WESTERN NEWS GULLINGS.

Coal Mine Fire in the Rock Springs District.

CRIMES AND OTHER TRIFLES IN IDAHO.

A Tremendous Sturgeon from Snake River.—Many Accidents and Casualties.

Rock Springs Miner.—A terrible excitement was caused here on Wednesday about 2:30 p. m. by the sound of the fire whistle. It was soon discovered that the fire was in No. 1 mine and men and women and children were seen running super and excited to the man-way. As soon as the news leaked of the fire they went orders for all the men and mules to come out immediately which caused a great excitement among the miners for some of them had to travel about two or three miles before they got to the surface, and not is a long ways to go when there is danger ahead. All got out safely. The fire brigade and citizens were eager in lending a helping hand so that no time was lost in getting to the fire as it was only down at No. 3 entry and had a good stream of water playing on it, it was discovered that had started in the fire and by night the fire was extinguished. The fire was supposed to have been started accidently by a Pinsander who was working close to the place.

Idaho Star.—Considerable excitement was caused at E. C. Hall's opal mines on Wednesday afternoon over the discovery of the largest opal yet unearthed, and which weighed a trifle over nineteen carats. Mr. Hall had been working his pit all week with poor success, and was almost in despair when he struck this precious stone. The stone is dimensions is five inches long and one and three-fourths inches wide, and three-fourths of an inch in thickness, is of a brilliant lustre and in the rough is valued at $1000. A number of people from the city have driven out to his place to view the latest find and extend their congratulations.

Shoshone Journal.—About 1 o'clock on last Friday people in the vicinity of the Hot Lemon Parlor were startled by the report of a pistol shot, and on going to the rear of that building found one of the proprietors, Bob Peel, lying upon the bed, a ghastly hole in his clothing and breast, just above the left nipple, while on the floor by the bedside lay a large 44 Colt's revolver. The bullet passed entirely through his body, being picked up from beneath him in the bed by Dr. Redmond. He stated that he had a father in Portland, Oregon, and a sister in Lincoln, Neb. Beyond this, little is known of him, as he spoke but a few words after committing the deed, sinking gradually until about midnight of the same day, when he died.

Idaho Democrat.—J. E. Harrous, the other day had steaks from a Snake river sturgeon whose length was ten feet and weighed four hundred pounds. The fish was caught by H. F. Connor.

Butte Journal.—One of those distressing accidents to which a miner is ever exposed, and which the greatest care cannot entirely prevent, occurred at the Pike's Peak mine last Sunday morning. Andrew S. Price was working in the bottom of a 70-foot shaft, when a bucket of rock, weighing about 80 pounds, fell from the top, crushing the unfortunate miner to death almost instantly. Nearly every bone in his body was broken. The accident was caused by an imperfect brake, which was known to be unsafe, but which was not fixed.

Blaine Recorder.—Frank Allen was stabbed with a penknife by Francoes Hunt at Gilmanville last week. Ten or twelve wounds were made, principally about the neck and shoulders, and his lip was cut through. Dr. M. L. Davidson dressed the wounds and the patient is doing finely.

Topeka Capital.—Emporia, Kan., June 30.—A painful accident occurred in Armour's flouring mill late yesterday afternoon. S. M. Summers, the miller, undertook to crawl over a large belt while it was in motion. The consequence was that his clothing caught and he was upon it twenty or more a few times and finally dashed with great force against an upright shaft. Both legs were broken and his body was made a mass of bruises. Strange to say, he has recovered consciousness and hopes are entertained for his recovery.

Bagdale Echo.—The flow of immigrants through this section at present is something unprecedented in the history of northern Wyoming. Not a day passes that does not witness the arrival of two to twenty outfits. The great majority of the movers are from Kansas and Nebraska, where they found on till succeeding crops forced them to abandon their farms to the tender mercies of the mortgagee, pack what portables they could carry and depart toward the setting sun. Many of the outfits have excellent live stock—principally horses—with them, and some prefer bent farmer is selling a load of corn to the promised land. A hundred families left one Nebraska neighborhood and are traveling together.

Lead (Dak.) Herald.—For more than five years the grass in this section at this time of year has not been so tall as at present. Most any place on the prairie where stock has not ranged, better hay can be cut than was harvested any time last fall. While the constant rains of this spring have caused the atmosphere to stay rather cool, vegetation, nevertheless, has been fairly on the jump. Cattle are in clover and are so sleek and fat as can be.

Brigham Bugler.—A few days ago two men were hunting in the mountains near Malad City. They noticed a tenderfooted eagle circle round high in the air and then, descending, light on the summit of a stump peak. Quietly was set up, a label of lead attached and shell secured; they then found an eagle's nest. Behold young. Assuming the rugged stump they reached the nest with difficulty. The mother, a providence bird, darted off with a frightened yell. Two large unwieldy baby eaglets were found in the nest, a huge affair, about three feet in diameter. One hopped out, fell over the precipice and was killed; the other was captured and brought to Brigham City, where it is now in the possession of J. P. Jacobson. In the great nest were also found a number of dead chickens, ducks and young pigs, carried there by the old birds as food for their young.

