Pulse of Western Progress.

The latest gold discoveries in Arizona are almost at the doorway of its capital city, says a Phoenix dispatch to the San Francisco Call. Less than twenty miles west of Phoenix are the Estrella mountains, low peaks that continue to the northward from the Maricopa Divide. Here the most recent finds of gold have been made, and hither the prospectors are flocking in numbers. Among those who have made rich strikes in the Estrellas already are C. C. Montgomery, Frank Taylor and E. J. Long. Montgomery brought to Phoenix a large piece of rock, from which had been taken fragments that assayed $2,000 to the ton, and the fragments were taken at random. All of the ore from that section that has been examined runs not less than $50 to the ton. As is usually the case the discovery of the Estrella gold fields was the merest accident. Montgomery and a companion were hunting deer in the mountains. One had been killed and was being carried back to camp. Being weary they sat down on the rocks to rest. Aimlessly and automatically Mongomery began to chip off fragments of the big rock upon which he sat with a smaller rock. Suddenly something yellow appeared to the astonished hunter. He had chipped open a pocket of pure sheet gold, which the men rolled up, with a pocketknife, and brought to town. Neither of the men was a miner, and they did not realize the importance of their find until some months afterward, when they casually exhibited the specimens to a jeweler in this city. The very next day Montgomery and an experienced miner went out to the spot and staked out a claim, that could not be bought for a good many thousand dollars today. The discovery of these rich gold fields within almost a stone's throw of the city will undoubtedly result in the establishment of a smelter at Phoenix—a project that has long been nursed.

NATURAL SOAP MINE.

The recent arrival of Thomas McFarlane at San Bernardino from the desert with his pockets loaded with wonderful specimens, his startling story of an important discovery, and the air of mystery with which he shrouded the whole affair, drew public attention to what he had to show and tell, says the San Bernardino Sun. His specimens were a red clay-like substance, that he asserted were natural soap, and an examination and trial of the article confirmed the assertion. It was a soap dug from the ground, and it only needs to be put into shape for the market to command the highest price of that article. There is no making over to be done, for it is perfect in its kind. A small bit placed on a black, greasy railing and then moistened cleaned the paint to a whiteness that no manufactured article could ever excel. The peculiar property of the clay, for it can best be described as of that nature, was discovered when the prospector, in seeking water, built a little dam of the clay to raise the water sufficiently to allow the horses to drink from a small rivulet. He threw up the dam, only to have it melt away rapidly and dissolve. He made a careful examination and trial of the wonderful compound and discovered that he had discovered nature's own soap factory.

NEW MARKET FOR BRONCHOS.

The possibility of finding a Japanese market for the surplus horses ranging over eastern Oregon seems to be viewed in Japan favorably. W. A. Mears of this city, says the Portland Oregonian, has received a letter from a dealer in Kobe, Japan, making many inquiries in regard to the mustang or broncho stock of horses, and asking what arrangements could be made for shipping a large number of them to his country. The writer was explicit in his statements that a quality of horse corresponding to the broncho was required. Those who have traveled in Japan state that their horses are much like the people, small, compact, sturdy and capable of existing on small fare. Japanese apparently have no use for the finer breeds, either those fitted for draft animals or riding or driving to light rigs. The vegetation for the brute creation is severely competed for by the crowded human race, and horses like other animals of the lower order, must depend on scant feed. The horse of the eastern Oregon range is known to possess the qualifications for such a life. The herds of cayuse ponies that are to be found in some localities in numbers far beyond any possible local use are thought by stockmeen to be the very grade that the Japanese require. The breed of horses above the cayuse and ordinarily known as mustangs or bronchos are also very hardy, and a horse dealer said that, if there was no objection insurmountable in the way of transportation, they would doubtless find ready sale in Japan. Mr. Mears proposes to give the subject thorough inquiry to ascertain if these horses can be shipped there at figures acceptable to the Japanese. If he is successful there seems fair prospect for quite a trade in this line.

WYOMING'S MONSTER FOSSILS.

