CONVICT'S

What Has Been Going on at the Penitentiary.

COMPLAINS OF THE BAD FOOD

The Punishment Given in the Dark Hole Described-The Unnecessary Cruelty of the Guards,

THE JOURNAL has the following letter from a former prisoner at the penitentiary. The name is withheld for good reasons, but the legislative committee will have no difficulty in securing the evidence in a regular and proper man-

"That convicts are brutally treated, no one who has been in the Nebraska state penitentiary can deny, unless an officer's pet and so devoid of principle as to perjure himself for self interest.

For myself I was so fortunate as to ject comes from a man now outside the fare well—comparatively with other constate, whose name will be furnished to

home and as good parents, though poor,

as any could wish to have. I will tell you first what we had to eat. Breakfast consisted of hash, coffee from lack of proper food and foul air, and bread. The hash was made of yesterday's boiled potatoes left over from dinner, chopped up with the peelings left on and put with a little meat and baked, and if very sour was liberally dosed with pepper. The hash was always sour and reminded me of cooked swill for hogs. This dish was not relished by all, and I and many others (only being let down at noon about have made our breakfast of bread alone.

Two or three mornings the hash was morning and that to allow him to remarkably good. The potatoes were peeled and properly seasoned; but we small piece of hard crust about 3 inches expected then an inspection by Governor Boyd. The coffee, or "boot leg," as we called it, was hot water colored. The bread was generally good. For din-ner we had boiled beef, pea or barley soup, potatoes, and once or twice a week head with loaded cane and when he hominy or rice, and on Sundays baked could not conquer him he called upon beans. The meat was cut off in chunks and was thrown in the pot without washing and cooked, dirt and all. I to his assistance or get the same kind of very seldom ate any meat it was so dirty and it had a peculiar sickening smell and overpowered Mansfield; then Adams are some large to the same kind of punishment, they all made a grand rush and overpowered Mansfield; then Adams are some large to the same kind of punishment, they are considered to the same kind of punishment and overpowered Mansfield; then Adams are some large to the same kind of punishment, they are considered to be same kind of punishment. caused I suppose because it was fresh and had not been seasoned with salt. Sometimes the meat was full of little kernels and I was afraid to eat it as it and to my knowledge he left the may have been diseased and therefore place a broken down wreck, he could dangerous The only fault with the vegetables was lack of cleanliness and poor cooking. For supper we had on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, plum pudding called "duff." It was made of moulded bread and scraps or Mansfield carried to his cell once after being kept in punishment eighteen days; pieces of bread that had fallen on the and at other times he was only able to floor but from which the dirt had not get to his cell by holding onto the side been cleaned, and a few raisins thrown in, the whole worked up with water and baked. The bread from which this pudding was made was sometimes so strong with mould that we could often detect the mouldy smell of the pudding in our cells at the opposite end of the cell was when he had been only in a short house on the third gallery. I picked time. I see that this Willis Brown is in out what few raisins it contained, and jail either at Nebraska City or Platts-

On other nights we had either prunes, currants, grapes, peaches or apples. The prunes were nearly always rotten. stomach, and Elder Howe hearing his they will tell me it is anarchy, and When in this condition no one ate them shrieks for mercy called the guard and some of them will go so far as to say if but made their supper from bread. For about a month, from October to November, 1891, we had prunes two and three on his board at the rotten beef and pigs. ardly people! Blind to the conditions times a week and they were always feet that were bought and fed to the of themselves and everybody around rotten. The warden at last ordered a convicts. He now lives at Ashland, them.

J. M. QUICK. whole barrel returned, so I heard, and Neb. I saw a young boy by name Smith no more prunes to be bought.

my supper-The majority of the other

prisoners did the same.

were no more prunes after November. The peaches and apples that he had to be put in the hospital; he were very dirty when served. They as soon as possible was sent to paint kind of mud at the bottom of the pan was put in punishment Smith was sent when left standing a little while. The too in that condition. currents and grapes were never stemmed. in fact there was more wood than fruit in them, and the currents were full of eighteen, and twenty days. gravel.

