

## WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

The work of mustering out the independent battalion of Washington volunteer infantry was begun at Vancouver, Wash., Friday.

Five days ago Isaac Williams, a Warrens, Ida., miner, was killed by being accidentally shot with his own revolver, the bullet passing through the brain.

Ivan Kraus, an officer of the Russian army at Port Arthur, China, who arrived at Vancouver, B. C., on board the Empress of Japan as a stow-away, has been arrested.

Death from heart trouble, assisted by supposed starvation, came to Judge Thomas J. Curtis at Boise, Ida., Friday. Mr. Curtis was once very prominent in that section, but died penniless.

A hard fight against extradition is being made at Butte, Mont., by Mrs. Sarah H. Lulley of Denver, charged with selling mortgaged property and defrauding a number of creditors.

Adrian Tappney of New York, who arrived in Seattle, Wash., from St. Michael on the last trip of the steamer Roanoke, reports the loss of the Abbey Rowe in the north sound and the drowning of eleven persons.

Hon. Webster Davis, assistant secretary of the interior, delivered one, if not the very best, speeches in Evanston Thursday night, ever rendered there to probably the largest audience ever assembled in the Evanston opera house.

A charcoal burner in the person of George Gaits, aged 70 years, met death in a peculiar way Thursday. His hut at Boise, Ida., took fire, and before he could get out, his legs were nearly burned off, and he died about 15 feet from the door.

J. Knuttschnitt, manager of the Southern Pacific company, positively denied Friday the report that the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe had completed an arrangement with the Southern Pacific for the use of the latter's tracks between Bakersfield and Mojave.

Richard Chetwood of Company I, First Tennessee, was stabbed in the back this (Monday) morning while in a San Francisco saloon. Chetwood was in the provost guard and was trying to arrest an unknown Tennessee private when the latter stabbed him with a bayonet. Chetwood's condition is critical.

Major Guy L. Eddle has been chosen by the army medical department to succeed Major W. S. Matthews, of the 51st Iowa regiment as the commanding officer of the Presidio hospital. He will eventually be placed at the head of the new hospital which is about to be erected at the Presidio at a cost of \$70,000. Major Matthews has been granted a thirty days' furlough.

Col. Roland H. Hartley, secretary to the governor of Minnesota and on the governor's staff, Miss Warren and Miss Higginbotham, nurses, and Dr. Thomas McDavitt, of Minn., have arrived at San Francisco. They have come to receive and take charge of the 15 sick soldiers of the Thirteenth Minnesota regiment, who are expected to arrive on the hospital ship Rio Janeiro from Manila, due today (Saturday).

Near Leadville, Colo., Sunday, Mrs. Cornelius Shea and her five-year-old daughter, Margaret, were struck and killed by a Rio Grande Western passenger train. The mother and child were returning home from church along the railroad track. The engineer blew

the whistle and Mrs. Shea left the track, but returned to save her daughter when both were instantly killed.

General Merriam has decided that Captain John E. Towers, of company A, Twentieth Kansas, was disqualified for service in Manila, and therefore upheld the decision of the board which first declared his incompetence. Captain George N. Watson of company L of the same regiment, however was deemed by the general to be worthy of his rank, and was reinstated in his regiment.

A dispatch from Seattle says that the bark Highland Light, which has been loading coal at the Smith-Cove bunkers, did not sail Sunday for San Francisco owing to an unforeseen occurrence. According to the story of the captain two boats loaded with men came out of the Highland Light and boarded her. They were armed with pistols and took five sailors away by force. The captain would not give any intimation of his opinion as to the cause of the alleged kidnapping.

General Merriam has ordered the following officers and men to proceed to the Philippines on the transport Indiana which will sail in about a week; Colonel Funston, Majors Frank H. Whitman and Wilber S. Metcalf, Surgeon John Rafter, Assistant Surgeon Henry D. Smith, Adjutant General Charles B. Walker, Quartermaster Walton O. Hull, Chaplain John G. Schlemmer, regimental non-commissioned staff and band and Companies C, D, E, G, H, I, K and M, Twentieth Kansas volunteer infantry, and six privates of the hospital corps, making a total of 31 officers and 750 enlisted men.