The visit of Henry E. Osborne, the distinguished paleontologist of Columbia college, to the Wyoming university again calls to mind the great fossil richness of this state and some of the marvelous reptilian specimens which have been collected by the Wyoming university. Prof. Knight and his assistant geologist and mineralogist Prof. Reed, have placed in the College of Mechanical Arts the largest vertebrae of a dinosaur ever discovered, says a Laramie special to the Denver News. This amphibious creature was over 100 feet long when he browsed on the earth or swam in the great sea which covered this region in ages past. This great vertebrae if of an enormous animal and one that is today unknown to science, and the work of describing it to the world has not yet been begun. They have nineteen feet of the vertebra of another dinosaur which was the part of a living creature nearly 100 feet long, which in the days of his earthly wanderings walked partly like a kangaroo and stood probably forty or fifty feet high from the ground. Profs. Knight and Reed have enough of the other bones of this creature to restore it and erect it in its natural attitude. The university has the bones of another saurian which is new to science and which stood upon four legs and was twenty or more feet high in life. The femoral bones of this animal are like great pillars as one stands beside them, and the mind ponders to conceive the enormous size of the creature that was one day supported by them. Its weight must have been prodigious to require such supports. The university has a paddle from a plesiosaurus, or swimming saurian, a marine reptile of the jurassic age, before the time of the dinosaur, which is pronounced by Prof. Osborne and other of the best specialists to be the finest specimen ever found in America in the way of fossils. The complete jaw of an elephant was recently found fifty-five miles north of this city in Halleck canyon with two teeth in it. It is modern and consequently not fossilized. From its appearance Prof. Reed is satisfied that it has not been washed far. There is a tradition or theory that elephants were plentiful in this region at one time. The Indians today tell of their existence in Alaska.

SEARCH FOR A LOST BONANZA.

A party of prospectors has started from Garfield, says a dispatch to the San Francisco Call, to find a lost mine in Idaho, from which thousands of dollars were taken a quarter of a century ago. The mine was rediscovered seven years ago, but because of its inaccessibility it was not worked. Seven years ago Lile Hopkins, who is one of the present party and another old settler started from Palouse on the trail of some horse thieves. They followed them far into the solitude of the rugged mountains of northern Idaho, but finally lost the trail and their bearings. One evening, while fighting their way through a tangle of of brush and down-timber, they emerged into a canyon surrounded on all sides by towering and almost perpendicular mountains, the only entrance being the one through which they had come. Here they were surprised to find two weather-beaten log cabins which had partially gone to ruin, and near by in the channel of a stream that wound its way through the canyon were found rotten sluiceboxes. On the bank was a tightly closed tin box. One of the men, out of curiosity, picked it up. In it they found a San Francisco Call of the year 1873. Neither of the men had had any experience in mining or they would not have left without trying to find what was there. It was growing late and they were anxious to make their way out before dark. They made many plans since to go back and investigate, but something always happened to prevent. This season, however, their interest was redoubled by learning of a tragedy in the Nez Perce war of a quarter of a century ago that points strongly in the direction of their discovery. A year or two before the breaking out of the Nez Perce war five prospectors outfitted at Lewiston and started into the mountains. Some months later two of them returned with a big sack of gold and bought a large stock of supplies. Since that time nothing more has been heard of them. Several years after the war was over the Nez Perce Indians told of five miners being killed by their tribe in the section of the mountains in which this canyon is located.

HERMIT RESTORED TO FRIENDS.

