

coldest of the winter, the guards drove them into a pond, shouting: "You have been wanting a bath, now get it." Twice a day they were given bread, but no meat. At Judge Hocker's request they bared their backs, which were found raw and quivering. Five of them may not recover. In discharging the young men Judge Hocker said their arrest, sentence and treatment disgraced civilization, and every one concerned in it should be severely punished. The habeas corpus proceedings were brought by Ocala citizen.

The victims of the outrage will bring heavy suits for damages.

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—Contracts were drawn up in Chicago today by means of which it is promised that packers and shippers of perishable food products will, in future, get along without ice.

Dr. A. T. Perkins, now a resident of Chicago, has patented a process of keeping meats, fruit and perishable products during transportation by the use of sterilized air. The contract concluded today was between him and J. M. Smart, of Melbourne, manager of the Australian Meat Transportation corporation, limited, for the use of the process in the seven colonies of Australia.

A corporation is also to be formed, with headquarters in Chicago, to control the process over the railroad lines of this country and the steamship lines running from the ports of North and South America.

DENVER, Feb. 19.—W. H. Medaris a young miner who arrived in Denver today from Newcastle, was an eyewitness of the terrible explosion yesterday by which over sixty miners were killed. He was expecting yesterday morning to go to work in the mine for one of the Dore boys, three of whom were killed, but at the last moment his plans were changed.

Mr. Medaris says the explosion was caused in the same manner as the one at the same mine eight or nine years ago. Gas, combined with coal dust, forms an excellent medium for an explosion, especially when there is a "blowout" shot behind it. In this case, he says, a shot was probably not well tamped, the tamping blown out, and the flame set off the gas and dust.

Great precautions were taken in the mine to avoid an explosion. The men were all required to carry safety lamps, and were not allowed to have any tobacco or matches. The Italians, however, were careless, Mr. Medaris says, and violated the regulations imposed upon them for their own protection whenever they got a chance.

The explosion shook the town, a mile and a half from the mine. People rushed from their houses, and saw that the mountain appeared to be a mass of smoke and dust.

Only one body had been recovered when Mr. Medaris left Newcastle last night. It was that of Joe Dore, and was found about 200 feet from the mouth of the mine. He was coming out when the explosion occurred, and in two minutes more would have been safe.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Feb. 19.—Edgar Nye, the Bill Nye of the world of humor, whose writings have made the world laugh, is seriously ill at his home at Buck Shoals, eight miles south of Asheville. About two weeks

ago Mr. Nye was taken ill, and since that time the trouble has been slowly progressing until now his condition is very serious. He is suffering from a stroke of apoplexy.

JOHANNESBURG, South African Republic, Feb. 20.—[Copyrighted 1898, by the Associated Press.]—Details are reaching this city today of what is probably the most disastrous dynamite explosion on record in any part of the world. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless by the terrible calamity, and about a hundred are believed to have been killed and two or three hundred men, women and children wounded and many others more or less injured.

Vledendorp, the scene of the calamity, is a suburb of Johannesburg. In it are huddled members of the poorer classes, white, Malays, Kaffirs and Chinamen who subsist for the most part by doing odd jobs about the place, which is a railway transfer station for the mining districts. Among the freight cars standing on the shunt mines at Vledendorp yesterday were eight trucks loaded with dynamite, hidden under canvass coverings to protect it from the rain and sun. As the evening was approaching there was an explosion near the freight depot so awful in intensity that the ground for miles around was convulsed as if by an earthquake; houses rocked and fell, and masses of iron, earth, stone, wood and human remains were hurled skyward. The windows in almost every house in Johannesburg were broken, and people blown through the air like straws before a gust of wind. The explosion had torn a hole 200 feet long and 80 feet wide over the spot where the eight trucks of dynamite stood but a few minutes before. All that quarter of Johannesburg was literally blown to pieces. The effects of the explosion could be seen over a radius of more than a mile and almost everything within half of a mile where the trucks had been shunted for the night was razed to the ground and crushed by the dynamite beyond redemption. The ironwork was twisted and torn, stones destroyed and brickwork pulverized. On the ground were the blackened shapes of human remains, limbs, heads, trunks, scorched and torn. The victims were mostly Malays, Kaffirs and Chinamen, the whites being in a minority at Vledendorp, but quite a number of white people, including six girls were killed. In fifteen minutes after the explosion the bodies of forty dead persons, horribly mutilated, were picked up and carried away, while the searching of the ruins continued without intermission. Over 200 most severely injured persons were also carried away and hundreds of others taken to places where they might be cared for.

OAKLAND, Cal., Feb. 20.—Professor Leuschner, of the state university, has just completed his calculations of the orbit of the new comet discovered by Astronomer Perrine, of the Lick Observatory, a few days ago. The stranger in the heavens was only 40,000,000 miles away from the earth yesterday and is now coming towards the earth at the rate of 1,600,000 miles a day. Prof. Leuschner says there is no cause for alarm. He has figured it out that the comet will take a new tack on March 1st and sheer off from the earth.

The calculations made at the state university are the official figures.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 20.—Wm. Walters surrendered himself to Sheriff Burr yesterday, saying he killed Paul Maddox in Tuscaloosa county, Ala., in April, 1890. According to his story he was working at the coal mines near Tuscaloosa. One day he and a friend, Martin Davis, were riding along the road when they met several other men who were supplied with whisky.

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—Chicago is experiencing the coldest weather of the season. Since yesterday morning the thermometer has not risen above zero and with bitter north wind blowing, much suffering has ensued. At six o'clock this morning nine below was reached, but some thermometers in the suburbs indicated 14 below. Michael Hughes was frozen to death on his way to work and John Bradley was overcome by cold and fell into the river. Scores of people compelled to remain outdoors have been severely frostbitten. The cold snap is general over the northwest.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 20.—James Fitzgerald was hanged here at 10 a.m. for the murder of his sweetheart, Annie Naessenson, the night of November 24, 1893. The rope broke and the victim lay struggling on the ground beneath the gallows. The doctors found Fitzgerald still conscious. Stimulants were given and he revived. A new rope was sent for and at 11 o'clock the sick and trembling but nerry victim was again taken to the scaffold. This time there was no hitch.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The President has refused pardon in the case of F. M. O. Halston, sentenced in Oregon to ten years' hard labor for forgery. The President says: "I am decidedly in favor of the strict punishment of persons guilty of crimes for which this prisoner is now suffering imprisonment. The offense involving forgery, swindling a poor and needy veteran soldier and the prostitution of the benevolent conditions of the government as embodied in the pension laws, does not in the slightest degree move me to clemency."

HOUGHTON, Mich., Feb. 20.—On the Duluth, Lake Shore and Atlantic last night, nine miles east of here, a passenger train crashed into the rear of a freight. The caboose was telescoped and caught fire. Brakeman Jerry Donohue was perhaps fatally burned and Conductor Horace Fee badly injured. The flag sent back by the freight crew could not be seen by the passenger engineer on account of the snow storm.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 20.—Receiver Wiley O. Cox, a prominent local banker, this afternoon bought in the property of the Kansas City Times newspaper company, which was sold under the auctioneer's hammer for \$82,300. The property was placed in the hands of Mr. Cox as receiver last fall at the request of certain creditors.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—A dispatch to the Herald from Rome says:

Dispatches from the seat of war in Abyssinia announce that a number of native troops forming General Baratieri's advance guard have revolted against the Italians and intend to band over important positions to the enemy.

This has rendered the situation much more serious and proves the