

## WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

The steamer Gaelic from Hong Kong and Yokohama via Honolulu was reported as passing in to San Francisco at 3:30 this morning.

The Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mining company has commenced suit at Butte against the Empire State Idaho Mining & Development company, asking for an injunction, and claiming that it holds the apex of the ore body in the Stemwinder claim near Wardner, owned by it, and that therefore it has priority of location.

The torpedo boat destroyer Farragut is ready for her trial trip on which she is expected to make thirty knots an hour. Lieut. Nicholson, navigating officer of the Oregon on her famous trip to the East, will command the Farragut when she is placed in commission. Her trial will take place in a few days.

The bank commissioners have just compiled their report showing the condition of the banks of California on August 31. Compared with the figures in the report of July 31, 1897, a period of thirteen months, it shows an increase of assets and liabilities for all the banks of \$28,477,075. The total is given at \$330,892,531.

Adjutant General A. W. Barrett of the California national guard, as the agent of Gov. Budd, will leave for Washington on next Monday to present to the secretary of war a claim for \$100,000 on behalf of the state for property turned over to the government during the war with Spain. He expects to reach a settlement in a short time.

Gen. Marcus P. Miller has decided to recommend to the war department that the Nevada cavalry be included among the troops to go to Manila. The troops have never been mounted, but this will make no difference, as the transportation of horses to Manila has practically been abandoned by the war department.

The first varsity game was played Friday afternoon between the Stanford University and the First Washington Volunteers. The game put up by the soldiers was very poor and loose, and Stanford scored three times in the first half, seemingly without much effort. The final score stood 22 to 0 in favor of Stanford.

Rev. H. M. Dubose of Nashville, Tenn., general secretary of the Epworth League, reports to the conference of the Methodist Church South, Los Angeles, Cal., that the present membership of the league is 252,725. The board of missions received \$1,077,388 during the last four years. Ten missionaries have been added and the membership of the mission churches is now 8,928.

Several new features of the charges against Rev. R. J. Briggs of Austin, Tex., have been developed and will be considered by the committee of the M. E. church South Oakland, Cal., now trying the case. Correspondence with several women is to be considered, and charges of neglect of pastoral duties are to be preferred. The trial may be protracted beyond the adjournment of the conference now in session.

Twenty-four disgusted gold hunters just returned from Kotzebue Sound on the Catherine Sudden bear out the reports of the other miners from there that there is no gold to be found. About 1,000 people are left at the Sound, but they are all making preparations to leave. A large number of them will go up the river and across to Copper creek. The Sudden left Kotzebue on

the 6th inst. and encountered a severe storm on the way down.

Mrs. Edith Davourst of Alameda, Cal., was killed by a live wire which was hanging from an electric light pole over a vacant lot which she was crossing. She was literally cooked to death, her clothes being burned and her body terribly scarred. Her husband, who reached the scene of the tragedy too late to be of any aid, also received a shock and his mind has become deranged through grief.

A party of distinguished Japanese bankers have arrived at San Francisco. They are representatives of the Mitsui bank of Japan. The visitors are on a tour of inspection and will make investigation on the banking and commercial systems of this country. A branch of the Mitsui commercial corporation will be established in San Francisco next month and will be placed in charge of S. Odagaki.

According to W. J. Hotchkiss, secretary of the Winemakers Corporation of California, which includes 80 per cent of the growers, the vintage this year will be one of the smallest in the recent history of the state. He says: "Our advices indicate that the yield of dry wines is in the neighborhood of 8,000,000 gallons, as against 27,000,000 last year. Sweet wines will show about one-half the product of last year."

Forecaster Hammon of the weather bureau, San Francisco, is anxious to have a cable laid to the Aleutian Islands and other Alaskan points for the purpose of improving the service on the coast. His ideas have been favored by the board of trade and Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has written that he will call the attention of Congress to the matter. Mr. Hammon's chief desire is to watch the movement of the Japan current, which influences climatic conditions in California.