J. N. Harbin, an American, with a long white beard and feeble step, applied at the office of J. N. Poston, United States consular agent here, for shelter and food, says a Yorreon, Mexico, dispatch to the Minneapolis Tribune. He said that for nineteen years he had been living in Mexico. It is the old story of a futile search for great riches. Mr. Harbin was born in Jackson county, Tennessee, seventy-seven years ago, and went to California in 1844. He says that he became associated with the late Senator Hearst in mining and business ventures. He made considerable money, and in 1878 he came to Mexico as representative of a company of California capitalists seeking mining investments in the country. He located the St. Marcos and Sorroco silver mines, state of Durango, for his company. These two mines proved very rich and made a fortune for the company owning them. After clearing up $200,000 Mr. Harbin withdrew from the company and located the Vaca mine for himself. He purchased mining machinery in the United States and began the development of his property on a large scale. Just as a fortune was in sight the mine became flooded with water and he met with a serious accident, which confined him to his bed for many months. The water could not be controlled, and things went from bad to worse until all his money was gone. These misfortunes disheartened him so greatly that he thought it would be better for his family and old friends to think him dead, and the report reached his wife and two children in Fresno, Cal., fifteen years ago that he had died of mountain fever. When his health had improved Mr. Harbin went into the heart of the rugged Sierra Madre mountains, 200 miles from the railroad southwest of the city of Durango. He found a cavern, where he has since lived the life of a hermit, subsisting on wild game and vegetables which he cultivated. Ten weeks ago an American ore buyer for the International Smelting and Refining company was making a trip to remote mining camps in the Sierra Madres, when he came across the abode of Mr. Harbin by the side of a mountain trail. The hermit was then urged to return to his friends and news was afterward wired to a friend of the traveler at Fresno, through whom it reached a son of Mr. Harbin and brought a prompt response and means to cover the expense of the homeward journey. The old man is now speeding on his way to California to see his family and friends after an absence of nineteen years.

GOLD SEARCHERS HOPEFUL.

A company of ten has been organized and will proceed to dig for gold on the south fork of the Skagit in the region of Mount Baker, and the work of developing has commenced, says the Whatcomb (Wash.) News. There is no doubt that the Mount Baker region teems with the yellow nuggets. Don't be surprised to see a big mining boom spring up in the region of the snow-covered peaks.

To this the Monte Christo Mountaineer responds: "This reminds the Mountaineer of the placer stampede worked up down at Edison by Tom Cain in 1891. Waterfowl and barn poultry had been killed and fine particles of gold found in their crops at different times and it is well known that there is a free gold ledge somewhere in Samish or Friday creek hills between Whatcomb and Mount Vernon. Cain had been sitting in his hotel listening to some ranchmen's poultry tales of gold finds when his eye happened to fall on an old gilt beer sign kicking about the side yard and he concluded to put up a salting job on the boys, some of whom owned quartz claims up in the main Cascade range. After the departure of the ranchmen he picked up the beer sign, scraped off the gilding with his pocket knife and sent a trusty accomplice up the Samish to salt a couple of little sand-bars on the Haller farm, and then to impart the glorious news to the proper victims. Discovery claim was about a quarter of a mile above town and by midnight over twenty-five placer claims had been staked off with notices up, the last victim being Tom's brother, John Cain, who, having "located" in the rear of Bob Carter's livery stable and carried a gunny-bagful of the "prospect," hastily dug up in the darkness, home with him, informed his wife and sister that he "had struck it richer than any of the rest," and greatly scandalized the good ladies by dumping a mixture of black mud and horse droppings out on the kitchen floor. Charley Barbour, afterward of Sultan, and his brother Jim, the Monte Cristo pugilist, were among the midnight stampeders and there were unlimited whisky and cigars set up over the affair for months afterward."

BELIEVES IN HIS LUCK.

Tombstone has the most persistent hard luck miner in the world, says the San Francisco Call. His name is George Searles, and in the past eight years he has steadily and surely grown renowned from the bare fact of his digging in one spot without bringing to the surface a shovelful of dirt that would pay for its digging. George Searles has the kind of faith that is said to be used in the production of miracles. He believes that the hole he has been digging for the past eight years will eventually land him on the rich ledge of the Contention mine. No one else believes this, and many have tried to convince him that his work is all for nothing. He has already done nearly 1,000 feet of digging in shafts and drifts. All the work he has done unaided. Every bucketful of dirt taken out of the mine he has carried up to the dumps with his own hands, climbing a long ladder from the bottom of the shaft. He is quite an old man now, and will probably end his days in the depths of his barren mine. He has not been able to work continuously at his hopeless task of digging into the Contention streak, for he is a poor man and must at times leave the labors of his heart's desire and go out into the world to earn money enough to enable him to continue his digging for his ever-elusive bonanza. Though he has never found anything, he is as enthusiastic today over the discovery that he is soon going to make as he was when he turned his first shovelful eight years ago.

