

COLE LEGALLY KILLED

THE COLORED MURDERER SWUNG OFF AT BISMARCK FOR HIS CRIME

STATE'S SECOND EXECUTION

Story of the Brutal Shooting for Which the Extreme Penalty of the Law Was Paid—Jealousy Prompted the Killing of Sophronia Ford—Execution a Success—The News of the Northwest.

BISMARCK, N. D., March 24.—(Special.)—The second legal execution in the history of North Dakota took place here this morning. James W. Cole, colored, who, on Dec. 12, shot and killed Sophronia Ford, paid the penalty of his crime. The drop fell at 6:14. In three and one-half minutes Cole's heart ceased to beat, and in ten minutes the body was cut down. Cole's neck was broken by the fall.

Cole's last night alive was quietly spent. The condemned man was given his last meal at 5 o'clock this morning, when he ate liberally of ham and eggs, and then smoked and talked for an hour of his crime, expressing himself as being entirely willing to pay the penalty. He wanted no religious counselor and would not have the death warrant read.

The march to the scaffold began at 6:10. The noose and cap were adjusted by Deputy Sheriff E. G. Patterson, and the trap was sprung by the sheriff at 6:14. There was never a quiver or convulsion after the murderer reached the end of the rope. Death was instantaneous.

The remains were interred at once, there being no friends or relatives to claim the body. The coolness of Cole was remarkable, and lasted him throughout the ordeal.

The crime for which Cole paid the penalty on the gallows was committed a few days before Christmas, 1898, and was one of the most brutal and cold-blooded in the history of the state. The victim was a fifteen-year-old mulatto girl, Sophronia Ford, of whom Cole was enamored and to whom he had been paying attention for some months. Jealousy and rage because of fear that he would lose the girl to another suitor who seemed more favored were the causes for Cole's crime, which was premeditated and carefully planned.

Cole's own explanation of the crime is a tale of jealousy, fear, rage and bitterness, brought about, he says, through long deception and the opposition of designing persons to his love affairs. The murderer and the family of the murdered girl have been residents of the city for a number of years, and up to a short time before the murder Cole was apparently a welcome visitor at the house and enjoyed the confidence of the victim. But a rivalry sprang up between Cole and another negro, and the parents, so Cole says, grew lukewarm toward him, prejudiced the girl against him, and finally secured a breach of the relations between them. Cole endeavored to explain matters, but could get no opportunity to see the girl alone. Finally, in jealousy and desperation, he resolved that the only way in which he could secure peace of mind was to kill the girl and then himself.

For this purpose he purchased a revolver and awaited his opportunity. It

was first his intention to visit the house while the parents of the victim were away, kill the girl and then himself and when the parents returned to have them find the two bodies there together. But developments altered his plans. On the Sunday before the crime, which was committed on Monday, he visited the victim at her house and had a brief conversation with her, which he says resulted unsatisfactorily. When he left he had made up his mind to see her in the morning on the way to school. But on that morning he overslept and failed to keep his engagement. Along toward noon he made his way toward the path the girl usually chose to go to school and awaited her coming. Finally he saw her and joined her, and together they walked up the street toward the school house busily conversing. When they had reached the principal residence portion of the street, Cole stopped suddenly, drew a revolver from his pocket and fired three shots at the girl in quick succession. The first entered behind the left ear, and the victim reeled and swung half round, at which the negro fired the second shot, the bullet entering at almost the same relative angle, back of the right ear. The third bullet missed the object and buried itself in the walk. The girl fell to the sidewalk, death being instantaneous. Cole hesitated for a moment, stooped and placed a bunch of letters beneath the senseless form, and started down town.

Residents of the vicinity, alarmed by the shots and horrified at the spectacle of cold-blooded murder at midday, gave chase, and followed the murderer, who made his way directly to the county jail and gave himself up, handing to the officer his revolver with the remark: "That's what did the business." Court was in session at the time and Cole was immediately arraigned and pleaded guilty. Sentence was deferred for a day or so and in the meantime he attempted suicide by taking rough on rats, which he had concealed in his shoe, but medical assistance was at once summoned and the poison was taken from him. At the time of his sentence he seemed stupid and weak. He said he had been born in South Carolina, Charleston, in 1860. He came to North Dakota about seven years ago. He asked for no mercy and desired the death penalty.

