

## WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Late advices from Sitka, Alaska, state that large and extensive coal deposits have been discovered at Whale Bay, on Baranoff Islands, about 40 miles from Sitka.

Henry T. Scott, president of the Union Iron works at San Francisco, will at once leave for Washington prepared to bid on all classes of vessels about to be built by the government. These include two harbor defense vessels, two battleships, five torpedo boat destroyers and four torpedo boats.

J. Waldere Kirk of San Francisco has sued the Western Union Telegraph company for \$5,000 damages for refusing to transmit a dispatch until he had affixed to it a one cent revenue stamp. He claims that the company and not the sender of a message should pay for the necessary stamp.

Rear Admiral Kirkland's condition shows slight improvement and his physicians say he has a fighting chance for his life. Commander J. J. Brice, who was recalled from the retired list during the continuation of hostilities with Spain, is in command of the yard during Admiral Kirkland's illness.

J. H. Calvert of Seattle, Wash., who returned from Alaska today, reports a big stampede has occurred from Lake Bennett and the trails to big Taku, about 80 miles in the interior. The rush was started by the report that gold running from two to six dollars to the pan had been found.

Lieutenant B. K. Smith of the Utah cavalry, which left the Presidio this (Saturday) morning for the Yosemite and Sequoia parks, will not be able to accompany the troop. He was taken ill yesterday and is under medical care. It is thought that in a short time he will be able to retain his men.

Passengers of the steamer Farallon, which arrived at Port Townsend at 1 o'clock this morning, say that it was reported at Skaguay that one woman and a child had perished in the fire which was raging when the steamer left. The Skaguay railroad and Red Cross hospital was in imminent danger.

Irving M. Scott has resigned from the board of directors of the Central Pacific Railroad, and Jos. D. Grant has been elected to serve in his stead. Mr. Scott's letter of resignation came from St. Petersburg, and stated that his absence would prevent him from giving the affairs of the company the attention they demanded.

Bids will soon be opened at Bonner's Ferry or St. Paul, for the construction of the Nelson and Bedlington railway to run from Bonner's Ferry on Kootenai Lake, Wash., a distance of 53 miles. This will give Spokane a second all-rail connection with that lake. Indications are that the Great Northern is interested in the proposed road.

The new torpedo boat destroyer Faragut is still on the dry dock at the Union Iron works, undergoing repairs, and probably will remain there until Monday, when she will make another spin. On this performance will depend the date of the official trip. The principal work now being done is the adjustment of the balances on her rudder.

The Southern Pacific Railroad company has announced a reduction of the freight rate on canned goods in carloads, or shipments of over 30,000 pounds. In the future the tariff will be sixteen cents per hundred pounds, and will apply from California terminals and points common therewith to New York and New Orleans, via the

Sunset route. These rates will go into effect on August 17th.

The directors of the Hawaiian Commercial company of San Francisco have decided to propose to the stockholders an increase of the capital stock from ten to fifteen million dollars. It is declared to be the plan of the directors to increase the output of the plantations and mills and to introduce improved methods of manufacture on the islands.

Steamer Victoria arrived at Victoria, B. C., Thursday night from the Orient. She brings news that Miss Simmons, a missionary at Yokohama, while in a launch, was run down by a junk and killed. The steamer Aorangi, which also arrived here from the Orient tonight had several cases of measles aboard. She was placed in quarantine.

Gen. King has received a petition from fifty prominent Kansas members of the Supreme court, subordinate judges and members of the Kansas bar, asking that he take favorable notice of Lieut. Charles Hamilton, Twentieth Kansas, who enlisted as private, rose to his present rank, and is now on detached duty, drilling the Second Oregon recruits.

More farm machinery of all kinds has been sold in Moscow, Idaho, this season than during the past five years all put together. This is evidence that the farmers are fast recovering from the effects of the panic. New wheat is being delivered at the warehouses at Lewiston at the rate of from one to two thousand bushels per day. Headers and threshers are running everywhere in the Snake river country.

At no time in the history of farming experience in the vicinity of Blackfoot have prospects for a bountiful wheat harvest been more encouraging.... Joe Rodgers, the Lost river sheep king, sold 3,000 ewes at \$3 per head this week to A. Leuman of Rock Springs. He also sold 100,000 pounds of wool to Mr. Abbott of Great Falls, Montana, for \$15.75 per hundred. Abbott is agent for a Boston house.—Blackfoot News.

