

(-45.7° C.) on the 9th, and the day following the minimum touched -58.2° (-50.1° C.).

Everything being in readiness, we commenced our pendulum observations on January 6th. During this work regular time observations were necessary twice daily, and the severe cold made the work of the most trying character to our astronomer, Sergeant Israel. He made the observations on the 14th, in temperatures varying from -54° (-47.8° C.) to -56° (-48.8° C.). A few days later, being exposed for a long time to a temperature of -48° (-44.4° C.) in the open observatory, he froze superficially one of his feet. Apart from this the pendulum experiments, though tedious, and involving exposure and suffering, were most fortunately and successfully conducted.

In the meantime the entire quarters had been made as comfortable as was possible. The house had been well banked up with both earth and snow, and all cracks in the men's quarters had been papered over so that no draughts were possible. The men had constructed shelves over their bunks, and had arranged curtains, which insured a certain privacy whenever they sought it. In the officers' room such shelves and conveniences had been erected for each one as were desired. The surgeon had his books, instruments, and such medicines as he wished, on shelves constructed in his corner.

My own domain of eight by eight was in general thrown into the main room, but heavy curtains were so arranged that at night, or whenever I desired privacy, they could be drawn so as to cut off my corner from view. Such little personal trappings as I had taken with me were arranged to the best advantage. On shelves near me were placed my personal books and the excellent Arctic library we were favored with. To save space, my bunk was built on the top of an ammunition-chest, in which the greater part of my clothing was packed.

Anonymous.
1886

"The Coast Survey Scandal,"
The Washington Post (Sunday 17 October), page 2,
column 2.

THE COAST SURVEY SCANDAL.

Sworn Charges Laid Before the
District Attorney Yesterday.

Charges and specifications were yesterday lodged with the District Attorney and sworn to by Col. H. E. Coleman, against Supt. F. M. Thorn, B. A. Colonna, R. M. Bache, John W. Parsons, H. G. Ogden, F. H. Parsons, Edwin Smith and C. O. Boutelle, all of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, implicating them in the issuance of false vouchers. Information against five or six other members of the survey is being prepared, and as soon as it is ready the whole matter will be laid before the Grand Jury. The charge against Supt. Thorn and Mr. Colonna is that those gentlemen kept upon the roll of the survey, and paid for the month of July, 1885, three men who had been absent from the office for periods of from four months to two years, although they had been warned and knew that those men had rendered no service for the periods named. The charges against the other defendants are the issuance of false vouchers prior to the incumbency of Superintendent Thorn.

"Yes, I induced Col. Coleman to file this information," said Mr. Vincent J. Fagin to a POST reporter last night. "I probably am better acquainted with the survey than any man there or in the Treasury Department, as for three years I was its disbursing agent. Mr. Coleman was an assistant under me and knew almost as much about the rottenness of the institution as myself and was perfectly willing to swear to the charges. You see I am the principal witness in every one of these cases, and it would hardly do for me to be prosecutor and witness and everything else. I do not charge that Mr. Thorn is dishonest or that he is permitting dishonesty in the bureau, but I claim that he is utterly incompetent and that he is keeping in the service men who ought to have been discharged long ago. The object in bringing up this matter is to cause the publication of the evidence which was taken at the investigation last year and to secure the punishment of those whom that evidence convicts. I have no doubt that there will be several arrests very shortly."