What passed between the murderer and his victim on that last fatal walk was not known until Cole told the story a few days before the execution. He said that he had asked the girl what conversation she had had with his rival and she had refused to tell him. She informed him partly of what had taken place, but he knew she was keeping something back. After some questioning he asked her if that was all she had to say and she told him it was and requested him to hurry up and finish his conversation. At this he had drawn the revolver and murdered her.

Cole made a model prisoner, and during the time he was confined awaiting his execution, gave no trouble, being cheerful and tractable. He expressed sincere regret for the deed, but said that he had been wrought up to such a frenzy by the phase of his love affair that he had been impelled to do the deed.

Cole was a burly negro, black as ebony, over six feet in height and brawny as an ox. Ordinarily, he was good natured and willing to work, inclined to be musical, and frequently at social events had been sent for to enliven the guests with plantation songs and melodies and guitar accompaniment. He came to the country as the body servant of Capt. L. A. Yorke, whose divorce case earned him considerable notoriety, and when Yorke left the state Cole remained in the city as the keeper of a little second-hand store. So far as known he leaves no relatives.

Rush of Immigrants.

JAMESTOWN, N. D., March 24.—The rush of immigrants to the James river valley has now begun. Yesterday two train loads of immigrants arrived and

will locate in the vicinity of Carrington and New Rockford. A large number of the new settlers were from Kansas, while Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio were also represented. The settlers were in charge of J. L. Daugherty, of the Northern Pacific immigration bureau. A number of the settlers will locate in Stutsman county.

ST. CLOUD.

New Flouring Mill—Alleged Embezzler Arrested.

ST. CLOUD, Minn., March 24.—(Special.) Fred and Martin Schroeder have bought three lots in the business part of St. Joseph, and as soon as the weather will permit, will begin the erection of a brick flouring mill at that point. The new mill will have a capacity of seventy-five barrels per day and it is expected it will be ready for business by the middle of July. It will be heated by steam and will cost in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

Sheriff Schilplin, at the home of Mrs. Elwell, in the town of Fair Haven, arrested William Coats. He is wanted at Marion, Ind., to answer to a charge of embezzling state school funds. The arrest was made upon information received from C. C. Bradford, sheriff of Grant county, Indiana. When Sheriff Schilplin told his mission Mr. Coats seemed little surprised and admitted he owed the state \$15. His story is to the effect that he was a justice of the peace at Marion, and resigned on account of ill health. No settlement was made at that time, and his docket shows that there was due him \$500, which his son was to collect and settle up his business. He will not require extradition papers.

The funerals of James Biggerstaff occurred today from the Presbyterian church, of which he had been deacon for many years. The services were conducted by the Masonic fraternity. The members of the G. A. R. post, of which deceased was a member, attended in a body. Mr. Biggerstaff was one of St. Joseph's oldest citizens.

Farmers' Elevator to Be Built.

MONTROSE, S. D., March 24.—About 100 farmers met at this point and made preliminary arrangements for building an elevator of 50,000-bushel capacity. A feature of the proposed plan is an obligation taken by stockholders to sell their grain at the new elevator, and to forfeit all rights and stock if found selling to a line company. April will be well advanced before seeding operations get well under way. More emigrants have arrived this spring than for several years. Land values are increasing. One tract sold the other day for \$20 per acre.

Home From Uruguay.

LA CROSSE, Wis., March 24.—Mrs. W. R. Finch, wife of Hon. W. R. Finch, United States minister to Paraguay and Uruguay, arrived in the city this morning from Montevideo, Uruguay, and will spend the summer with her mother and other relatives here.

deal will be prosecuted to the supreme court, and the judgment will be suspended pending the appeal.

City Ticket Named.