TRAVEL ON THE YUKON.

Nearly 2,000 men have left Juneau for the Yukon this spring. The Alaska Searchlight prints the following letter, written by A. B. Thompson and party, at Lake Bennett, May 26: "Our boats are finished and we are ready to sail down the lake as soon as the ice is gone, which will be two or three days. The water is now open down the lake for five or six miles; there it is blocked with ice for several miles, then open to the foot. We will leave here tomorrow and sail down so far as the ice will allow. Our scow is twenty-four feet long over all, eighteen feet wide and three feet deep. We also have a little dory to use as a tender. We have been offered $200 for our scow and would have sold it but had no nails, pitch or oakum to build another. A great many scows have been built this year and some of them are quite large. Sullivan and McLeod are building one 12x48 feet. Metcalf is at work on one 10x40, and the Stewart brothers two 14x48 feet. There are here now about a hundred boats and scows ready to leave and nearly as many more in process of construction. The saw mill is running day and night, turning out from 1,500 to 2,000 feet every twenty-four hours. The logs are dragged by horses to the mill, where they bring $25 per 1,000. The mill has orders which will require ten days or more to fill and many men who would have gladly bought their lumber have been forced to whip-saw it. Had the mill been operated last fall and winter its owners would have coined money this season. There is a chance that much of the travel might go in by some other pass next spring, so there might be some risk in saving up a large quantity this year."

THE DAKOTAS.

A 125-barrel mill is to be erected at Devil's Lake, N. D.

Armour will soon have a department store, a building for which is about to be erected.

The Brown county summer Normal school opened at Aberdeen with an attendance of over 100 teachers.

The Dawson, N. D., flour mill has just closed a successful nine months' run and will probably not be started again until the new crop is ready for market.

Sheep shearing is well under way at Dickinson, N. D., and the wool buyers are on the ground. The first clip sold, a 100,000-pound lot, at 10 cents per pound.

On June 22 the Scottish Rite Masons will hold a reunion at Aberdeen lasting until June 25. A number of prominent Masons from abroad will be in attendance and the beautiful Masonic temple will be dedicated and consecrated.

Manager Zritlow has just returned to Aberdeen from points east on the H. & D., where he has been making arrangements for the extension of their line to Milbank, Centerville and intermediate points from Webster east. The extension from Groton is practically completed to Webster and will soon be in active operation.

The old Troy farm, in boom days managed by the late John Van Deusen, is being put in condition for usefulness, buildings being painted and repaired and being restocked with horses, cattle and improved machinery. The farm comprises nine square miles of land, embracing some of the finest native meadow lands in North Dakota.

The mystery surrounding the loss of over $2,000 of school funds by Treasurer Giesen of Rondell township is still unsolved, according to an Aberdeen special. Many are of the opinion that the money was not stolen, but the story was invented by Giesen to cover a shortage in his accounts. He is not able to make the loss good and it is doubtful if his bondsmen can make up the deficiency.

J. A. Caughren of Minneapolis, a railroad contractor, with a subcontract on the extension of this branch of the Great Northern, has come to Langdon, N. D., to close deals for the supply of provisions for his camp of men and teams, which will arrive within ten days. The company's staff of surveyors drove across from the Walhalla and Cavalier extension and proceeded at once to place grade stakes along the line as already surveyed.

Picture Eyes, daughter of John Moose, an old warrior, who has scalped many a white man, will be married, according to a Bismarck special, on June 24 to Thomas Dulaine Cronan, an Irishman. There is a romance in this wedding. A few years ago Cronan saved Moose's life. He also promptly fell in love with Picture Eyes. But she was engaged to Four-Toe, a young brave. Cronan bought off Four-Toe and the wedding will take place.

COLORADO.

Grand Junction will raise $3,000 for peach day expenses.

Bridges were washed out and lowland crops about Eagle damaged by heavy rains.

The first clean-up of the Delano chlorination works at Boulder resulted in a ten-pound gold brick, which at the current rate is worth $2,400.