The clothing was made of poor cloth and could not stand much wear. It was sequence upon this. My shoes often with leaked. Others suffered in the same time. way. When in good condition the clothes were comfortable.

The cells swarmed with bed-bugs. The cell house guard made no effort to get rid of them. We could get some gasoline sometimes, but work ever so hard we could not get rid of them, for there was a continual immigration from other cells. You can imagine the torture many a poor tired out prisoner underwent at night after working hard in the shops all day.

Now I come to brutal punishment. The solitary dark cell or "hole" was the common means of punishment. The shortest term of punishment was three days; the longest, indefinite. But the average term was seven days. The prisoner undergoing punishment had his hands cuffed behind him. A small rope was then passed around his neck and passed through his handcuffs. His arms were then drawn as far up his back as was safe and painful for the prisoner and the rope was then tied. In this condition he remained all day except when at meals which was bread and water. He was unhandcuffed from 6 to 9 p. m., but at 9 he was promptly strung up and remained so during the night. He had a plank to sleep on if he could sleep. I have known several who have been strung up but none of them were ever strung in the manner of the prisoner Powell who is said to have hung himself a few weeks ago. I am confident he did not hang himself but was murdered. When he was taken to the cell he either made a struggle or was insolent to the guards, and they in anger strung him up too tight, and leaving him shut up in the cell he strangled to death.

Deputy Warden Hainer often clubbed the prisoners. I will give you the names of two prisoners that I saw clubbed by him. They are Edwards and Tucker.

One night in October someone had a fit in one of the floor cells. The next day I did not go to work. About 10 o'clock Hainer made his usual morning visit to the cells, and coming to this man's cell conversed with him about five ing him. I could hear the cries of the prisoner. This was kept up a long time. Lot had a true friend in Lincoln I should | Subscription \$1.00 per year.

TESTIMONY A should think five minutes, when tried to learn who this man was but could learn nothing from the prisoners who worked in the cell house. They were afraid. I have heard Hainer clubbing the prisoners in their cells several times, but as I could not find out much my evidence is worth little. It was nothing unusual to hear him threaten to club the head off a prisoner. Any prisoner will tell you that. He treated us and spoke to us like dogs.

Old Irish Blaney who guarded the chapel on Sunday killed two men some years ago. I heard be killed one man because he did not hold up his hand when he went to the closet. He let him take his seat; then shot him.

I would rather like to be in this thing if I could do any good. I would like to belong to a committee that would meet out summary justice to a few of those scoundrels, for they will never get it in the courts.

I am little better than ignorant, but I can read and think and feel, too, and what I have said I feel, and have burdened you with it though unasked for because I am too full to keep it." Another Letzer.

The following letter on the same subject comes from a man now outside the

victs, I wish the abuses stopped and the officials punished, but have long ago given up all hope.

While there I did right so far as I know. I am not a criminal by nature, but by misfortune. I had once a good jointers; he had to wheel all into cooper shop "A" on a wheelbarrow, and done the work for a few days when he at last, entirely played out: and when he asked answer the calls of nature, and eat a square and drink what water he wanted) he refused to come out of the hole and allow the cellhouse keeper, Addams to put the hand cuffs on him, then Adams began to beat him over the head with loaded cane and when he some negroes and others to tome and help him; they all being convicts had to go got onto him pressing his knee into hi z back and wrenching his arms until he could not stand when lifted to his feet not lift fifty pounds without hurting his back. One of the Negroes that helped in this was one George Mitchell and lived in Lincoln. I have seen this man

of the building. I have seen one Willis Brown put in punishment and kept there for twenty-two days and never knew him to be able to get to his cell only twice without help, and that this, with a slice of bread constituted mouty, I can't say which now as I have lost the paper.

