

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

At Kemmerer, Wyo., Tuesday, lightning struck the home of Celeste Ewama, a saloon keeper, killing the three-year-old son Lul.

Gen. Merriam, stationed at San Francisco, has ordered the Oregon battery of light artillery now at Portland, to take station at Vancouver barracks.

Charles Harry Warner, a Salvation Army soldier, 35 years of age, was run over and killed by a Haywards electric car at Oakland, Cal., Tuesday morning.

According to information from headquarters the transports Peru and City of Puebla will leave San Francisco about 2 o'clock this (Friday) afternoon.

The Southern Pacific has reduced the freight rate on wine in wood from 75 to 60 cents by carloads to Chicago, St. Louis and Missouri river points. This applies to shipments from all parts of California.

The schooner Abbie F. Morse, which sailed from San Francisco Thursday morning for Mary's Island, Alaska, encountered a severe gale just outside the Golden Gate. Her bobstay was carried away and she was returned to port for repairs.

The date of the sailing of the fifth expedition comprising the transports St. Paul, Rio and Pennsylvania, is now fixed for July 23rd. It is expected that nearly 4,000 troops will sail on these ships, and may be the last to go, in view of the peace indications.

Passengers on the Cottage City from Alaska say that good strikes have been made on a new bench of Eldorado, Bonanza, French creek and Skookum gulch. They are reported enormously productive at high levels. Quartz claims prospected so far yield poor prospects.

The middle of the road Populists, who, early this (Thursday) morning, nominated T. W. H. Shanahan for governor of California, will meet again today and name a full state ticket, in opposition to that of the fusionists headed by Congressman Maguire. This will complete the split in the party.

Shipping men at Seattle believe that the Pacific Coast Steamship company intends to establish a line to Manila. They base their opinion on the manner in which the troop ships, Senator and City of Puebla, were fitted out, the equipment of the vessels indicating that their service to the Philippines is not to be temporary.

Work has practically been completed on the cruiser Philadelphia, now at the Mare Island navy yard, Cal. Repairs on the Ranger are being hastened. The Alert is still under survey and it is undecided just what will be done with her. Over 500 men are at work on the Yorktown and are making every effort to get that vessel in condition for sea.

The Tennessee volunteers regiment gave an exhibition drill at Mechanics' Pavilion, San Francisco, Thursday night, which was witnessed by over 5,000 people. Military experts united in praising the splendid showing and efficient work of the men from the South under Colonel Smith all of their evolutions being performed with the precision of regulars.

Mrs. S. G. Squires of San Francisco was nearly drowned while bathing in the surf at Pacific Grove, Cal., Monday. She ventured beyond her depth and was unable to swim. The prompt and heroic action of her friend, Mrs. MacMurdo, saved her life. Nearly two hours were required for resuscitation.

Mrs. Squires is now out of danger, but still suffering greatly.

The California board of trade has decided to send a commission to the Hawaiian Islands to study and report the best means to foster trade between the islands and this country, which will naturally be increased greatly by annexation. The chamber of commerce proposes to give the Hawaiian commissioners a public reception on their arrival in San Francisco.

Little Sarah Peterson of Berkeley, Cal., was miraculously saved from serious injury, if not death, by fire late Sunday afternoon. The child was enveloped in flames and almost all of her clothing burned off, but her mother threw an apron around her, smothering the flames, herself receiving bad burns. Strange to say, though all of her outer clothing was consumed, the child's injuries are slight.

After all the National Guard of California is to be rehabilitated, Governor Budd and Major General Dickinson have come to terms, and the latter is now at Los Angeles surveying the field for the mapping out of the reorganization plan. The National Guard will be built up at once to one-quarter its maximum strength, that is, half the usual number of companies will be formed, each of about fifty men.

Hugh Craig, president of the chamber of commerce, has received a cable from Wm. Coolgardie of the Coolgardie International exhibition of Western Australia, asking that the congratulations of the commissioners of the exhibition on the success of the American arms in the war with Spain be conveyed to President McKinley through the Chamber. An appropriate message has been sent to the President.