The women of Pueblo are making extensive preparations for the meeting of the Colorado Federation of Women's clubs, October 27, 28 and 29 next.

Eldora has almost doubled her population within the last thirty days. The building energy is something remarkable. The two local sawmills are unable to supply the demand.

Nell Hawkins, who keeps the Depot restaurant at Divide, has found some good specimens of free-milling gold on his ranch one mile north. Several mining men have made him flattering offers and as soon as he has an assay made is going to put a few men to work.

Another rich body of tellurium ore was encountered in the celebrated Black Crook mine at Lake City. This time it was discovered in the north level and the main values are in gray and yellow copper and ruby silver. Jack Sweet, the foreman of the property, stated that the mine was improving in richness every day. He also said that they were taking some splendid ore from the bottom of the forty-foot shaft.

Tarryall is one of the oldest placer mining districts in the state, but very little attention has ever been paid to the lode mines. In this line it is a prospectors' camp. There are now about 150 or 200 men at work in the district. About one-half are prospecting, the other half are working on pay ore. There are six or seven properties that have shipped ore or ready to ship. The values are gold and a small per cent of copper. The gold is found in iron quartz and porphyry. The major value is in tellurium and bismuth. Much of the richest ore shows no gold when panned. This is why the early gold hunters passed the lodes by as valueless.

Cheering news continues to arrive from Whisky Park and prospectors are flocking into that section from all directions, a majority, however, from the north and west. Finds of good mineral are being made west of the park for eight miles over on and beyond the north fork of Snake river and down where the hills are smoothed into grassy knolls. Late advices from there show that there are four new towns projected and nearly every man in camp is carrying specimens of his finds, carrying galena or copper, which can be readily seen without the aid of a glass. The recent finds are already scattered over a territory of eight by ten miles and from present indications there will be not less than twelve or fifteen properties shipping ore by July 1.

WYOMING.

It is not generally known that a good mineral prospect is now being developed within four miles of Evanston, Wyo. Mr. L. H. Lezeart, one of the best geologists and mineralogists of Wyoming, is at work on a tunnel in the mountain side, south of the Snake river, but many handsome fire opals have also been taken from the basalt formation along this stream.

WASHINGTON.

Sheep shearing is about over in Yakima county, and the sheep are being driven toward the summer ranges, in the mountains.

Bemis' shingle mill, in Cowlitz county, that has been delayed on account of the jam of bolts in the Toutle river, will be started up at once.

J. A. Parker is putting in a shingle mill at Big Lake, Skagit county. The mill has a ten-block and a single-block power feed machine, and will have a capacity of 225,000 shingles a day.

Two rolls of steel wire cable were received in Shelton, Mason county, recently for S. G. Simpson's logging camps. Each roll is 4,000 feet long, and weighs 5,000 pounds. They cost in St. Louis $2,000.

Nearly all the business men of Palouse have signed an agreement to visit the mines up the Palouse river, and put in one day's work with pick and shovel during the summer. The day will be selected in the near future, and a gigantic picnic is being arranged for.

The commissioners of Chehalis county have granted a petition for a six-foot right-of-way from Aberdeen to Montesano, along the old country road, for a bicycle path. The road is to be built by private subscription and a portion of the necessary funds has already been collected.

The Medical Lake Granite company has secured the contract for supplying the granite for the army post at Spokane, and has put on a large force of cutters, blasters and general quarry men, all of whom are busy. It is estimated that the filling of the contract will require three months' steady work.

The Enterprise shingle mill, in Edmonds, in an effort to outdistance the cut of 153,000 shingles of the Johnson mill some time last month, made a remarkable record by sawing 185,000 clear shingles in exactly twelve hours. This is the largest cut ever made in a double-deck mill in Edmonds, and, with ordinary timber used, demonstrates the efficiency of the crew.

The Indians at Kettle Falls claim the white men's fish wheels are robbing them of their rights, as no salmon have found their way up the river for three years—at least not enough to give even "one fish to one Indian," and it was reported in the spring that Indians were suffering on the reservation for want of food. This was among those who have not yet learned to raise enough to last through winter and formerly depended upon dried salmon.