I saw one Sam Willson put in punishment in hospital dungeon and strung up ordered him to let the man's arms down, sent out on the farm to work, and in some way had his leg or hip injured so

I have seen Frank Jones sent to the hole and kept in punishment for fifteen,

There is one case of madness that was

these boys done was to talk and laugh. I have seen men go to Haner and ask

for mittens and other clothes and order when they were not fit to appear Time," even before men, let alone any one

As for the provisions it was simply Impossible to eat it at any time unless he was half starved. I have seen pigs feet, and pork ribs fed to convicts that was actually green with rot, and if a man did eat it he was made deathly sick. I have heard Haner say, time and again, that he was feeding and clothing the men for less than eight cents a day. I have heard the same man threaten to get men punished for trading clothes with convicts that were going out because those going out had better ones than those remaining in could get.

I have heard Haner and others of the guards deride and even threaten to punish Edwards and others for trying to better their conditions, both educationally and spiritually, and know that the Mitchell spoken of above was stopped by Haner from coming to my cell to have me teach him how to read and write, and that after I had gotten permission from Warden Hopkins for him to come, and one or twe others the

Another thing that needs regulating, if I may make so bold, and that is the condition in which men are turned loose from the pen. In the first place they are given a suit of pure shoddy clothes that with care will not last a man four days, and \$5 in money; and as I understood the state allows \$10 is not enough for any man to eat upon until he can get to his friends. I at least found it to be so; minutes. I could not make out what I had thirty dollars that was sent to was said, but I soon heard Hainer club- | me by friends and five that I got at the pen for three years work; and if I had

not have had money enough to eat more than once a day let alone paying my fare out of Nebraska for on the second day I had to buy myself a suit of clothes, a hat, a pair of shoes, undecriothes and a shirt as all the clothes that I got at the pen were all to peices and I was the S liable to be arested for a vag or a said: nuisance notwithstanding I was stopping at the Windsor hotel and I will make solemn oath that I did not spend one dollar nor even five cents for anything that was not necessary; as I think my conduct since my freedom has shown Every judge of the Unite and will show.

The air at the pen is stifling and no one is competent to judge either the air or treatment there unless he goes there as a convict without the knowledge of

I wish to draw attention to another fact and that is this. The favorite expressions of the officers are: 'Say; you damn — you get there on that work or I will send you down, God damn you," and like expressions; then if the man is hot tempered the result is a retort of some kind; then the next thing is a report; and then the hole for the convict. It is to my certain knowledge that Deputy Warden Haner, Wagoner, guard, Dawson, guard, Howe, steward, to curse and call all convicts abusive names and apply vile epithets to them for nothing or next to nothing.

A Letter From New Jersey.

EMERALD, Neb., Feb. 27, 1893. EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT.

I am in receipt of a letter from our ardent independent friend, J. M. Quick who is visiting in New Jersey. He enclosed a few pages for publication, if you can find space for it and believe it worthy of public perusal.

Success to THE ALLIANCE-INDEPEN-A. C. GUTHRIE.

FRENCHTOWN, Feb. 20, 1893.

FRIEND GUTHRIE: - To make good my promise I will now drop you a few lines to let you know we are still inold democratic Jersey, and they seem to be affected with the dry rot. They don't seem to know what to do about it. They seem to be blind to the condition of things that has brought them where they are. They are suffering with democratic rot just the same as the people of Nebraska are suffering with republicans rot, no difference between the two old parties. So let us all work to stamp them out. They are no longer fit to live. I have been taking a very close observation of things as I have been going through my native state. I find them suffering with the festive old mortgage, and it will only be a question of time when their homes will have to go as they cannot lift the old grim mortgages.

The people of the east seem to be very hostile to the populists and bound to their old parties through their bind prejudice they will go so far as to call the populist party all anarchists. They don't read anything but the old plutocratic papers, and it seems to be a case of the blind leading the blind. So I will again say let us work all the more to overthrow this evil monster, old king monopoly which is sapping the life blood of our nation and absorbing the homes of our people. Just now I seem to have a hard time defending Lincoln will be "standing up for Nebleeding Kansas in regard to the condition of things at the state capital. another campaign rolls around? Will I simply tell them that the populists the people of Nebraska stand with are standing by those principles that them, or will they let them stand alone? are right and just, simply trying to -Holt County Independent. save their homes, and then they are so so high that he had the cramps in his blind to the signs of the times that stomach, and Elder Howe hearing his they will tell me it is anarchy, and they want to fight they can have all

The Arena for March.

