

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Friday morning, while working on the bridge across Rock creek, about five miles from Rockford, Washington, Frank Horton fell from the frame, forty feet, to a ledge of rock below, horribly mutilating his body. He died Friday night, after suffering great agony all day.

Rich and poor were alike led to invest in lots in this flourishing young city in the midst of the Mojave desert. A sale made to Amanda C. Rowlen of Jackson, Mo., shows a consideration of \$12,500. Homer C. Norwales is said to have paid \$6,000 for his town lots, and it appears in the record that Wm. P. Steele paid \$1,000 for landed property in the city of Concord. One poor baker in Chicago gave his bakery for lots which he was assured were worth fully \$20,000, and numerous other cases of the same kind could be mentioned. If Connelly has conducted his bargaining by means of the mail service, prosecutions will probably be begun by the postal department. Inspector Flint recommended that the case be transferred to the Chicago division.

One of the largest and most destructive forest fires that has ever visited Oregon is now raging near Oak Point, forty miles up the Columbia from Astoria. A stretch of flame three miles wide is sweeping through the most valuable timber lands in Oregon. Several lumber camps have been destroyed, hundreds of cattle perished, but no loss of life is reported. Large parties of lumbermen and ranchers have been fighting the flames for two days without rest, but the fire is gaining rapid headway. Millions of logs and a vast quantity of standing timber, together with a few ranch buildings, have been burned. The loss cannot be estimated at this time. There is no prospect of the fire being controlled until it burns itself out.

A member of the Lincoln county, Idaho, delegation to the Republican state convention told a Boise Statesman reporter of the narrow escape from death a few days ago of C. W. Wernike, of Shoshone, at Shoshone falls. Mr. Wernike with a party of friends was paying a visit to this, one of the greatest of America's wonders. One morning he took an early stroll among the rocks a short distance above the thundering cataract. He stood for a time on one of the high promontories, being so impressed with the grandeur of the scenery that he was lost in reverie and started absent-mindedly to descend. As he reached the bank of the river he tripped and fell, his head striking a projecting limb, cutting a bad gash. He reeled and fell unconsciously into the river, and his body started towards the falls. Fortunately a little girl saw him strike the water and gave the alarm. Several men at once rushed to the river and succeeded in rescuing Mr. Wernike. His body was slowly moving towards the falls, and few feet further, would have been picked up by a swifter current. No human power could have saved him then. The point where he was pulled out was only about twenty yards from the falls.

Wyoming's total coal production in 1895 was 2,246,911 short tons; spot value, \$2,977,901. Wyoming is one of the coal producing states whose output in 1895 was less than that of 1894, and one of the four in which there was an advance in the average value per ton. Compared with 1894, the coal product of Wyoming in 1895 showed a loss of 170,522 short tons. There has been a steady decrease in Wyoming tonnage since 1892 and in the output in 1895, which was the smallest. The value of the product of 1895 was \$192,401, less than that of the preceding year, the advance in price being 2 cents a ton, from \$1.31 in 1894 to \$1.33 in 1895. The decreases in 1895 were substantially all in Carbon and Sweetwater, the two principal coal producing counties. The former lost a little more than 85,000 tons and the latter about 230,000 tons. The losses were partly made up by an increase of 114,172 tons in Uinta county and about 25,000 tons in the aggregate tonnage from unimportant counties.

Harry McCurry began work Friday morning at 7 o'clock in the 700-foot level of the Banner mine, near Oroville, Cal. Seven blasts had been exploded at 5 o'clock in the morning in the tunnel, and the shift boss ordered E. F. Bice and McCurry to test the rock and see if all was safe before they began working. Bice did so and made a careful examination. In his judgment all was safe and secure. McCurry took the pick and began on the rock, while Bice used the shovel. After they had worked half an hour Bice said: "You better let me spell you now." They exchanged places and Bice used the pick while McCurry commenced to shovel the rock from the track. Bice had only made five or six blows with the pick when he heard a crash, and down came a mass of broken rock weighing approximately 1,600 pounds. McCurry was stooping forward when the rock fell, and the mass struck him on the neck, breaking it and instantly killing him. What seems a strange coincidence is that he was standing nearest the Norman Rideout when the latter was killed in the Magalia mine.

Postal Inspector M. H. Flint has been occupied in Los Angeles, Cal., lately in unearthing the particulars concerning an alleged land swindle carried on by Robert Connelly of Chicago. As it seems to have involved a violation of the postal laws, Robert J. Munroe, inspector in charge at San Francisco, requested Inspector Flint to look into the matter. From records in Bakersfield, Kern county, it was learned that one B. F. Baldwin of Pueblo, Col., has purchased from the state of California a school section in the heart of the Mojave desert. The land was thirty miles away from water and utterly worthless, but Baldwin bought it at \$1.25 an acre and obtained a patent February 1, 1892. The land was immediately surveyed into town lots, alleged to be component parts of a town called Concord, a map of the site of which was duly recorded at Bakersfield. Baldwin evidently lacked courage or means to carry on the development, for the records show that he

soon transferred his prize to Robert Connelly of Chicago, reserving only seven blocks for himself. The alleged consideration was \$21,500. That Connelly made the most of his bargain is shown by a record of real estate transactions, showing sales in Chicago of lots and blocks in "Concord" for considerations varying from \$1 to \$12,500. A few cases cited by the inspector alone show an apparent profit of \$20,950 in cash, exclusive of sales made for a nominal consideration of \$1 and other property in exchange.

For a week or more reports have been going around of the wonderful sayings and doings of a sick girl, Ethel Gilliam, daughter of N. B. Gilliam, on Crane Creek, Idaho, eighteen miles east of Garfield, to the effect that she was gifted with supernatural powers, and, although blind, could read by applying her hands, and that she had been in a trance and had visited heaven. Considerable curiosity was aroused over the case, and a party consisting of George F. Stivers, Dr. J. A. Dix, Dr. J. N. Clark, F. L. Gwin, O. H. Johnson and John Simpson drove to the home of the sick girl to see for themselves if there was any truth in the report. They found the girl, who 12 years old, suffering from a disease of the brain. She has been sick for a month, during which time she has gone blind. She retold the story of her trance, in which she visited heaven; said she saw Jesus and the angels, and that Jesus prepared a crown for her and said she would shortly return to wear it. She saw people there that she knew but they wore no wings. It was claimed that she could read or describe pictures by simply passing her hands over them, but in the test put by the party she generally failed, claiming that she was troubled in her mind too much at that time. In one instance she read several words on a card. The party returned with the impression that it was simply a case of the mind being affected by disease and that in so far as the reading tests were successful it was by sight. However, it seems that in her own neighborhood there is unbounded faith in her supernatural ability. There is considerable excitement over it. It is estimated that within the past ten days there have been not less than 500 visitors to see her and the most of them go away believing that she is possessed of more than human qualifications. Others, like the Garfield party, believe it is all a delusion, brought about by a disordered mind.

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 2.—The Seattle banks will retaliate on Canadian banks for discounting the money of the United States. The matter has been discussed informally by the clearing house and final action will be taken at once. The Canadians have been making a discount of ten per cent on American money and the proposed action of the local banks which will undoubtedly be taken will be a discount of two per cent on paper, while fifty cent pieces will be received for forty cents and twenty-five cent pieces for twenty cents. The banks will give ten days' notice to their customers of the new rule.