., and Des Moines, Ia., by United States Marshal Otho T. Wood to answer a charge of postoffice robbery, used this method about midnight Thursday night and no trace of them has since been found. Devine was on crutches when he escaped.

Hanney smashed a hole through the ceiling of the room where the two were confined, then, with the hook on the end of the pole fastened over a rafter, he pulled himself to the ceiling, hand over hand on the pole. With a rope made from blankets he hauled up his crippled partner. They smashed a hole through the roof and let themselves down to a fire escape.

The office of the United States district attorney was not notified of the escape until nearly noon yesterday.

H. E. Estus, charged with robbing a postoffice at Hilltop, escaped from the Wyandotte county jail last spring by climbing up a chimney in the women's department of the jail and was never recaptured.

Hanney and Devine have just completed sentences at the federal prison in Leavenworth.