Grasshoppers are causing great injury to crops on some of the farms in the vicinity of Anatone. Almost the entire crop, over 200 acres in all, belonging to A. Holm, has been eaten up clean by the pests, and about 100 acres destroyed for James Sangster. Clodmashers and field rollers were used in hopes of destroying them, but the implements had no effect upon the insects; for, after being pressed and crushed into the ground, they would wriggle out in a short time and go right to eating again.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Gray's Harbor Fishermen's Protective Union Canning company, in Aberdeen, the question of next season's pack was considered. The company has an option to either lease or buy the Herrick machinery, and the probabilities are that the company will lease it for the coming season, operate the cannery themselves, purchase the machinery at the close of the season and thus make it entirely a home institution. The pack last year was a profitable one, amounting to $30,000.

The owners of the National Bank of Commerce, in Tacoma, came to the conclusion some time ago that, by sinking a well under their building, all the water necessary could be obtained for the use of the building, and instructed their engineer, F. R. Abeel, to go ahead with the work. There was little prospect that anything short of forty feet would be sufficient to get what was desired, but when down about twenty feet a lot of old spoons and a frying pan were found, and thirty-five feet down the laborers came across the skeleton of a man firmly imbedded in the hard pan. It required several hours' hard work to get out the bones. On inquiry among some of the old-timers it was learned that an Indian burial ground was once located in that vicinity.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is probable a line of electric wagons will be put on between Elko and Gold Creek, Nev.

Seven Chinamen have been arrested at Hawthorne, Nev., for selling liquor to Indians.

There is great activity in the mining camps on the California side along the lower Colorado river.

Sixty-four teams, with 530 horses, have gone this spring from Clinton, B. C., to the Cariboo district.

The Anaconda, in Deadwood camp, Boundary creek, has shown up ore carrying 10.9 to 16.3 per cent copper and 4 ounces silver.

A handsome horse and buggy, the first vehicle of its class to enter Alaska, went up on one of the steamers recently for the use of Captain Thomas Mein.

Much work is being done in Eureka camp, on the Colville reservation. There are said to be more prospectors on the reservation than during the rush which followed the opening.

Activity in the Lone Star mining district in Arizona is on the increase. As each shaft is sunk rich ore is discovered, and the present outlook is that a flourishing camp will soon be established, which means much for Safford.

Charles D. Lane, the wealthy mine owner, will begin at once to arrange plans for constructing an aqueduct from Alpine county, Nevada, to the famous Pine Nut mines, containing fabulous wealth. The cost of construction will aggregate a million dollars.

Henry G. Bryant has arrived at Yakutat, at the base of Mount St. Elias, with a party of five, who will scale the mountain. It is his intention to plant the American flag on the summit ahead of Italian Prince Luigi, who is going north to carry the Italian flag up on the mountain.

Mrs. Catherine Hughes, who conducts a vegetable garden three miles east of Uklah, Cal., on Russian river, has been left two gold mines and an income of $1,000 a month by the death of an uncle in Mexico. Mrs. Hughes' husband died a year or two ago, since which time she has had a severe tussle with adversity.

Ground has already been broken on the Lake Tahoe railroad between Truckee and Tahoe City, Nev. The railroad will connect the lake with the main line of the Southern Pacific and remove the only obstacle in making the lake the greatest resort on the coast. The road will be standard gauge and sleepers will be run to the shores of the lake. A big hotel will be erected.

Randsburg is agog with excitement over a new strike. The Wedge mine opened up a four and a half foot body of rich ore, the counterpart of a rich strike made three weeks ago in the Kinyon mine. The rock fairly glitters with gold and much of it shows the value of a dollar per ounce. This strike was on the 315-foot level and every blast shows richer ore. In the Valverde No. 2 shaft, heretofore low grade ore, running $8 a ton, a rich strike was also made and ore worth $300 a ton is now being taken out.

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DEMOLISHING THE TOMBS

New York's Famous Prison Condemned to Destruction.

HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT PILE

A Bit of Egyptian Architecture, Which Sheltered Many of the Noted Criminals of the Century.