The number of men to be sent on the remaining transport has been so reduced below the number that the ships carried on their first passage to Manila that it would now seem necessary to make use of some of the transports not yet returned. It is General Merriam's intention to send back the City of Pueblo and to discharge from commission the Rio de Janeiro, Peru and City of Para. Unforeseen obstructions in the dispatching of the Ohio and Indiana will delay their departure now for several days. They may not sail for another week.

The nominating committees of the Republican and anti-Teller Silver Republican parties were in session, at Denver the greater part of Sunday and until midnight, but failed to agree on a combination ticket. The road committee will meet again on Wednesday next for the purpose of framing an independent ticket which will be placed in the field. Several names are under consideration for the head of this ticket, but no definite selection will be made until the meeting on Wednesday. There now seems to be no prospect of the two forces coming to an understanding on the question of merging the tickets.

General Merriam has approved the following court martial sentences: First Sergeant William C. Prull Company M, First New York, regiment, to be reduced to the ranks and to forfeit 15 days' pay for disobedience of orders and using abusive language; Private Harry J. Deutschbein, Company B, same regiment, to be confined at hard labor under charge of the post guard at Honolulu for one month and to forfeit \$10, for disobedience of orders and using obscene language; Private John Albert, Company A, same regiment, to be confined at hard labor under a post guard at Honolulu for thirty days for disobedience of orders.

A detachment of Captain Abercrombie's surveying party, consisting of 14 men under Lieut. Kelly, U. S. A., arrived at Seattle this (Monday) morning from Cook Inlet on the steamer Alki. The schooner Woodbury arrived from Cook Inlet with 65 miners. F. M. Stone of Hollister, Cal., a passenger, brings news of the accidental shooting of a brother-in-law of L. H. Jifkins, of Scranton, Pa., Sept. 3. The man was known to Stone only by the name of Phil. While crossing a river his pistol fell out of his belt and was discharged. Another passenger on the Woodbury was Andrew Williamson who has been in the Cook Inlet country several years. New gold strikes are reported about forty miles of Atlin where it is said from \$5 to \$6 to the pan is regularly washed out.

An alleged shortage has been discovered in the stores of the quartermaster's department of the Iowa regiment amounting, in the value of the missing goods to several hundred dollars. Col. Loper, commanding the Iowa regiment, admitted that he feared the loss would amount into the hundreds of dollars, though its exact extent could only be determined by a careful survey, which regimental Quartermaster Cady had already undertaken. He said it was his intention to put some competent accountants at work upon the books and stores of the department. The colonel said that it was his conviction that no loss through dishonesty could possibly have occurred and whatever its extent he believed that it would be found to have arisen merely through carelessness or inexperience of those who had charge of the issuing of the supplies.

News just received from Clearville, Plumas county, Cal., a new town, reports the burning of a hotel and the loss of five lives. The dead are: P. Pedrini, Carson Barney, Mrs. Cornado, Florence Roberts, 7 years old, and a woman whose name has not yet been ascertained. The fire broke out at 4 o'clock Friday morning in Chat Robert's hotel. Mr. Roberts awoke in time to escape by jumping from the second story window, in doing which he sustained severe injuries. The other occupants of the building, with the exception of those above named, escaped unhurt, but lost everything but the clothes they wore. The five unfortunate people were suffocated while they slept. The origin of the fire has not been determined, but is supposed to have been caused by a defective chimney. The property loss is not great.

T. A. Baker, of Portland, Oregon, who arrived from Alaska Sunday night says he met two men and a woman at Skagway who had just finished a trip of incredible hardships over the Edmonton trail. They were Henry Mitchell and wife, of Goldendale, and George LeFevre, of Spokane, who left Spokane fourteen months ago for the Klondike by the overland route. When they started they had 2,000 pounds of provisions and 21 horses. Now they have nothing. All their supplies and animals were lost, and they consider themselves fortunate in having escaped with their lives. They saw provisions scattered along the trail from the time they were well up in the interior until they left for the coast and found several graves of those who had perished in attempting to reach the gold fields. Several times they lost their way, and it was only by good fortune that the trail was found again. After traveling several hundred miles and perceiving that it was useless to attempt to get through by keeping to the regular route, they made directly for the coast, going down one of the rivers to the south of Skagway.

The San Francisco Chronicle this morning states that Robert Watt, vice