NEWS OF THE WEST.

A Fire Destroys $300,000 Worth of Property at Seattle.

THE GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE.

Searching for the $10,000 Treasure Said to Have Been Deposited by Stage Robber Wheeler.

Nice grapes were picked from the Chapin vineyard, near Fresno, on June 14th. The shipment of grapes to remote markets will begin in a very few days.

The Wasco county, Oregon, grand jury finds that $1,351.77 in fraudulent gold has been issued by the county clerk, and recommends suits against the responsible bondsmen. They state that the sheriff's books be examined.

The great Vina farm, belonging to the Stanford estate, comprises about 55,000 acres. Besides the immense vineyards the farm supports 40,000 sheep, 700 blooded horses and 600 work mules, besides 1,200 head of cattle.

Frank Dreamutt, of Tacoma, met with a rather serious accident while teaming at Ophir last week, according to the Tomb Dispatch. The team took scare and Frank's leg became entangled in the rope in some way, nearly spraining his ankle.

A Scotch syndicate has opened its office at Billings, Montana, for the purchase and slaughtering of horses for food for foreign trade. A contract has been made with parties in the neighborhood of 200,000 head of horses in the next eighteen months.

A gentleman is in the city in search of gold, says the Boise, Idaho, Statesman. He is after the treasure, said to amount to $40,000, which Stage Robber Wheeler is supposed to have buried on the Boise river a few miles above this city. He has a gold instrument with a peculiar name, which he asserts will indicate where any large body of gold or silver is deposited. The machine is operated by his wife who is here with him.

A report from a point on the San Joaquin river near Pelandy, Cal., says that myriads of grasshoppers have appeared on the farm of W. H. Birmingham and threaten to devour every green thing. They have also appeared in Kingsriver, twenty miles further south, and over about 1,000 acres. No reports of any grasshoppers have been received from any other localities, and it puzzles people to account for their appearance in these two localities quite twenty miles apart.

At 1:00 o'clock Tuesday morning fire destroyed about $300,000 worth of property belonging to the Seattle Consolidated Street Railway company at Seattle. The company's powerhouse, a brick structure occupying half a block of land on Pine street, between Fifth and Sixth, was totally destroyed, together with twenty-five cars. The electric plant, which was the most complete in the Northwest, is a ruin. The fire was well under way before the alarm was turned in, and when the department reached the scene the building was a mass of flames. Efforts to remove the cars were useless, and the firemen devoted their energies to preventing the flames from spreading.

Perhaps the most important mining information that has come from Owyhee county since the revival in that great mining section started is the announcement that the Flint company has started up its mines in the Flint district, says the Boise, Idaho, Statesman. There are now twenty men at work with the prospect that the force will be largely increased in the near future. The company owns five properties in the district, all of which show very large bodies of more or less valuable ore. One of the finest mills in the state is connected with the property. The mines were worked considerably several years ago, but as depth was gained the ore became more refractory and operations proved to be unprofitable.

J. H. Wilson was arrested Wednesday on a charge of assaulting the nine-year-old daughter of Howard McNeal, who keeps a lodging house on Tulare street. When Wilson was taken to jail his head was bleeding and he was otherwise suffering from the terrible punishment he had received from the girl's father. The girl had complained to her mother that a strange man, whom she had frequently seen in the park, had tried to persuade her to accompany him to his house. Her father told her to go with the man the next time, which she did Wednesday, when he met her in the park. McNeal followed and saw Wilson take the girl into a house in the outskirts of the city. McNeal removed his shoes and climbed to a window where he could see, and when he was certain that Wilson's intentions were criminal he jumped from the window, broke through the door, and, springing upon Wilson, felled him to the floor. Wilson begged for mercy, which was not shown. Then he tried to escape, but as often as he gained his feet he was knocked down. All Sunday McNeal was doubled, freezing his toes off in bed by the loss of his shoes, and he was deserted, leaving Wilson bleeding on the floor. McNeal reported to the officers and Wilson was taken to jail.

Chicken Lice.

Ordinarily chickens raised with lice are healthier, as it is so easy to neglect them. But give the chicks in the brooder as good care as the hen does her brood, and there will be no difference. By the artificial methods, especially in rearing hatches, chicks are forced about as much as in rapid rate than when in charge of the hen.

The average hen lays best in spring and the early part of summer. The great challenges, however, by good housing, good food and good management, has its hens divide up their present cares, so that the results are more throughout the fall and winter as well as during of the year up to moulting time.

A broiler is a chick of 1½ to 2 pounds in weight, and anything over that is reckoned as a spring chicken, according to Farm Poultry.

A Wise Conclusion.

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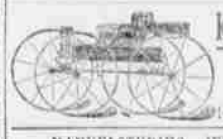
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