The necessity for adequate quarters for troops at the Presidio having been brought to the attention of the Chamber of Commerce, that body Friday mailed a communication to the secretary of war, asking him to give the matter immediate and serious consideration, and to wire the results of his deliberations, in order that the work may be commenced at the earliest possible date, as the winter rains have already commenced and the cold weather will be upon us shortly.

It is reported by George Howe, a well known Alaskan guide, that only two of the several parties of surveyors and explorers sent into Alaska by the United States government in charge of officers of the United States army, will reach the coast in time to return before the winter storms block the trail. The fortunate expeditions are those headed by Lieut. Spurr and Captain Abercrombie. All of the other parties are safe, but will have to winter in the interior.

The Democrats of Bear Lake county, Ida., have put up the following straight Democratic ticket: State senator, Charles E. Harris; representatives, Chris Wallentine, Alfred Osmond; sheriff, Charles E. Robinson; clerk, James E. Hart; assessor, Emmett J. Howell; treasurer, L. T. Shepherd; attorney, Douglas Hix; probate judge, G. C. Hillier; superintendent of schools, Annie Osmond; county commissioners, Ole Transtrum Jr., L. P. Nielsen, C. Webster surveyor, Robert Birch; coroner David Crockett Stuart.

The state railroad commissioners of

California will attempt to bring about a reduction of rates by the Pullman Car company. Col. Polk, expert accountant of the commission, has made a report showing that the capital stock of the Pullman company is estimated at \$36,000,000. The net earnings for the last fiscal year were \$4,650,850, and the income from the surplus account on July 31st amounted to \$25,247,648. It is argued by the commissioners that these profits indicated excessive charges.

Rev. Dr. R. J. Briggs, whose trial for immorality is in progress behind closed doors by a committee of the Methodist Church South conference, declares that his arraignment is due to an alleged widespread difference in the South Church between those claiming to possess "First" and "Second" blessing. Those who testify to the possession of the "Second work of Grace" are emphatically against the use of tobacco, hence the trouble, according to the doctor. It is understood that a large number of letters said to be incriminating are in the hands of the committee.

Over 100 people narrowly escaped death by the collision of the steamer Santa Rosa with one of the derelict log rafts now afloat in the Pacific. The steamer was bound from San Diego, Cal., via Los Angeles and Santa Barbara with 202 people on board. When off Pigeon Point she almost ran at full speed into the raft which lay low in the water. Her course was quickly changed, but the raft scraped her side and carried away the patent log as it passed her stern. The raft, which has become such a menace to navigation, left Astoria on the 19th of September in tow of the steamer Progresso, but broke loose, and efforts to locate it have proved unsuccessful.

The citrus fruit season, which has just closed, has been remarkable in many respects. Not only has the output been the greatest in the history of southern California, but this has been after a series of frosts which were supposed to have wiped out at least a third of the crop. It is estimated that the product aggregating 5,000,000 boxes or as much as Florida produced at the maximum of her output, when cut short by frost, sold in the eastern markets at wholesale for \$11,018,127, representing a value on board the cars in California of \$6,491,792, with freight aggregating \$4,526,334. Estimating that 25 per cent of the freight is paid out by the railroads in California, the industrial value to the state is placed at \$7,627,379.

J. Stanley Brown, general agent of the North American Commercial company on the Pribyloff Islands, who has just arrived in San Francisco, says of the sealing industry: "The catch this year will fall short of that of last season. The exact number of seals which we have taken this year on the island is 18,032, which is 2,000 less than last year. The pelagic sealing shows even poorer results. The total catch of all the schooners in the Bering sea does not exceed 15,000. I should place the number of seals caught at between 12,000 and 15,000. The owners of schooners engaged in seal fishing are really suffering from the poor success they meet with. I know a number of them who would willingly sell their ships and quit the business if they could see their way out of it."

The directors of the new Bakersfield and Los Angeles railroad will formally organize in a few days. It is understood that Clause Spreckels will be made president, Robert Watt first vice president and Captain Payson second vice president. These gentlemen held similar positions in the San Francisco