CROOKSTON, Minn., March 24.—(Special.)—The city ticket named by the Republican convention, held here tonight, is as follows: Mayor, Halver Stonerson; alderman-at-large, M. E. Kirsch; First ward, G. O. Bunn; Second ward, T. G. Thompson; Third ward, G. S. Chesterman; Fourth ward, L. Ellington; Fifth ward, C. A. Meyers; treasurer, O. O. Christianson; clerk, W. A. Lanclat; assessor, C. W. Motz; justices, John McLean, G. H. Holt.

Talk of a Lynching.

BRANERD, Minn., March 24.—(Special.)—Oliver Eau Claire was captured today at Aitkin and brought back to Brainerd by Sheriff Erickson. Eau Claire fled from the city Wednesday night, after having attempted assault upon the 6-year-old daughter of Adam Armstrong. Rumors of a lynching are current on the street tonight, and the city is very much excited over the affair.

Hastings' Nominees.

HASTINGS, Minn., March 24.—(Special.)—At the Democratic city convention, held this afternoon, Fred Busch was nominated for mayor, and F. J. Calling, for city clerk.

Will Lose His Legs.

WINNIPEG, Man., March 24.—A dispatch from Wetaskiwin, N. W. T., says: "An Assyrian peddler named George No-field, was brought in yesterday from fifty miles east of Wetaskiwin, in a state of collapse, with both feet and legs badly frozen, having been wandering on the prairie nine days without food. His legs will have to be amputated."

Money for the Mills.

SHAKOPEE, Minn., March 24.—The city council decided last night to give the L. Christian Flouring mills of this city right of way for a side track along the Minnesota river. It also appropriated \$3,000 to be used in building the track, one-half to be paid at once, and one-half after the track is completed.

Held to the Grand Jury.

LONG PRAIRIE, Minn., March 24.—W. F. Noble, who was arrested last week for forgery, had his hearing before Justice Booth today. He forged a note of \$150, signing his cousin's name to it, and attempted to negotiate the same. He was bound over to await the action of the grand jury.

Alleged Forger Is Released.

CLOQUET, Minn., March 24.—Gregory Greenler, who was arrested last week on a charge of forgery made by B. J. Sumnerfield, has been released, as Sumnerfield would not testify further against the accused.

Gentle Spring Time.

DEVIL'S LAKE, N. D., March 24.—(Special.)—A heavy snow storm and blizzard has been raging here all day, the worst of the season.

For Mayor of Mankato.

MANKATO, Minn., March 24.—(Special.)—Orange Little, agent for Cagill & Co., grain and coal dealers, was today nominated for mayor by the Democrats. The Populists nominated a ticket, which makes three candidates in the field.

Called to Red Wing.

RED WING, Minn., March 24.—(Special.)—The Presbyterian church extended a call to Rev. Elliott H. Moore, of Fergus Falls. It is believed he will accept.

Democratic Ticket.

CHIPPEWA FALLS, Wis., March 24.—(Special.)—Ex-Secretary of State T. J.

DR. SANDEN'S METHOD

By this plan men are made powerful, the blood is sent through the veins in jumps and bounds, it carries warmth and active life to every vital part, restores vim, ambition, mental and physical power; the nerves are filled with new life and every part of the physical body feels the glow of health.

It Is Grand for Weak Men.

Its Effects Little Short of Miraculous.

Dr. A. T. Sanden: "Last fall I bought your No. 6 Extra Electric Belt for Sciatica. Its effect I consider little short of miraculous." J. G. CALLAHAN, 117 Iglehart St., St. Paul.

Feels Very Grateful, and With Good Reason.

A little over a month ago I sent to you for a belt, which you sent me. I charged and put on the belt the same evening it was received and have worn it every night since. I have received great good from it; my back and kidneys are entirely cured. My memory is better and so is my eyesight; life seems so much sweeter. I feel as though I could pick up a house and carry it. My heart was in the habit of stopping quite often. I cannot describe that awful feeling that came over me when it would stop. I think it is like death. My heart has not stopped since I first put the belt on, and this alone is worth so much that I shall ever feel grateful to you. Yours truly, NICHOLAS SEDORE, Neche, N. D.