The March Arena contains many very valuable papers. The contributions were never washed, and the dust and shop to work, and that as soon as he by women are a marked feature. trash that had lodged in them formed a could stand and at the time that Willson Helen Campbell writes on present prices paid to women; Cora Maynard contributes a very thoughtful paper on "The Woman's Part," dealing with the influence of women in the great onward all caused by the awful punishment that movements in thought and life of our he underwent. His name is Jackson time; Helen Gougar discusses "Christ hard to get clothing or shoes when I (colored). I have seen seven guards and and the Liquor Seller," in a strong asked. My ragged appearance was concentrational convicts beating him over the head paper from the point of view of a Proconvicts beating him over the head paper from the point of view of a Pro with canes and billeys all at the same nibitionist; and Will Allen Dromgoole contributes one of her touching Ten-I saw one man, a young boy rather, nessee stories, called "The Leper of the beat over the head because he laughed Cumberlands." During the past three at the yard guard, he was a colored boy years the Arena has published almost from Beatrice; Edwards at the pen can one hundred papers from the pens of tell his name I think. I saw the same women. This doubtless accounts for guard beat another boy named Brown the fact that the Arena is by far the over the head in the yard because he most popular review among thoughtful was considered hard the only thing that women in America Among other note worthy features of this issue of the Arena are Dr. Alfred Wallace's "Social shoes and he would not give them an order when they were not fit to appear aven before men let alone appear Time," Prof. S. Wait's "Life after Death," B. O. Flewer's "A Pilgrimage and a Vision, or Social Contrasts in Boston," Dr. F. J. Furnival's "Defense of Shakespeare," Dr. Leslie Keeley's Defence of the Gold Cure for Drunkenness, and a well-written paper on the Money Question," by John Franklin Clark, in which the writer plea's for a scientific treatment of this vital pr blem. The Are a continues to be brave progressive and in perfect touch with the most advanced thought on social, economic and religious subjects.

> Massachusetts Mortgages Massachusetts is among the cluster of so-called prosperous New England that in ten years, from 1880 to 1890, 250-222 real estate mortgages were registered in the state, representing an incurred indebtedness of \$508.445,550. On the first day of January, 1890, \$223,327,-668-a good deal over half of the total while the population had increased 25.57 per cent, the mortgage indebtedness had increased 168 per cent. It will be observed from the above figures that

Now is the time to subscribe for a good weekly paper. THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT is the one you want. BRIEF NEWS NOTES.

Interesting Items Gleaned from People's Party Exchanges. In speaking of the proposed repeal of

the Sherman act, Congressman Bryan It is said that in a moment of absentmind dress and abstraction Mr. Cleve-

land has been heard to softly solilo-Every judge of the United States courts appointed by Harrison or Cleve-

and has come from corporation ranks, and this proves that both old parties are completely under the control of the corporations. Grover Cleveland has decided not to live in the White House, and Harrison

has about made up his mind in the same way Cleveland has rented the Admiral Porter residence, but Ben Harrison's hat will go home. Falling prices, misery and destruction are inseparable companions. The

disasters of the dark ages were caused by decreasing money and falling prices. With the increase of money, labor and industry gain new life.-David Hume. "You may say that so far as I am concerned, I am willing to suspend legislation. if necessary until March 4th, to prevent the perpetration of this crime upon our people. But I think you will find such measures unnecess-

It required seven years for the internal improvement scheme, backed by the European money power, to ruin the Argentine Republic. How long will it require the rock roads swindle, which is the same scheme and backed by the same parties, to ruin this country?