There is to be a bi-weekly steamer service between San Francisco and Puget Sound ports in the near future. The steamer Corona will be ready for service in a few days and as soon as she is put in commission the new schedule will commence. The Corona will go on the southern run, taking the place of the Santa Rosa. The latter vessel will be put on the Puget Sound route and will run in conjunction with the Umatilla, Walla Walla and Queen.

There was a net increase of three cases at the division hospital yesterday, making the total number 277. Percy Whittaker, of company B, First Tennessee, died of cerebro-spinal meningitis. About a dozen men of the battalion of the Eighteenth regiment, which is about to leave for Manila, have been reported at the regimental surgeon's office as physically disqualified. Surgeon Major Rafter says about forty cases of disability in all have been reported to the board.

An issue of \$1,000,000 of bonds to run for forty years at six per cent interest has been decided upon for the building of the Stockton and Tuolumne railroad, or the "Woman's Road" as it is popularly known. Mrs. Annie Kline Rikert is at the head of this California road. Associated with her as directors in the company are Mrs. Sally Morgan Green, Mrs. E. T. Gould, Maggie Downing Brainard and Hannah Lewella Lane. Their road is to be sixty miles long,

running from Stockton to Summersville in Tuolumne county, through a rich mining district. Nineteen miles of grading have already been completed.

Nearly all of the Utah troopers at the Presidio will leave Saturday morning for the Yosemite and Sequoia parks. The command includes 109 men all told and two will be left in the hospitals. The enlisted men of the Washington volunteers are to unite in a petition to the secretary of war asking that they be sent to Manila or allowed to return to their homes. They have grown weary of waiting. The First and Second battalions of the regiment have been here nearly three months, and the Third battalion arrived on July 15th. The men say they enlisted for war and do not want garrison duty.

The question of whether or not the sending of troops to Manila after the signing of the peace protocol will be continued is being discussed in army circles at San Francisco. Gen. Merriam referring to the matter said: "I shall make no change in the present arrangements unless so ordered by the authorities at Washington. Every man of the expeditionary forces will be sent to Manila if I am permitted to do so. I cannot say whether the journeying of troops to the islands would be construed as an infraction of the protocol. With peace an assured fact, the troops would be merely guards to preserve order. Still I look for orders from Washington settling the matter one way or the other.

One day last week a destructive hail storm fell here, doing much damage to the crops in the fields. It cut the heads of grain off and thrashed them out. Some of the farmers lost their entire crops, while other only a portion of them. The wind also did much damage, raising the roofs of some of the houses, and corn that was ready to tassel out was laid low; trees were also uprooted. Such a storm has never been witnessed here before. The lightning was vivid and continuous and the thunder shook the ground. The farmers had been rejoicing thinking that they were going to have good crops, but their joy has been turned to sorrow.—St. Johns, Arizona, Herald.

General Merriam has issued an order which indicates that the troops to go to Manila on the transport Arizona next Sunday will consist of the Eighteenth Infantry, Twenty-third Infantry, Second Oregon recruits, Tenth Pennsylvania recruits, First Colorado recruits and First Nebraska recruits, making a total of 1,620 men. The Scandia has been ordered to be ready next Thursday to take the Seventh California and possibly part of the Third artillery. The remainder of the Third is ordered for service in Alaska. General Merriam has sent word to the Red Cross society that he would allow it to send to Manila six trained male nurses on the steamer Arizona and an equal number on the Scandia.

Following is a list of the twelve members of the Columbia Exploration company, who according to advices received by the Alaska Commercial company at San Francisco are supposed to have been wrecked on July 2nd, in the Kuskowim river in Alaska: Captain J. F. Murphy, Bowling Green, Ky.; Robert P. Frierson, Gallatin, Tenn.; Wm. T. Payton, Gallatin, Tenn.; C. H. Mitchell, Gallatin, Tenn.; Doc Allen, Ky.; Eli Knudsen, Genesee, Ida.; Engineer Keusier, Milwaukee; — Smallhouse, Louisville, Ky.; E. S. Lines, Seattle; A. C. Stetson, Seattle, Wash.; O. E. Airud, Redmond, Wash.; H. Clifford Hare, residence unknown. The party sailed from Seattle, Wash., on May 31. The Columbia