KILLED AT THEIR POSTS.

THE DESPERATE STRUGGLE OF THE GREEKS AT THERMOPYLÆ.

It Was a Forlorn Hope Undertaken by Leonidas in Order to Humble the Persians and Stimulate the Courage of His Own People.

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LEONIDAS and his 300 Spartans at the pass of Thermopylæ have for more than twenty years furnished the world's brightest example of military valor.

It was on and about the 10th day that placed the heroic band in desperate straits, although there were accidental causes bearing upon the occasion and determining its character. It was a forlorn hope, undertaken after grave deliberation, as part of a general plan of resisting to the death enormous odds brought against the Grecian nations by the power and resources of the east, Xerxes.

For seven years the Persians made warlike preparations to overrun Greece in revenge for their defeat by the Athenians at Marathon, and because the northern Greeks would carry with it all Europe and give Persia a foothold from the rising to the setting sun. The whole energies of the east were bend upon the troops, armies, provisions, ships and general supplies.

In autumn, 481 B. C., Xerxes set out from the eastern limits of Asia with a host estimated at from 1,000,000 to 2,500,000 fighting men, including the crews of over 1,000 war ships. The Greeks who were called upon to his camps were not put to death according to custom, but were allowed to see the customs of the Persian armament and return to tell their people about it, in the belief that the petty states of the little peninsula would be overawed by the intelligence, and would submit without a blow to the sovereignty of the invading monarch.

The land force comprised the soldiers of forty six different nations, each contingent having its own mode of costume and armament. But few of them were armed and equipped as well as the Greeks. Many nations carried swords or scimitars, and others had simply staves for hatchet at the point. Among the irregular troops there were many dark heads whose garb, arms and whose armament were to the last degree barbarous. For instance, a wooden cap, made of bowstrings, 8,000 strong, carried spears, which they used after the fashion of the American lasso, to lassoo a foeman and then drag him from the field to be dispatched at leisure with a dagger, the only weapon sent by those wild tribes of the desert. Another series, Ethiopians, from the head of the Nile, had their bodies painted half red and half white, wore the skins of wild beasts of the jungle, and carried javelins and bows with arrows tipped with horns.

In order to feed his vast army Xerxes ordered immense quantities of stores to be gathered at points on the line of march through eastern Asia, and the provinces subject to his rule were compelled to contribute assistance for the whole force, which, with non-combatants, is computed at from 3,000,000 to 5,000,000 souls. Any lack of war enthusiasm on the part of the people was crushed out. He on one occasion a father of five sons pleaded that the eldest might be spared while the other four joined the invading army. Xerxes caused the son whose request had been asked to be put to death and his body severed into two parts and displayed along the route of march of the soldiers as an example of the inexorable laws of subjection that would be enforced.

In order to cover Greece by the parts most favorable for his gigantic enterprise Xerxes bridged the Hellespont with a structure of boats a mile long, and dug a ship canal for his fleet across the isthmus to avoid the stormy cape of Mount Athos. In Macedon and Thessaly he found willing allies, and to the course of his magnificent and awe inspiring progress southward all other tribes yielded their territory and offered their allegiance. What else was there on the plain of Thermopylæ could pack a position with solid column, covering every foot of the territory, and then have no army remaining over to pursue and punish the fleeing Athenians?

The men of Athens and of Sparta were valiant spirits among those northern Greeks who proposed to hold Xerxes back and take the earth and water which he demanded should be sent to him as a symbol of submission.

The mountain chain bisecting the Grecian peninsula from northwest to southeast, and approaching the sea on the east at the head of the channel of Negropont, Sistous, overhangs and hut the invaders back, after the march had passed round to the Olympian and other gods, and during which military operations were prohibited. It was the same superstition that had kept the Spartans from the field of Marathon when the auspicious Athenians won their glorious victory over the hosts of Darius, B. C. 491. The Athenians were all serving on the war ships in the main strait between Attica and the desolated Spartans and their neighbors and the contingents furnished by the northern tribes constituted the whole available land force to stop with the invaders. Xerxes he chose to wait for the festival tide to pass and to know the whole body of Greek warriors. Thus he did not hesitate.

