

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

A wooden railroad between Rawlins and Casper is being agitated in Wyoming.

The Pueblo mineral palace is to be opened as soon as some legal complications can be disposed of.

Ground has been broken for the new boiler house and electric light plant at the deaf and blind institute at Colorado Springs.

The Columbus school at Orchard Mesa, near Grand Junction, Colo., has been equipped with a new school library of 85 volumes.

Fruit buyers are getting quite numerous at Fresno, Cal. They are offering \$18 to \$20 per ton for green fruits delivered at warehouse.

The four-year-old son of Albert Rodgers, who resides six miles north of Milton, Cal., on Sunday fell off the porch into a barrel of water and was drowned.

Alfalfa was never so far advanced at this date in Bent county, Colo., as it is this season. It will be in full bloom by May 20. Wheat is also looking remarkably fine, while fruit prospects are also reported excellent.

The house on the ranch known as the Oscar Rogers ranch near Laramie, Wyo., was destroyed by fire on Saturday night. It was located on Horse creek. No one has been living there for some time.

Hon. Tim Kinney, says the Rock Springs (Wyo.) *Miner*, hurried back from Salt Lake City to Nebraska to put on the market 14,000 head of sheep which he has been feeding there. At present prices he will realize \$14,000 more than he would a month ago had he marketed them then.

It is estimated by competent parties that Colorado is annually sending over \$300,000 to eastern states, principally Illinois, for condensed milk and evaporated cream. Steps are now being taken to raise the necessary capital to establish a condensed milk factory in Colorado.

The proposition before Congress to reduce the area of the Yellowstone park by over 1,000,000 acres will meet the uncompromising disapproval of every resident of this state, says a dispatch from Cheyenne, Wyo. The people of Wyoming are in favor of retaining the original wild grandeur of the park.

Sheep shearers, says the Weiser (Idaho) *Signal*, are beginning to make their appearance, preparatory to harvesting another season's raw material for the railroads to haul East, for the manufacturer to make into cloth for the railroads to haul back again for us to buy with the money received for the original raw material.

Laramie Boomerang: John Fischer at his place of business has one of the finest specimens of trout ever seen in the city. It was caught by Dr. Burrell last summer above Wyndham's ranch in the Laramie river and weighed 10½ pounds. It was skinned and the skin sent to New York to be mounted. It is seen in a case now and is as natural as life.

Although eighty bodies have been incinerated in the crematory of the San Francisco Cremation society at Cypress Lawn cemetery, San Mateo, the dedicatory exercises of the crematory were not held until Sunday afternoon. A mock incineration showing how bodies are treated was given for the instruction of those who were present.

Oranges at the grove of the Arizona Improvement company near Phoenix are now as large as marbles, says an exchange. The blossoms are now all gone, staying but a few days. The trees were late in blossoming but have since made up for the delay in the rapidity with which the fruit is forming. The crop next season will be phenomenal in quantity.

The Boise (Idaho) *Statesman* says: Lieutenant-Governor Frank B. Willis arrived yesterday from Challis. He estimates the damage by the recent fire at Challis at \$40,000. He figures the loss of his hotel and contents at \$25,000. There was \$10,000 insurance on the building. The lieutenant-governor says the Wheeler building was the only other building insured. The loss on it was about \$1,800; insurance, \$1,000.

The Caldwell, Idaho, *Tribune* says the canal companies of Canyon county have directly increased the cost of water 60 percent, and in addition assume to regulate the quantity. "Their method of supplying water at \$1.50 per acre and then assuming to say how much water shall be used on an acre has the appearance of a cinch, and every move made by these institutions compels the belief that they are menaces and a curse to the country."

The story of Mrs. L. R. Stockwell's sad condition has excited much sympathy for the afflicted actress, says the San Francisco *Chronicle*. The friends of Ethel Brandon, as the sick woman is known to theater-goers, remembering the many charitable acts performed by her, intend proving in a substantial manner that her efforts were not unappreciated. Plans for a monster benefit have been drafted that bid fair promise to yield a golden harvest.

George B. Smith, of Reese river, has been killed in Nye county, Nevada, by being shot through the side and the back of the neck with a shotgun, says the Austin *Reveille*. He left home yesterday morning to go into the hills about five miles above his home, where some sheep were ranging, and carried a gun. His wife, several hours after, went to the hills and found his dead body, which was brought to town today. It is not known at the time of going to press who did the shooting.

Work on the Saguache reservoir site, says the Colorado *Crescent*, is being pushed rapidly forward. Nineteen teams with scrapers are continually at work. The trench in which the discharge pipes are to be laid are being dug; this trench will be filled with concrete, which will enclose the heavy iron outlet pipes. The stones for the mason work are being dressed for the walls. The rock used strongly resembles granite and is taken from the

mountain side at the southwestern end of the dam.

A good deal of excitement prevails in Livingston, Montana, over the mysterious disappearance of W. S. Gardner, a line repairer employed on the Northern Pacific railroad. About ten days ago Gardner secured a few days' lay-off, saying he was going over to Butte on a visit. He wired his wife, who was then visiting in Tacoma, that he would meet her in Helena and return to Livingston. He failed to keep his appointment, and nothing has been heard of him since. It is now believed that he has met with foul play.

The most brutal murder committed in El Dorado county, Cal., for many years was perpetrated near Latrobe on Monday night. Ellen Robinson, an aged widow, living on her ranch, was stamped to death and her house plundered. Her body was found outside the door, the lower jawbone broken and all but two of her ribs crushed. The skin and flesh over the fractures showed the nail marks of a boot heel. The bed clothes and contents of a trunk were scattered in confusion about her bedroom. The police are investigating.

Charles H. Reed, chief clerk of the Idaho house of representatives, has been indicted by the Canyon county grand jury, on a charge of forgery. It is alleged that he raised a school warrant for \$3 to \$103, secured the money and, it is understood, subsequently returned it, but this did not serve to stay the prosecution. It is expected the case will be heard at the term of the district court now in session in Caldwell. The accused has held many positions of trust and responsibility, and the indictment is a great surprise to his friends.

The work of excavating a canal for utilizing the water of Humboldt lake for irrigating purposes has begun in earnest, says the Lovelock, Nevada, *New Era*. Three hundred feet of canal have already been cut, ranging in depth from seven to twenty feet, and in width twenty-two feet at the top to eight feet at the bottom. A dam has been placed in the Bay slough to keep as much water as possible away from the workmen while running the canal north from the slough. The lake front is dotted with cabins, and a number of claimants have carried lumber through the water to islands to build houses by which to hold 160 acres when the lake is drained.

Mrs. L. R. Stockwell, better known to the stage and to the world as Miss Ethel Brandon, is lying ill almost unto death in St. Mary's Hospital, San Francisco, says the *Chronicle*. She is stated to be a wreck physically and almost mentally. Her attenuated form lies on one of the cots in the woman's ward, and her dearest friend would scarcely recognize in the wan and wasted features the handsome leading lady of yore. Her condition is due somewhat to mental worry, because of the conduct of her daughter, Polly, who was married a little over a month ago to the son of Frederick Warde, the tragedian.

The Seventh Day Adventist association has commenced to make arrangements for the annual conference to be