

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

The orchards of the Grand valley are stated to be groaning under the weight of maturing fruit.

A big farmers' institute is to be held at Phoenix, Ariz., beginning September 19.

The public schools of Austin, Nev., have been closed on account of the prevalence of scarlet fever.

The fruit growers about Grand Junction, Colo., are busy preparing for the marketing of their crops.

It is reported that the strawberry crop at Milton, Ore., will net \$25,000. Most of the berries were shipped to Denver, Omaha and Salt Lake.

Aspen, Colo., paid out something over \$1,000 to entertain the late G. A. R. encampment and considers it a good investment, which it was.

Bear hunting is said to be a profitable industry in Josephine county, Wash. The hides are shipped to Chicago, where they bring \$15 to \$40 each.

Near Silver Cliff, Colo., the Geyser mine is turning out ore which yields 72 per cent lead and \$200 in silver to the ton. It can stand a quotation of 63 cents for silver.

Numerous bogus dimes and quarters are in circulation at Reno, Nev., which has led some citizens to think that a counterfeiter's plant is being operated in the neighborhood.

Owing to the recent severe floods in many parts of Washington the fruit crop has been badly damaged. Even apples will be a total failure in some sections. Cherries and strawberries are fair.

Director Emery, of the Agricultural station at Bozeman, Mont., says the Rocky Mountain *Husbandman*, is making a test of growing spring rye. Very little of this grain has thus far been raised in Montana.

Water has recently been discovered in the Grand Quivera, one of the famous ruined cities of New Mexico, and concerning which the mystery has always been as to where the inhabitants got their water supply.

A. A. Nickerson Jr., the young clerk in Superintendent Beamer's office of the Southern California railway at Los Angeles, wanted on two charges of felony, has been arrested at Santa Monica, where he had been in hiding, by the city marshal.

According to the Petaluma, Cal., *Daily Courier*, the wine-grape growers of Santa Clara are well pleased with the prospect of forming a syndicate to dispose of their crop. They believe there will be few acres unrepresented in the organization in a short time.

Frank Horn, aged 37, was drowned in the river at Boise, Idaho, on Sunday afternoon. The river is high, and Horn attempted to cross on horseback. The horse became unmanageable and he was thrown off and drowned. His body has not been recovered.

Reports from hop-yards in the country surrounding Salem, Oregon, indicate bright prospects for a big yield. Lice have appeared in but few yards, and not so numerous in those as to

cause any apprehension for the safety of the crop.

The slot machines have been so numerous in Oakland, Cal., that a complaint has been entered against their use where money is the stake. The matter was called to the attention of the city council and the chief of police will probably be instructed to stop the gambling.

Colfax county, N. M., takes the proud position of second place in the amount expended for education in 1893 in that territory, the sum being \$37,752.50 and but \$2,500 less than the big county of Bernalillo, including Albuquerque, the territorial metropolis.

The Fort Collins, Colo., *Express* announces that farmers are in that city every day seeking men to help in the alfalfa fields. There are few unemployed men in Larimer county. From \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day and board is being paid, and the harvest of the hay crop is proceeding very slowly on account of the scarcity of help.

A leading Arizona lawyer says an improvement in court practice may come before the next legislature. It is that after a prisoner is held for the grand jury the justice of the peace shall bind over essential witnesses in the sum of about \$1.00 to appear before the grand jury. By this means a good deal in the way of sheriff's fees can be saved.—*Sulphur Valley News*.

The fruit canneries of the state of California, with the exception of a very small number, have organized a trust, and there have been filed with the secretary of state the articles of incorporation of the California Canneries company, with a capital stock of \$500,000. There has been \$300,000 of the capital stock subscribed and paid up.

An Evanston (Wyo.) scientist predicts that by the year 1900 electricity will usurp the place of the hired girl in many particulars. Breakfast fires will be kindled, churns, washing machines and sewing machines will be run, and cradles rocked, all by the push button, and even cross babies can be soothed by electricity instead of soothing syrup.

Governor McConnell, says the Boise, Idaho, *Statesman*, has prepared a letter by request of the New York *Press* to be published in the Fourth of July edition of that paper in answer to the question, "When and by what means is the present distressed condition of the country to be relieved?" The governor's answer to this query is both spicy and pertinent.

The residents of Hesperia, San Bernardino county, Cal., are puzzled by the phenomena exhibited in a well near that place. At a depth of ninety feet there is a strong downward current of air. Seven feet lower the current changes upward, causing a whistling sound like steam escaping. Alternating stratas of coarse gravel and cement gravel constitute the formation.

One of the curiosities of the Stinkingwater canyon is the alum cave,

says the Laramie (Wyo.) *Boomerang*. The cave appears to be an extinct geyser and is about fifteen feet across and easily accessible. The alum is on the sides and is about six feet in thickness. The country over quite an area in that vicinity is a former geyser basin, of which nothing remains but hot sulphur springs and the extinct craters.

Hon. Chas. S. Hamlin, assistant secretary of the treasury department, is in San Francisco on a tour of inspection of the customs districts of the West. He will next go to Portland, says the *Chronicle*, in order to be present at the trial of the ring of smugglers, whose depredations have drawn so much attention to the northern district of late. Mr. Hamlin will also visit San Diego, Alaska and the Pribilof islands.

A band of forty-seven Indians and their families under the leadership of Red Cloud, passed through Casper, Wyo., recently on their way from Pine Ridge agency to visit their "relatives" at the Arapahoe agency. The *Derrick* says it was soon learned that they were killing antelope by the wholesale near Oil mountain, and Red Cloud was arrested and fined, the fine being suspended on his promise to do better.

The will of M. J. A. Fry, who died at Phoenix, A. T., of consumption last March, was by a decision of the court on Saturday not admitted to probate. Fry bequeathed \$10,000 due from insurance policies to Ida May Butler, the woman who cared for him in his last moments. The will was protested by G. A. Fry, of Franklin, Pa., father of the deceased. The decision was rendered upon the ground that undue influence had been exerted.

Mining at Red Rock, about thirty miles from Mojave, Cal., has received a boom through the find of several valuable nuggets. One nugget taken from a claim on Saturday weighed twenty-two ounces. In addition to the rich gold discoveries, it is said that water has been found in unlimited quantity at the Bonanza mine, and a great boom is in sight. Great quantities of gold have been brought from the placer diggings in that vicinity.

Two robbers in Montana, the other day, entered a house where a woman and her baby were alone. They grabbed the woman, bound her hands and feet and saturated her clothing with kerosene. They terrorized the woman by threatening to ignite her clothing if she uttered a sound. They rummaged the house, but found no valuables, and were frightened away before they had completed their search.

On Saturday there arrived from Guaymas, M. O'Brien, a survivor of the ill-fated Robinson expedition, which came to grief off Tiburon island in the Gulf of California on May 26. O'Brien fully corroborated accounts of the tragedy heretofore published. He thinks also that other Americans had been killed previously by the same Indians, who had American silver money, with which they offered to buy ammunition.

Miners working in the Empire mine at Grass valley, Cal., report that last week during the thunder storm the lightning struck the pipe and descended in the mine to a depth