

Advices from Aztec, San Juan county, New Mexico, say that J. W. Spencer, a well known rancher, has been convicted as accessory in the murder last spring of young Willett, and sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary. John C. Pyaett, who was hired by Spencer to do the killing, is now in the territorial penitentiary serving a twelve year sentence. Spencer was in love with Miss Bertha Starlett, the belle of the county, and was jealous of Willett's attentions to the young lady. Spencer promised Pyaett a wagon and team and money with which to leave the country if he would get Willett out of the way and he did the job well, killing Willett as he was returning from a dance in company with Miss Starlett. —Special to the Denver News.

M. E. Lennan, a Nelhart lawyer, is in jail here awaiting trial on the charge of passing worthless checks on several Great Falls people. He is quite an able young man, and was in a fair way to achieve success at his profession, when he became infatuated with faro. After losing all the money he had in the Bank of Nelhart, he induced County Auditor Ringwald and others to indorse his checks for amounts ranging from \$50 to \$200. This was in August. He lost most of the money at faro and spent the remainder on women. Finally to escape arrest he fled to Denver, where he was captured last Sunday by Sheriff Hamilton and brought back to stand trial. Lennan claims he has been wronged, and that he still has enough money in the Bank of Nelhart to meet all outstanding checks. —Great Falls (Mont.) Dispatch.

Reese Walter, assessor-elect of Ada County, Idaho, thinks that wonderfully rich diamond fields have been discovered on the south bank of the Snake river, east of Walter's ferry, and, accompanied by half a dozen friends, started for the scene of the reputed bonanza to make locations. The discovery was made by a party of surveyors who were at work at the site of the proposed dam at the mouth of Bruneau river, in Owyhee county. The engineers, suspecting that the peculiar white stones might be valuable, sent a quantity of them to Portland for examination and were quickly assured that they had run across genuine diamonds. City Attorney Stevenson said that he had been assured that the formation of the ground in which the diamonds were embedded was of exactly the same nature as that of the famous Kimberly diamond mines in South Africa. —Denver News.

The famous "eleven league clause," in the act establishing the United States court of private land claims, has come up in a test case before the land court at Santa Fe, New Mexico. The case is that of the Alameda tract near Albuquerque. General W. E. Earle of Jeffries & Earle, Washington, D.C., appeared for the claimants and United States Attorney G. Reynolds for the government. It will be some days before a decision is announced. The United States attorney holds that this is an imperfect grant and that, therefore, Congress has a right to say that not more than eleven leagues shall be confirmed to the claimants. General Earle relies on the United States supreme court decisions to the effect that the United States has bound it-

self by a treaty to acknowledge and protect all bona fide titles granted by the previous governments, and this court has no discretion to enlarge or curtail such grants.

Says the Grass Valley Tidings—The dam of the Nevada County Electric Power company on the South Yuba, was carried away by the high water of Wednesday. The cause of the misfortune was an immense log, fully five feet in diameter and seventy feet long, which came down the stream with the swift current, and striking a large upright timber of the dam, caused the whole structure to give way. The men at the dam reported a few hours previous to the accident that the dam was all right, but that ten feet of water was flowing over the logs from one end to the other. The dam will be rebuilt as soon as the river gets low enough to permit it. The work of building the flume and grading for the plant will be continued through the winter. The breaking of the dam is quite a misfortune to the company, costing three months' work and \$5000 cash. But this will not stop operations by any means, and if favorable weather is had, the new dam will be completed almost as soon as the electric plant arrives, which will be in April next.

The rumored purchase of the Rio Grande Western road by the Santa Fe, says the Denver News, has awakened inquiry as to the amount of money that would be involved by a transfer of the Western to new hands. The Western covers 512 miles of road in actual operation, stocked at \$17,250,000. Of this amount \$10,000,000 is classed as common and \$7,250,000 as preferred. All of the common stock has been issued, the last \$2,500,000 being used in payment for the Tintic branch. There remains in the treasury \$1,250,000 of preferred stock as a surplus fund. The company has issued \$18,000,000 in bonds, of which \$2,000,000 is retained in the treasury and \$14,000,000 are outstanding. Preferred stock draws a 5 per cent dividend, payable quarterly, and has sold as high as 70 to 73 cents, although it declined recently to 64 cents. The report for the month of November shows that only 400 shares of Rio Grande Western stock changed hands during that time. Common stock of the Rio Grande Western sells as high as 43, although it has not as yet paid any dividend.

THE GERMAN ARMAMENT.

While France, England and Austria are confronted by more or less destructive civil broils in the shape of strikes and lock-outs, Germany is somewhat grimly preparing for the international conflict which we are constantly told is inevitable, but which somehow or other has not yet come off. In order to bring the German army up to the numerical strength of the French, the government has proposed to increase the annual draft by 70,000 men a year and to reduce the term of service from three years to two. They also propose to add \$20,000,000 a year to the army estimates, which already amount to \$100,000,000 per annum. There is a great hubbub in Germany over this increase of the burdens of the Fatherland. Already German industry suffers to an extent almost

inconceivable in countries which are not plagued with conscription. The prospect of increased taxation on beer, tobacco, etc., fills the common man with dismay. Bismarck also has lost no time in letting it be understood that he is as much as ever opposed to reducing the number of years of military service, and a bye-election in Bavaria, in which an anti-government Catholic nearly defeated a ministerial supporter of the Center, has caused grave uneasiness in Berlin. Negotiations are going on with the Pope, who, curiously enough, seems likely to have the commanding voice in fixing the quota of soldiers in the army of the first Protestant power on the continent—the Lutheran celebration notwithstanding.

THE FAR NORTH.

SWEDEN.

The total enrollment of the public schools of Gothenburg is 11,950.

The Salvation army of Helsingborg has dedicated a hall of its own.

John Burns, the English labor agitator, is said to have been invited by the Swedish democrats to lecture in Stockholm and other places.

Representative whisky distillers from different localities held an informal meeting at Linköping, and decided to reduce the production about 10 per cent. during the coming season.

John Ohlsson of Stockholm who has just been elected to fill a vacancy in the lower house of the riksdag, is a son of Consul Ohlsson of Helsingborg, now a member of the upper house. What makes this singular case still more interesting is, that Mr. Ohlsson Junior is a liberal and a free trader, while Mr. Ohlsson Senior, is a conservative and a high tariff man of the most radical type.

A rich landlord named Ridderstad at Norrtelje was charged by the local paper with abusing a poor woman. He sued the paper for libel, and the editor had to pay a fine. But this did not end the matter. When this case was disposed of the charges were investigated and found to be justified, and the landlord had to pay a fine, too. Plain people are naturally wondering why the editor was fined for simply telling the truth.

At a mass meeting at West Fernebo the following questions were answered in the affirmative against one vote: Is it not the duty of every Christian to use all legitimate means in opposing the extension of compulsory military service? Is it proper that the right of suffrage be extended? Is it proper to agitate for a general prohibition of the sale of intoxicating drinks? In all cases the negative vote was cast by the pastor of the place!

At a suffrage meeting at Gefle Lecter Waldenström expressed himself in favor of a somewhat extended suffrage, but shrank back in horror for the idea that some time in the future even paupers might be allowed to vote. To this Dr. Knute Wicksell replied: "When Mr. Waldenström sooner or later withdraws from acting life to live on his pension without working, he, too, strictly speaking, will be a pauper, who is supported by others." This brought down the house, but energetic hisses were also heard.