

AN INTERPRETER'S EXPERIENCES.

BLUFF, San Juan County, Utah,
October 30th, 1892.

For the last two days it has been raining nicely, the first we have had since May, except a small shower on the 8th inst. It is cloudy and raining a little yet. In the hot sandy places in our country it may start the grass if it turns warm, otherwise feed will be very scarce this winter.

The Navajoes are peaceable at present although there is always something brewing amongst this avaricious tribe. They very recently killed a "bad medicine man" of this tribe whom they think was a wizard. Four children died very suddenly and they claim he did it. It is not so easy to assume the responsibility of being a doctor among them as among the whites. "Kill or cure," we think it is all right; but let one of them among the Indians make one or two failures and they are condemned and put out of the way themselves by being beaten to death with sticks and stones. They show great pluck as they never murmur nor complain while dying in this terrible manner. This makes the second one in my experience. The government will probably look into this affair and try and stop the superstitious custom, but it will not be without some trouble, as the Indians learn slowly that there is a law to which they are subject. This seems to be their hardest lesson. If the agents of the government would try to teach them concerning the law instead of trying to Christianize them—which is only temporary at best, there being no language in this dialect to properly lay before them Christianity as the gospel—it would be more profitable. But the "civilizers" do not adopt the simple mode of showing them in kindness something about laws and regulations amongst men, but nearly always threaten them with soldiers, etc., and invariably show a will to crush them if they do not yield—this, too, without sufficiently showing them the point. The Indians are very much like other human beings, they are easy to be led, but slow to be driven; and if there were more interpreters and fewer soldiers it would soon work a reformation.

There are, however, many military men who are well disposed towards them. Recently Lieut. Oden Gurovitz, of Fort Whipple, Arizona, with a posse of soldiers from Fort Wingate, N. M., traveled through the Navajo reservation with a view to ascertaining how to increase their water supply and farming facilities. This is indeed a step in the right direction. The Navajoes have suffered greatly this dry season in consequence of which, no doubt, they were in a measure compelled to trespass more or less upon the white settlers by moving off their reservation. Many complaints have been made this summer to the governor of Arizona and the Navajo agent—justly, too; but much charity has been exercised to the poor Indians, the people knowing their situation. There is one thing, however, the people can justly complain about, and that is the unscrupulous liquor vendor. Many serious consequences may result from this unlawful traffic, as an Indian is the most unreasonable and turbulent human being

when drunk. I disarmed one at one time who with a Winchester rifle drove his own people away and threatened everybody else, who dared come near. The Indians tried to prevail on me not to go near as he would surely shoot me; but I saw the dangers that might occur to others and I slipped up to him gently, taking an empty bottle in my hand, which I showed him while approaching him cautiously; he thought I had more liquor for him and this served to delude him. When I got near enough I jumped on him and disarmed him. I sat down on him for three hours, which nearly wore me out. When I had accomplished this nearly forty Indians came rallying out of the hills; they had fled like so many sheep before a lion. On another occasion I dragged a drunken Indian out of the Little Colorado river when dry. He had four bottles of liquor on his person and was completely helpless. A few minutes afterwards, the river raised fully five feet and he would certainly have been drowned.

I have seen an Indian offer \$15 for one bottle of liquor. During shearing time they have plenty of money, and when they once get a taste of the fire-water, it is quite profitable for dealers to trifle with the law and also endanger human life; but who cares, so long as the money is forthcoming.

Frontier life is not quite so dangerous as it used to be, but it is not unfair to say that many trials and difficulties and dangers still exist. This country ought to be settled up. There are many facilities here. Minerals have been found on the Blue mountain in great quantities, both gold and silver, and the miners are jubilant over their prospects and they are beginning to ship ore to Durango. Assays have been had as high as \$1000 per ton. If this Ute removal question was settled San Juan county would soon fill up, and still add wealth and population to blessed Utah.

Yours truly,

C. L. CHRISTENSEN.

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Mr. John Cook, of Silverton, Colo., is the inventor of a new process for the treatment of silver ore.

Near Phoenix, Ariz., the Schaefer group of silver mines at White Hills has been sold to C. W. Pery and R. T. Root, mining men of Denver, for \$250,000.

The creamery at Castle Rock, Colo., is turning out 1,500 pounds of butter a week. This, says an exchange, beats any previous September record since the creamery started.

Miss Celia Broderick, of Leadville, Col., who was injured by the falling of the Sprague building in August last, has begun suit against the owner, W. B. Sprague of Denver, for \$5,333.

Ohas. Berryman, a student at the Agricultural College at Logan, broke his right collar bone Thursday evening while racing with his companion. Dr. Snow reduced the fracture.

Nearly one hundred car loads of potatoes have been shipped from this station up to the present time, says the Idaho Register, and there are one hundred car loads still in the country.

The Caldwell Tribune is authority for the statement that a movement is on foot to organize a military company in Caldwell (Idaho) and thus swell the ranks of the Idaho guards.

Robert Taylor, the sheep breeder, is now in Abbott, Nebraska, feeding \$3,400 head of sheep which he shipped there from Rawlins, without the loss of one head, over the Union Pacific railroad.

Most of the shepherds around Wausatch have left, having started for winter range several weeks earlier than usual. The dry season, it is stated, has caused an unusual scarcity of feed, hence the early departure.

Requisition papers have been issued by Governor Willey of Idaho, for F. K. Jerome, who is now supposed to be in California. Jerome is wanted in Shoshone county for forgery. Deputy Sheriff McFadden, of that county, has been dispatched to California in search of the forger.

An fine deposit of asphalt has been found in Summit county. The find has been located and is about ten miles from the railroad, north of Park City. The owners believe they have a big deposit of that famous paving material and are having a careful test made to establish its quality and consequent market value.

It is reported that the Sierra Bonita Cattle company of Cochise county will distribute 4000 head of cattle along the Gila river bottoms. This means disaster to the small cattle owners. There is barely feed enough now to carry over what cattle there are along the river. Trouble may be expected.—Yuma Times.

One day last week Mrs. Sarah Box got a small sliver in her finger. The wound at first was trifling, but instead of healing up at once it began to fester and grow worse. The hand and arm swelled and the lady suffered acute pains. The sliver of wood seemed to carry poison into the blood with the foregoing result. The lady has been confined to her bed for several days.—Brigham City Bugler.

Al. Dougherty, when crossing the tracks at Rock Springs, Wyoming, on his way home the other evening, about six o'clock, was knocked down by some ruffian and robbed of his gold watch and \$1.30, all the money he had in his pockets. He lay senseless until 8:30 o'clock before he recovered sufficiently to tell what had happened. He was out on the forehead and bruised about the face.

A few nights ago officers made a successful raid on three lottery games in Chinatown, Los Angeles, Cal., capturing the entire outfit in each case and the principal owners of the companies, known as the Con Chung Ti, Lung Lee and Hong Lee. Two representatives of each of the lottery companies were brought to the station, where they deposited \$100 apiece bail for their appearance.

William C. Bradley of Willow valley, Nev., (Cal.), a miner, aged 70 years, was found dead a few days ago in the road, where he had fallen when going home. Heart disease caused his death. He was a veteran of the Mexican and Plute wars and won distin-