

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

change or sell a school house site, or erect, remove, or sell a school house. In order, however, to effectuate a removal of a school house, a two-thirds' vote is required. If it is necessary to levy taxes to carry out the will of the voters, provision is made for the same in chapter 12, section 1871 et. seq. of the Revised Statutes. It appears from the statements of fact made in your questions above, that after levying and collecting the taxes for the purpose of erecting a new school building in the south part of the district and the purchase of a site upon which to build a new one in the north part of the district, two-thirds of the taxpayers are desirous of abolishing the school sites above mentioned and establishing a school building at the center of the district. The law seems to place the right in the qualified voters of a school district to determine where a school house shall be situated and to remove, exchange or sell the same at their will and in carrying out this purpose they may authorize the sale and exchange of existing school sites, although the taxes were voted and levied for the purposes indicated in the meeting of February, 1897, and although they had been fully expended in carrying out that purpose, a vote of two-thirds of the resident taxpayers of the district could undoubtedly authorize the sale of the school house sites as then existing, and the location in a different place of the school house for the district. It seems clear that this right existing in the resident taxpayers after the expenditure of the tax, there could be no objection, upon proper action being taken, to the sale and exchange of sites already located and the expenditure of the remainder of the money for the purpose of establishing and erecting a school in a different place.

It is my opinion that a meeting to effectuate this should be called for the purpose of removal of the school house purpose of removal of the school houses from the place now designated and the erection of a school house at the place where the voters may designate, and if necessary the exchange and sale of existing school house sites and the purchase of a new one, and if the board of trustees are petitioned for this purpose, and proper legal notices are given and two-thirds' vote be in favor of the removal, then it would seem that individual taxpayers would have no legal complaint.

A LETTER OF INQUIRY.

The "News" has been asked to publish the subjoined communication which explains itself:

No. 8 Stickney St., Lynn, Mass., Feb. 4, 1898.

In our missionary work we have made the acquaintance of a Dr. C. A. Pratt of this city, who is very desirous of learning the whereabouts of some of the descendants of his aunt, Mrs. Phebe Pendleton, whose maiden name was Bowley. He thinks Mr. Pendleton, her husband, was a doctor. She joined the Church in an early day and died in child bed while at Council Bluffs, leaving three children. Mr. Pendleton went with the children to Utah. This is all he (Mr. Pratt) knows of them.

Dr. Pratt and his wife are earnestly investigating our Gospel message, and we feel the "seed" has fallen upon "good ground." They have already signified their faith in our work.

You will confer a great kindness upon Dr. Pratt by making a note of the fact above mentioned in your valuable paper. Should the parties be found, if they will address the information to us, we will gladly forward the same to Mr. Pratt. Yours in the cause of truth.

J. W. DUNYON.

SAMUEL KNIGHT.

No. 8 Stickney St., Lynn, Mass.

The output at the C. P. mines at Almy, Wyo., has been limited to fourteen cars a day instead of fifty.

Arrangements were made at Seattle, Wash., Thursday, to transport the remaining detachment of the government relief expedition on the steamer Lucille, which sails from there next Saturday.

The Bedrock Dredging company, a West Virginia corporation, has just completed the purchase of 250 acres of placer land in the vicinity of Placerville, Ida. A dredging plant will be put in immediately.

Friday night at Tacoma, Wash., Frank Graham, a young railroad man, shot William Parkhill, a water-front character. The ball took effect in Parkhill's leg, but has been removed, and he will probably recover. Both had been drinking and quarrelling earlier in the day.

Information from Ogden telling of the critical condition of Al Smith, who was shot at Evanston, Wyo., Sunday, by William Anderson, resulted in the latter's re-arrest Thursday, while he was enjoying his freedom on a \$250 bond. Later Anderson put up a \$2,500 bond and was released. He will have a preliminary hearing February 16th.

At San Francisco barley is now occupying a prominent place in the minds of those interested in the grain, owing to the uncertainty of the supply. Choice No. 1 brewing barley now commands \$1.20, and fancy feed \$1.10 flat, while the May options have advanced since the opening of the year from 80¢ to 96½ cents a cental, or over \$3 a ton in six weeks. Speculation in barley futures is therefore becoming very active.