Thus Leonidas reached the narrow pass at Thermopylæ, which the northern tribes believed to be an impregnable position if properly defended by resolute men. He learned that another pass over the mountain was used, led to the rear of Thermopylæ. Xerxes sent one to fetch of the eastern gate of Thermopylæ and his fleet was anchored in the waters of the Malic gulf. A pass around the southern Greeks when they heard that there was a pass to meet the enemy in front, and saw so few men to meet the vast Persian armament, and they wanted to retreat and reorganize. Leonidas, on the narrow passes between the Cretinic and the Saronic gulfs. The northern tribes, or nations, who would thus be left an easy prey to Persia, defended their place with great eloquent that Leonidas forbade the retreat and sent orders to all the allies to hasten to the rendezvous.

The Persians undertook to guard the secret mountain pass with their contingent of 1,000 men, and Leonidas awaited the coming of Xerxes, who did not wear his armament at the suburb of the hundred of men departing his march, tried to make the Spartan pass the night before the winter of Greece. This being rejected with scorn, he sent demanded the surrender of the arms in the hands of the Greeks, to which Leonidas replied, "Come and take them." This the Persian king promptly attempted, by no means belittling the task, however, for he knew the Greeks with his choice regular troops, the fellows who burned to avenge their terrible defeat at Marathon ten years before. Even those proved no match for the defenders, who were hardly armed and fed-blood, and formed close ranks of sturdy, practiced fighters.

The loss to the Persians was enormous, but the men in the rear ranks were spurred forward with scourges, and troops again

THE FAMOUS PASS

and again repulsed, kept it up for two days. On the second day a favorite body of household troops of the King, called the Immortals, from their number of 10,000 men always maintained to the northeast, were sent in under the personal direction of Xerxes. They, too, were cut to pieces and driven back by the Greeks, who were sturdy supplied fresh men to defend the narrow pass.

On the second night a circuit of the region occupied by the Persians revealed to Xerxes the secret mountain path, and a detachment of soldiers caused over and captured the sentinels placed there to give a shower of arrows. The guard, more armed by the surprising attack than wounded, ran down the hill down the mountain, and the Persians pushed on to the rear of Leonidas. Working marched the defenders of the pass through south, and opinions was divided as to stay and fight it out or retreat. The Spartans were firm, their king holding that his own honor and that of Sparta was at stake, and that the pass they had been sent to defend were not to be yielded to an enemy. The Spartans were firm, the Thespians and the Thebans, outnumbered, to remain, and the others retired.

Leonidas told his men to take some nourishment, promulgated them that they should sup with Pluto that night, and then marched them outside the pass to meet the advance guard of the Persians. Before morning the midnight Persian Xerxes soldiers threw themselves into the sea to escape the deadly Grecian spears, and the Persian guards marched to the hill to keep the Greeks up to the rock. In the heat of the hand to hand struggle Leonidas was killed, and a desperate conflict was waged around his body, until finally the remnant of his band drew it back along the pass behind a cross wall that offered an obstacle to the way, and there quietly awaited the end. The Persians detachments on the mountain side quickly came in on the rear and cut off all means of escape. Then the work of slaughter began. The Greeks fought to the last like wild beasts at bay, and when their spears, swords and daggers were lost or broken, struggled with nature's weapons as long as the power remained.

The Greek dead is placed by the historians of the time at 4,000, and the same be includes the slaves attending the warriors. In the last struggle 1,400 perished, and out of the 1,000 total that took part during the previous days of combat none were killed. The Persian loss is estimated at 20,000, a number fairly proportioned to the circumstances, when we bear in mind the fact that the Greeks were in the pass to stop quarters.

On the day of the last struggle at Thermopylæ the Grecian fleet retreated before the Persian, and it required another campaign to drive the invaders back into their proper limits. This was effectually done during the year at the naval battle of Salamis, off the coast of Attica.

The debt of the pass proved a useful one, though possibly the earth would have been different had the entire Greek force been there. It is sweet to serve Thermopylæ gates and the Greeks with pride as well. But a people who wondered martial valor decidedly found some consolation in the fact that the story of their defeat contains the wonderful story of the Spartans, whose deeds they commemorated on the spot by this legend, "Stranger, tell to the Lacedæmonians that we lie here in obedience to their orders."

GEORGE L. KILMER.

THE LAND IN RAPTLE

Popular Errors in Beekeeping.

In a paper read before the Wisconsin Agricultural society on popular errors in beekeeping, C. A. Hatch said: "The number of flowers that really do secrete honey in sufficient quantities to be available for bees is comparatively few, popular opinion to the contrary notwithstanding. Only in the flowers to which bees are necessary for fertilization is the nectar to be found.

"A few things only on the dishonest, but is no respecter of persons, for if A happens to be the offender, B will get the penalty if he happens to be near at hand. The queen, commonly regarded as a scourge, is in point of fact more of a subject than a scourge. Contrary to popular belief, the old queen goes with the swarm and all the old bees at that time in the hive. Bees are short lived, living in summer but from four to six weeks, instead of from year to year as some supp-

That Tired Feeling

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