OFFICER SHOT.

Wm. McGinnis of the Industrial School Seriously Injured While Capturing Runaways.

William C. McGinnis, an officer at the Vermont Industrial School in Vergennes, was shot in the leg Wednesday afternoon of last week by Frank Ladri, a 16-years-old inmate of the school committed from St. Johnsbury, and dangerously wounded, while returning to the institution Ladri and two other boys who had escaped from the school's playground.

The discovery that the boys were missing was made about four o'clock in the afternoon, and assistant superintendent E. S. Pratt and Mr. McGinnis at once started in pursuit of the runaways. McGinnis soon discovered the boys about a mile from the school, hidden in a clump of bushes on Henry Danyow's lot adjoining the school farm. They were ordered to come out and line up in order of height, the tallest, Edward Sorrell, in the lead, Ladri next and Lorange last, with the officer in charge in the rear as is the custom, and they started for the school.

After going a short distance McGinnis turned partly around to call Mr. Pratt and notify him that the boys had been found. Upon again turning to glance at the boys Ladri was taking deliberate aim at him with a 22 calibre revolver. McGinnis threw his hands up and took a stooping posture, apparently disconcerting Ladri, who fired, the bullet entering the left posterior and lodging just above the knee. The wounded man sunk to the ground but immediately arose, calling to the lads to halt but they continued to run knowing that the shot had taken effect though McGinnis tried to conceal the fact. The assistant superintendent was summoned to his assistance and placed him in a carriage and took him to the office of Dr. F. C. Phelps where the bullet was removed.

The search was again renewed by Pratt and other officers and the boys located near Ingham's barn about a mile from the scene of the shooting. With small show of resistance they gave themselves up and were taken back to the school and later in the evening the two older boys were placed in the city jail and the youngest lad kept in the school lockup.

Edward Sorrell of Burlington, aged about 20 years, was the instigator of the escape and stole the revolver with which the shooting was done from night watchman Arnold's room. It was he also that gave the weapon to Ladri while McGinnis' back was turned and persuaded him to shoot. It is believed that if McGinnis had not turned his back as he did immediately after reprimanding them and giving them just the opportunity to fire that they desired, the boys would have peacefully returned to the school, though when questioned concerning the affair they acknowledged their intentions of shooting the first officer attempting their capture. Edward Sorrell was their acknowledged leader and upon him is placed the most blame.

Thursday the boys were taken to Middlebury by officer Pratt to be examined by State's Attorney L. C. Russell, and after considering the cases it was decided to send the prisoners to the House of Correction at Rutland to serve out the alternate sentence imposed upon them when they were committed to the Industrial school. Ladri was sent to the workhouse at Rutland for from two to two and one half years and Sorrell's sentence was 30 days in the same institution.

Friday morning Mr. McGinnis was taken to the Mary Fletcher hospital, Burlington, where with the careful and proper care afforded at the hospital it is thought the injury will not prove serious if other complications can be avoided. The last reports of his condition were very favorable and he was improving much faster than could have been expected. The young man is about 24 years old and has been at the school for about three years, during which time he has made many friends in Vergennes, who extend their sympathy and wish him a speedy recovery.

Reports from the hospital received this, Wednesday, morning are that Mr. McGinnis is doing exceedingly well and that he was allowed to sit up for a short time Tuesday.