Charles H. Lindemann, for the past twenty years one of the leading manufacturing jewelers in San Francisco, has disappeared. He has left behind a long list of local and eastern creditors, the aggregate amount of his indebtedness being about \$7,000. His place of business at 103 Post street, is now in charge of the sheriff, having been attached by A. Eisenberg & Co., to whom Lindemann owed \$225. Not more than \$400 can be realized in Lindemann's property, and his creditors have no hope of getting any of their money.

Frank Hitchcock, who accidentally shot himself while hunting at Joyce island, near Suisun, Cal. Sunday, died Wednesday morning at 4 o'clock. When found he had been exposed to the cold for five hours and three hours more passed before he could be removed to his home. Dr. J. A. Ostrander amputated the injured man's arm Monday, but he considered the case critical from the first. The deceased was the second son of Rev. A. F. Hitchcock, for twenty years grand chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of California.

The steamer National City will sail from San Francisco tonight (Saturday) for Talia and Skaguay, taking about 160 passengers and a large amount of freight. More applications for passage have been received than the vessel can accommodate. The National City will carry away more dogs than any other vessel which has yet sailed for the gold fields from that point. An immense dog house has been constructed on the forward deck and and 170 dogs will be confined in it until the vessel reaches her destination. Besides the dogs, several horses and mules have been put on board.

The police of San Francisco are investigating the disappearance of several hundred dollars which Samuel Martinovich is said to have had on his

person when he went to his room in the European hotel on February 5th. He was found dead in his bed at 2 o'clock on the next afternoon, and when his clothing was searched in the presence of three witnesses by a deputy coroner, no coin was found. There was a check for \$1,600, a promissory note for \$100 but no metal money. Martinovich was a miner and arrived from Butte, Mont., on the day before his death which was attributed to gas asphyxiation.

The first of the new river steamers and barges for use on the Yukon are now being loaded into the ship Sistrum at San Francisco. There are four steamers and six barges in all, and their building has not taken much over seven weeks. The steamers and barges have been built in sections, and 100 machinists, carpenters and painters will go up on the Sistrum to put them together at Dutch harbor. The Sistrum will be towed north by the tug Fearless. Three of the steamers are 182 feet long, and will carry 350 tons of freight on a four-foot drift, while the barges are 145 feet long and will each carry 400 tons of freight.

The sawmills of Santa Cruz county, Cal., are preparing to resume operations the coming spring. Most of them have been closed down for several years owing to scarcity of demand for lumber, but indications for a big demand, owing to improvements in contemplation in various parts of the state, are such as to give encouragement to millmen. Around Bowlder creek and at Aptos especially, there is rejoicing over the resumption of operations. With the mills running, employment will be afforded to about 600 men. Loma Prieta mills, which has only run once in six years, will alone give employment to about 250 men. This includes millmen, loggers and teamsters.

The Republicans of Idaho have been called upon to assemble at Boise March 4th next, Chairman Perrault of the state committee having issued an address in which appears the following: "The responsibility is now upon us, Republicans of Idaho, to so conduct the approaching state campaign as to bring our noble and prosperous young state safely and permanently into the Republican column. With this accomplished, Idaho will enter upon an era of prosperity all her own and will rise triumphant from the depressing tendencies which a Populistic administration has inflicted upon her. Capital, which instinctively shrinks from contact with the elements of disorder and lawlessness, will come naturally and gladly to assist in the development of the magnificent resources of the state."

A receiver has been asked for to settle the affairs of the Rocky Mountain Oil company at Denver, Colo., the National bank of Cleveland, O., making the application. The bank claims that soon after the organization of the company in 1890, its directors executed a mortgage to the Central Trust company of New York upon substantially all of its property, including its rights, interests and franchises, to secure bonds of the company amounting to \$600,000. On February 8, 1897, the company borrowed of the bank the sum of \$13,000, executing its note for the amount, secured by thirty bonds of a face value of \$1,000, each of which the directors stated was good and sufficient security. The plaintiff asserts that these representations were wholly untrue, and that gross misrepresentations were made to secure the loan. It