Mrs. Diggs left Topeka last Saturday to go to Washington where her caustic pen will be engaged in showing up the iniquitous practices of our national legislators. On Friday night before leaving she spoke at the court house and issued a note of warning to the people's party, telling them of the dangers that awaited them if the policy of fudon should be adopted in this state. Mrs. Diggs will return to Kansas after the session of congress closes.

AMONG OUR EXCHANGES

Colonel Holden, true to his masters, comes out and denounces Senator-elect Allen as true blue an independent and as able a man as lives in the state .-Grand Island Journal.

ber of the G. A. R. Paddock and Thurston never smelled gunpowder. Yet 61 republicans voted for the latter two, and not one for A len. Oh! how the republican party done love the old soldier! Whew!-Becacon-Independent

The Populists in the Kansas legislature assented to the eulogistic resolutions on Blaine without a protest. The members of the people's party have a great admiration for dead republicans | D -Kansas City Star. The Capital National bank crowd at

Gold flees the country as soon as there is a hint of trouble coming. Silver stands its ground and fights manfully for itself and the people. Gold always was a coward and never shows its face

except when prosperity abounds. Let

misfortune threaten and it hides its face in Shylock's dea.-Nonconformist.

The Inter Ocean has discovered the socialistic advantage of the city of Chicago owning and operating its own lighting plant as well as the water: makes the a-tounding claim that it can be done much cheaper and better than by private corporations. The legislature should appoint a committee to investigate and suppress such seditious doctrines.-Nonconformist.

Wait, oh. wait till coal is cheap: Wait till love is true; Till promises are made to keep

and notes are paid when due;
Wait till the sun grows leaden cold;
Wait till your ship comes in;
Wait till unwed maids grow old

-Chicago News

And virtue conquers sin;

Wait till life is a happy dream
And men are deceivers never;
Wait till things are what they seem-Wait-and you will wait forever.

Luke Finn the sheriff of Greeley county, is so confundedly. dodgastedly ugly that even the dogs howl and the window panes crack and break as he passes along the street. Last week Editor Philbin, of the Greeley Center Citizen, referred to him as the "handsome sheriff" and Finn considered himself insulted and libeled. He proceeded

to "do up" the editor and as a result

paid a fine of five dollars and costs in

Judge Ole's court'—Schuyler Quill.

Senator-elect W. V. Allen is now in Washington, where he seems to be the lien of the day. When he takes his seat in the senate he will certainly be like the cat in the strange caret, and must necessarily be the object of much criticism. He will have a very hard part to play, because there is no rut for him to run in, no niche into which he can drop, no path prepared for his teet. He must make a place and a path for himself with the eyes of States. Yet the census bulletin shows the whole country upon him.-Ponca Gazette.

A Corporation Cabinet.

One of Mr. Cleveland's cabinet is a director in the following corporations: Buffalo and Southwestern railroad mortgage indebtedness—was still draw-ing interest and unpaid, showing that company; Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburg railroad company; Buffalo, Thousand Islands and Portland railroad; Lehigh Valley transportation com-"calamity" is not alone confined to the pany. Another is a director in the fol-"wild and woolly" west. The farmers lowing: Boston and Maine railroad of the oldest states in the Union are company, and the Chicago, Burlington rapidly going into bankruptcy—victims and Quincy railroad. Another is a of McKinleyism and the gold standard.

—Beacon-Independent, Broken Bow. bank, Georgia, Carolina and Northern railroad. Another is a director in the Continental National bank. This, we suppose, is Mr. Cleveland's idea of a business man's cabinet."-Progressive Office:310 Sheely Blk, 15 & Howard

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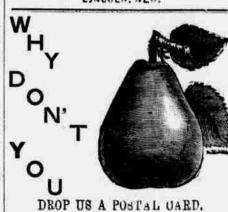
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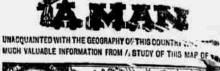
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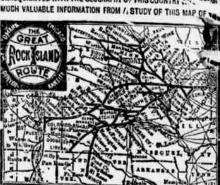
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