NEWS OF THE WEST.

Suicide of a Prisoner Who Was Supposed to be Insane.

A SENSATION IN CHURCH CIRCLES.

A Mexican and a Colored Man Have a Desperate Encounter—Colorado's Oil Fields.

A fine new racecourse and driving track is being built at Santa Fe, N. M.

The work of building the new depot at La Junta, Colo., will be begun at once.

The New Mexico penitentiary is being improved by the plastering of the cell rooms.

Edward Drew, of Walker Valley, six miles north of Ukiah, Cal., was so badly burned on Friday that he will lose both feet. He was either lying in Round Valley, and while asleep rolled into the camp fire. His lower extremities were terribly charred.

The wheat crop of 1894 in the Cache la Poudre valley west of Windsor, says the Fort Collins (Colo.) Courier, is estimated at 525,000 bushels, an amount of which is still in growing on the ground. Of the quantity sold the mills have taken about 70,000 bushels, and the beet factory nearly 200,000 bushels.

R. ph Minnehan, a young man about twenty-five years of age committed suicide at Alma, Colo., early on Friday morning by taking morphine. No cause is known for the rash deed. He attended the Thanksgiving ball the previous night and appeared in his usual good spirits.

On Friday afternoon a company was organized at Florence, Colo., for the purpose of building and operating a canning factory with a capacity of 20,000 cans a day. One-third of the amount of money necessary for the enterprise was subscribed inside of ten minutes. Local capitalists are assisting liberally towards it.

The stables on R. N. Rand's milk ranch, two of Butte, Mont., in Park canyon, burned to the ground on Friday night, with eighty-four head of cows and other stock, creating a loss of over $15,000, with no insurance. The fire is said to be undoubtedly of incendiary origin, as the house was where Wade Rand and his family were fighting the fire.

Herman H st was working at the bottom of a shaft in Pennsylvania gulch at Fairplay, Colo., when a large rock fell out of the bucket he had just loaded and went up and struck him on the head. He died after a few hours of unconsciousness. He was a native Swiss German, came to this country twelve years ago and leaves a wife and seven children.

A. A. McDonald, proprietor of the Nelson mine at Red Cliff, Colo., has returned from the oil fields in Routt county, so states a dispatch. He says there are from 8,000 to 10,000 acres of good oil land in one body near Steamboat Springs and is of the opinion that drilling will easily can be secured at a depth of 250 to 700 feet. Fourteen oil springs were found in one place.

The Grand Junction (Colo.) Star-Times states that the Colorado Gilsonite and Asphaltum company now has 115,000 pounds of that mineral stacked up at the freight depot ready for shipment to St. Louis. There is enough additional mineral at the mines to make the total shipment 200,000 pounds. Manager Le Sueur informs the Star-Times that he has 800,000 pounds on the dump at the mines in Rio Blanco county.

Benjamin Meacham committed suicide in the county jail at Placerville, Cal., on Friday night. He applied for a night's lodging and played a game of patience while the officers. He complained of not feeling well and said some one was trying to shoot him from the window. They thought nothing of his surmises. Next morning he was found dead, with his throat cut with a razor. He was evidently insane. He was a native of New York, 30 years old.

A genuine sensation was caused in Tacoma (Wash.) church circles on Thursday by the nature and result of the union Thanksgiving services held by the Protestant congregation at the First Methodist church. Rev. A. F. Kynastons is said to have preached a vigorous sermon, which was in a way a declaration of war against gambling, the Monday saloons and prostitution. His remarks were frequently and vigorously applauded, a thing outside seldom seen in church.

The Greeley (Colo.) Tribune tells of the successful crop of L. W. Johnson on 160 acres near Orchardson, from old land which has not been kept up with fertilizers. For the year's crop Mr. Johnson dug 2,700 sacks of potatoes from 35 acres, an average of nearly 78 sacks, or about 150 bushels to the acre; from 29 acres he threshed 1,060 bushels of wheat, averaging 37½ bushels to the acre; from 10 acres he threshed 300 bushels, averaging 30 bushels to the acre, and from 25 acres in alfalfa, in two cuttings he gathered 50 tons of hay.

William J. Brown, a bookkeeper at Santa Cruz, Cal., has been left a legacy, consisting of one-third of a $300,000 estate, by a bachelor uncle in Philadelphia. Brown was born at sea between Portland and San Francisco. When a year and a half old his father died and he was adopted by John H. Brown, who was a pioneer in San Francisco. His brother and sister who are his one-third each of the estate, were adopted by a rich uncle in Cincinnati. The lucky young man has lived in Santa Cruz for some time. He frequently sang in amateur concerts here and in church choirs.

Jesse Trafficys, a Mexican, was seriously cut in the back at an early hour on Saturday morning by Walter Davis, a colored man. A card party was given the previous night at the residence of one Charles Stanford, at which the players participated freely. About 3 a. m. Davis and Trafficys became involved in a drunken row and suddenly the former drew a knife and plunged it twice into the back of the Mexican. The Mexican fell to the floor with a groan and the blood poured from the wound. An examination by the surgeon showed a cut eight inches long and one and a half inches deep in the back, immediately below the left shoulder blade. Beneath this was another cut two inches long. Davis, who was employed at the Pritchett house, was arrested by the police next morning in a cabin where he was hiding.

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