The Tombs, New York's historic prison, and one of the famous sights of the metropolis, is about to be demolished and a modern prison erected where it now stands. It was built in 1838, and has been regarded as one of the finest examples of Egyptian architecture in the country. Artists, architects and travelers, relates the New York Tribune, have been most favorably impressed with the beauty of the building, somber and grim as it is, and many have declared that it would be a great pity to destroy the portico at the entrance in Center street, which is the most striking and impressive part of the building.

The Tombs was built on the site of the old Collet pond, which had been filled up generations before the erection of a prison there was thought of. Five years before the building was put up its plan was adopted by officials who had read "Steven's Travels," a popular book of the time, and had been impressed by one of the illustrations in the book, a picture of an Egyptian tomb. Their idea was to have the city prison so forbidding in appearance that nobody would care to become an inmate of it. Its designation, the Tombs, was selected on account of the form of the building.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CUPOLA.

At the time of its completion in 1838 the Tombs had a cupola, but the cupola was destroyed by fire in November, 1842, and was never rebuilt. Connected with that fire was a mystery which kept the city in a ferment for many months. The fire broke out at the moment when John C. Colt was to be hanged for the murder of Samuel Adams and there are New Yorkers living today who believe that the torch was applied to the cupola of the prison to prevent the execution of Colt and that he escaped from the Tombs at the time of the excitement. The case of Colt had been before the public for over a year and had caused widespread excitement.

John C. Colt was a brother of the manufacturer of Colt's revolver, and he had published a book, of which Samuel Adams was the printer. On September 17, 1841, Adams went into Colt's office at Broadway and Chambers street to protest against what he had declared was an effort of Colt to cheat him out of his money, and he never left the office alive. His mutilated body was found later packed in salt in a box which Colt had shipped on the schooner Kalamazoo, at Malden Lane and the East river, and the walls of Colt's office were found to be spattered with ink, as if an effort had been made to conceal blood stains. The watch which Adams had carried was found in the possession of Caroline Henshaw, a young woman who had lived with Colt. Although Colt was tried and convicted, he had so many influential friends that the public did not believe he would be hanged, and on the day set for his execution there was a multitude of people in Center street.

FROM GAY TO GRAVE.

Four hours before Colt was to be hanged he was married to Caroline Henshaw in the Tombs. The hanging was announced to take place at 4 p. m., and at that time the firemen were called to the Tombs to fight the fire which had started in the cupola. Some of the firemen declared that they saw Colt get into a hearse that was in the courtyard of the prison, and that the vehicle was driven rapidly away when the excitement of the fire was at its height. The prison officials said that a keeper had gone to Colt's cell and had found Colt dead, with a dirk in his heart. A body, which was declared to be that of Colt, was buried later in St. Mark's churchyard, but there was a prevailing belief that Colt had escaped from the prison alive, and that his was the first escape from the Tombs.

There have been few escapes from the Tombs, but there have been many suicides in the gloomy building, and several men who have been in the shadow of death there have cheated the hangman by poison, knife or pistol. One of the earliest and most remarkable of the escapes from the prison was that effected by Bridget Mack, an Irish girl, only 12 years old, who had been imprisoned for theft. She got up in the night, when everybody else in the woman's prison was asleep, tore some bricks out of a fireplace and climbed up through a chimney flue to the roof of the prison. Then she jumped off the roof to the ground, a distance of thirty feet, and got away safely.

An escape from the Tombs which caused a sensation in the city was made by William J. Sharkey, who murdered Robert T. Dunn, in 1873. Maggie Jordan, Sharkey's sweetheart, was allowed to visit him in the prison. One day, after she had been to his cell and had passed out again, the wife of Wesley Allen went to visit her husband and said she had lost her pass card. When the search for the card was in progress Sharkey's cell was seen to be empty and it was remembered that a person who appeared to be a tall, veiled woman had gone out with Mrs. Allen's pass card. Sharkey escaped to Cuba and later went to Spain. He never came back to this city.

THE LAST ESCAPE.