The fusionists of California in Populist state convention Wednesday night, routed the Middle-of-the-road men by nominating Congressman James G. Maguire for governor, the vote standing 154 for Maguire to 135 for T. W. E. Shanahan. The platform re-affirms the party convictions in the principles enunciated in the national platform. An amendment to the Constitution is demanded favoring the initiative and referendum.

Everything is in readiness at army headquarters for the departure of the transports Peru and Puebla next Friday, and Gen. Otis is now simply awaiting the arrival of documentary instructions as to the establishment of a garrison for the troops to be stationed at Honolulu, and for the instructions as to the annexation ceremonies. As soon as he departs Gen. Merriam will issue an order assuming command of the remaining expeditionary forces.

The most authentic information concerning the disposal of the three new tug gunboats at the Mare Island navy yard, is that the Iroquois will be retained at San Francisco, the Vigilant sent to Puget Sound and the Active to San Diego. They all have their three-inch breech-loading rifles on board and in addition two Hotchkiss rapid fire Cannon and a Gatling gun apiece. Since the rush of work began at the yard on March 1st over \$500,000 has been distributed to employees.

The San Francisco Call says it has been practically decided to appoint Col. T. H. Barber of the First New York regiment military governor of the Hawaiian Islands. The appointment, however, will be merely temporary, for Col. Barber was Thursday assured that the First will go to the Philippines as soon as it is possible for the war department to relieve it of garrison duty.

The site assigned the New Yorkers at Camp Merritt does not please Col. Barber, and having received permission from Maj. Gen. Otis, he will move the regiment to the Presidio reservation.

The steamer Cottage City, which touched Victoria, B. C., Friday night on her way to Seattle from Alaska, had on board twenty miners from Dawson City, with about three quarters of a million dollars in gold dust and drafts, mostly the latter. Those believed to have the most money on the Cottage City are the four Butler brothers of Ellsworth, Minn. The eldest went in three years ago, and the other three last year. They have cleaned up a large amount on Bonanza creek 24 A, 68 B, and 23 A. They sold claims to an English syndicate represented by McFarland and H. M. Coleman, the latter of whom came down also.

The Rocky Mountain Postal Telegraph company operating over the line of the Great Northern, Montana Central and Great Falls and Canada railroads, and some other portions of Montana, was sold Wednesday to the Postal Telegraph and Cable company, the price not being stated. The Montana company was originally formed by Marcus Daly and W. A. Clark, with a capital stock of half a million, but owing to the estrangement of the two principal owners was operated under leases at various times. The Montana territory of the new company will be known as the sixth division, and be under the direction of Chicago officials of the Postal Telegraph and Cable company.

The steamer Warrimoo just arrived at Victoria, B. C., from Honolulu, reports that Major-General Wesley Merritt had arrived at Honolulu on his way to Manila. The City of Para arrived at Honolulu July 5th. The Morgan City and Indiana were scheduled that evening. Bandmaster Watson of the Thirteenth Minnesota was suffering with typhoid fever and was taken to the Red Cross hospital. The Monterey and collier Brutus left Honolulu for Manila, collier Nero arrived at Honolulu July 3rd. Necessary repairs to her machinery will delay her there six or seven days. The Nero was in first-class shape. The Monadnock made the trip alone, and had a hundred tons of coal left. She averaged ten knots the whole distance.

Referring to the gunboat Bennington which sailed Thursday, the San Francisco Examiner says: "She will be heard from next at some port on Puget Sound, possibly Port Townsend. It is rumored that definite knowledge has been received regarding the whereabouts of the Spanish privateer of which considerable mention has been made. Several vessels laden with gold are expected from St. Michael. The gunboat Wheeling was sent to that port some time since to guard American interests there. Just how the warships may act in conjunction is not given out, but it believed that the Bennington will divide the work of patrol duty with the Wheeling. The latter might come part of the voyage with the treasure ships and the Bennington continue the journey to this or the Sound ports."

Major General Otis has issued the following order: "Brigadier General Harris Gray Otis, U.S. volunteers, will accompany and assume command of the troops directed to embark on the steamers Pennsylvania, Rio Janeiro and St. Paul. He will select the vessel upon which he, with his staff, will sail, and will report to the commander general at Camp Merritt, for instructions." The Rio Janeiro has finished coaling and the Pennsylvania will soon have her bunkers filled. The St. Paul has not.