Varicocele Cured.

Dr. A. T. Sanden: "Dear Sir—I gave your belt a thorough test, using it about six months, and found it greatly benefited my lame back, and drove away all the varicocele from which I suffered from that time; hence I am very grateful to you for your interest in my case, and the great cure which has been effected for me. With best wishes, I remain, yours respectfully, J. B. TIMINGS, Fairview, N. J."

Would Consider it Cheap at \$500.

Dr. A. T. Sanden: "Dear Sir—I used one of your \$20 belts, and I must say that had I paid \$500 for it, instead of \$20, the money would have been well invested, for the belt cured me of a trouble for which I had doctored for years with the best physicians, which, however, only brought me temporary relief. Yours truly, A. T. LINDHOLM, Ass't Postmaster, Stillwater, Minn."

A BOOK WORTH \$100 FREE TO MEN.

To men who are weak, who have lame backs, who are nervous, sleepless, who have poor digestion, constipation, weak kidneys and such troubles as follow exposure and overstepping nature's laws. To such men my book, "Three Classes of Men," is worth \$100. It is full of hope, full of encouragement to weak men. It is worth the time of any man to read it. I will send it free—closely sealed, by mail. It explains all about your trouble and how Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt cures all weakness of men. Can you call? If so, that is the best way. I will advise you what I can do for you and give you a free test of the Belt. Call or address

SANDEN ELECTRIC CO. 233 NICOLLET AVENUE, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
Office Hours—9 a. m. to 6 p. m. Sundays—10 to 12 a. m.

Cunningham was placed in nomination for mayor by the Democrats today. L. J. Bishel was named for treasurer, W. J. McDonald, clerk, and Arthur Peletier, assessor.

Teachers to Meet.
MOORHEAD, Minn., March 24.—(Spe-

Cured of Varicocele and Rheumatism.

Winona, March 2, 1899.
Dr. A. T. Sanden: "Dear Sir—I bought one of your \$20 Belts for varicocele and rheumatism, of which it cured me in a few months. The rheumatism was inflammatory and very severe. I shall always try to have a belt on hand, as it is a good preventive for disease and also a blood purifier. Respectfully yours, FAUL A. JASMER."

From a Minneapolis Clergyman.

Dr. Sanden: "When I got your Dr. Sanden Electric Belt I was all crippled with rheumatism, the muscles of my body were all knotted and big lumps stood out on my wrists and limbs. After a few weeks' use of the belt the rheumatism was entirely gone and a natural and normal muscular condition has prevailed ever since. Aside from curing my rheumatism the belt has been a great help to me in other respects. At the time of getting it I was very nervous and my vitality very low. This is all changed now, and at 57 I am stronger and healthier in every respect than I was at 40. I deliver 3 sermons each Sunday to different congregations, travelling 20 miles on horseback to reach them. This is quite a task, but does not fatigue me in the least. While I have no particular need for the belt now, I wear it occasionally, as I consider it an excellent thing to tone and invigorate the system. Yours truly, REV. H. BUNSE, Mayer, Minn."

Present address: 413 6th Ave. No., Minneapolis, Minn.

From G. A. R. Veteran.

Dr. A. T. Sanden: "Dear Sir—Your Dr. Sanden Electric Belt has been very serviceable to me, having cured me of rheumatism and other troubles resulting from exposure and hardships experienced during the late war. Have been lending the belt to quite a number of my G. A. R. friends, and in each case it has had the desired effect, so that the saying, that a remedy that is good for one is not always good for another, does not seem to apply to your belt. Yours truly, WM. LEITZ, Supt. N. W. Casket Co., Minneapolis, Minn."

Typewriters Rented.

If you need a typewriter for a short period, communicate with our Rental Department. Telephone, 1629-A, Smith Premier Typewriter Company, 136 East Sixth street, St. Paul, Minn.