The last escape from the Tombs was made by John Meyers, a burglar, in June, 1893. He dug a hole through the wall of the old prison from his cell on the upper tier, squeezed his body through the hole on a dark night and let himself down with a rope of bedclothes to the ground on the Elm street side of the courtyard. Then he climbed to the roof of the woman's prison, went over the roof of the warden's quarters on the Leonard street side and let himself down outside the wall. He got away safely, but was caught again some weeks later and sent to prison.

For more than half a century the hanging of murderers in the Tombs attracted much public attention. Those executions have been divided into two periods. In the first period, from the time of the completion of the Tombs until 1858, twenty years, seventeen men were put to death by the rope in the courtyard of the prison. No fewer than thirty-eight men had been sentenced to die in the Tombs in that period, but fourteen of them had their sentences commuted to imprisonment for life, one committed suicide, one was pardoned outright and the rest got new trials and escaped a second conviction for murder. Edward Coleman, a negro, was the first man to be hanged in the Tombs, and his execution was on January 12, 1839. His wife had been a well known figure in the city and was called the "Hot Corn Girl of Broadway." She supported her husband until his brutal treatment led her to forsake him, and then he killed her.

The second period of Tombs executions extended from 1858 to 1889, when death by electricity in the state prisons was substituted for death by hanging as the penalty for murder. During the whole of the second period of executions "Joe" Atkinson was the official hangman, and his work with rope and gibbet was so perfect that the authorities decided he must have a period of executions all to himself. "Hangman Joe" believed in doing his work with such skill as to avoid all harrowing and cruel scenes. He spoke of men he had assisted to leave life as those he had "relieved." The noose which he adjusted about a neck never slipped out of place, and when he sprung the fatal trap death was sudden and painless. He used the same gallows year after year, and for every man he "relieved" he cut a notch in the cross-beam. There were thirty-three notches in the beam when he put the gallows away for the last time.

THE FIRST AND THE LAST HANGING.

James Stevens, a wife murderer, was the first man to pay the death penalty with Atkinson's aid in the Tombs, and the last was Harry Carleton, "Handsome Harry," who murdered a policeman, James Brennan, in 1888. Carleton was the last man to be hanged in this state. No woman was ever put to death in the Tombs. Among the murders avenged by the hangman in thirty years were those of Mrs. Hull by Chastine Cox, and of Louis Hainer by McGloin, murders which caused more than ordinary excitement in the city.

For many years the police court in the Center street side of the Tombs, and the court of special sessions in the same building, were crowded every day, and in those dreary old rooms, which are to be destroyed soon, were brought in review almost daily the most shocking of the crimes of a great city. With the erection of the criminal courts building, at Center and Franklin streets, the old court rooms in the Tombs were abandoned, and they have been of no use to the city since then.

The building of a new prison on the Tombs site has been made a necessity by the overcrowding of the old prison. In recent years it has been necessary to pack three or four prisoners in a cell intended for the occupancy of only one person, and the Board of Health has protested several times against such overcrowding, while several grand juries have made presentments against such a crying evil. The erection of a large fireproof modern prison on the site will be an improvement demanded by common humanity.

Don't neglect a cough because the weather is pleasant; before the next storm rolls around it may develop into a serious difficulty beyond repair. One Minute Cough Cure is easy to take and will do what its name implies.

To Amalgamate Railway Orders.

NEWCASTLE, Pa., June 20.—A union meeting of the five great railway unions—engineers, firemen, conductors, trainmen and telegraph operators—was held here last evening. A large representation of the several orders was present from many cities. The object of the meeting is amalgamation of all the railroad unions into one.

"They are dandies," said Thos. Bowers of the Crocket, Texas, Enterprise, while writing about De Witt's Little Early Risers, the famous little pills for sick headache and disorders of the stomach and liver.

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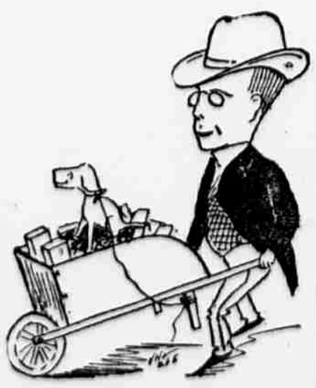

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