

detailed to remain at Fort Russell and Lieut. Merchant and 25 men at Camp Pilot, Butte, Wyo., until further orders. The train left in three sections. Never was the city so profusely and patriotically decorated. The schools adjourned, business houses closed and the people turned out en masse. The soldiers, commanded by Col. Van Horn, were met by a procession of civic and military organizations and were escorted to the depot amid deafening cheers.

The Laramie Boomerang says it is learned that the Western Beef company, capitalized for \$15,000,000 originally, now reduced to \$400,000, the largest cattle trust in the United States has been systematically reducing its holdings in Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, Texas and the northwest. Not long since three-quarters of a million dollars were distributed among the eastern stockholders and before that a much larger sum was similarly divided. They are of the opinion that the day of big cattle holdings is drawing to an end and took advantage of the high prices for stock. The same procedure has been followed during the past year by the big Torrey-Embar company of Fremont county, Wyoming.

Charles Froid, a lineman in the employ of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, met a spectacular death Friday afternoon while working on the top cross-tree of a telephone pole at Eddy and Taylor streets, San Francisco. He was repairing one of the company's wires and took hold of another across which a live fire alarm wire had fallen. As he did so he received the full voltage of the fire alarm wire. The shock killed him almost instantly. He was thrown back across the other telephone wires, and there, fifty feet in the air, his dead body lay for fully twenty minutes, while his fellow-workmen, James Fulton, James Lorimer and James McGinley, prepared ropes with which to lower it to the ground.

The stock and sheepmen who are anxious to get their starving cattle and sheep out of Central and Southern California as soon as possible, are incensed with the secretary of agriculture's office for its delay in instructing the inspectors at Sacramento, Stockton and Fresno to proceed with the inspection of the animals and authorize their shipment to Utah, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Wyoming. There are now in Central and Southern California, the stockmen say, 90,000 head of cattle and 100,000 head of sheep that must be moved immediately to good pasturage to prevent their starvation. Most of the stockmen are agreed that nearly all of the cattle and sheep mentioned must be sent east within the next two months.

No greater scene of enthusiasm has ever been witnessed in Denver than that which attended the departure of the famous Seventh regiment, Infantry, Wednesday afternoon. They arrived in the city from Fort Logan at 2 o'clock. All the companies of the Colorado national guard in Denver were drawn up at the depot to receive them. The Chaffee light artillery fired a salute. The regiment, numbering 500 men, Col. D. W. Benham commanding, marched through the principal business streets before boarding the trains which will carry them to New Orleans. No less than 100,000 people witnessed the parade and cheered the departing soldiers. Many buildings along the line of march were handsomely decorated. The soldiers left on the Santa Fe railroad at 4 o'clock.

The Cheyenne Sun-Leader says that Wednesday a train composed of gravel cars got started at Sherman, and the air brakes proving ineffectual, it soon became evident to Conductor Duffy and his brakemen that the train was

running away. Three stops were to be made at the three first stations, and the trainmen had but six miles to stop the train in. Brakemen Peters and Nichols, two of the most efficient and experienced men on the hill, began work at once on the hand brakes. It was some time before their efforts seemed effective, but they finally succeeded in setting all the brakes, and the runaway train was brought to a stop at the proper time. Such experiences are quite exciting, and it is at such times that cool-headed and capable railroad men are needed.

The Second Infantry left Montana Wednesday for Mobile, Ala., its movement being, as was the case when the Twenty-fifth left, the signal for repeated ovations all along. Two companies left Fort Harrison at noon, and were joined at Fort Keogh, in eastern Montana, at 10 p. m., by four companies, with Col. Bates, commanding officer, and staff. Three troops of the Tenth cavalry left on a train closely following the Second out of Keogh. They will reach St. Paul Friday at 2 p. m., and will be sent with dispatch to the front. Two companies of the Second regiment at Fort Yates, N. D., march overland to Bismarck, N. D., and will join the main division of the regiment today (Thursday). Fort Harrison, which is a department prison, was left in charge of Lieut. Marquant and six men.

All is expectancy at the headquarters of the national guard of California. While San Francisco will undoubtedly be the point of concentration and the Presidio probably the camp for the troops until actually ordered to the front, it is understood that mixed regiments of companies from several regiments will be the choice of Gov. Budd in making up the quota demanded. With 2,800 men as California's share of the volunteers on the first call, two regiments might be organized of 1,000 men each, and one of 800. Already 50,000 citizens of California have signified to Adjutant General Barrett their desire to be allowed to fight in defense of the nation. The Irish women of San Francisco have organized a society to equip a corps of their sex as auxiliaries to the Irish regiment of volunteers now forming.

Anxiety is felt at Seattle, Wash., for three vessels, two of which are long overdue and one which left the Sound early in March. The outbound vessel is the bark Forest Queen, which left there March 6th for San Pedro, California, laden with lumber. She has never been heard from since and hope of ever seeing her or her crew again is about abandoned. The list of her crew is as follows: J. W. Bagley, master, San Francisco; H. Alberts, first mate, San Francisco; C. A. Bell, second mate, Tacoma; C. Suzuki, cook, Tacoma; C. Janson, Victor Baden, A. Baertsen, C. O. Anderson, Harvey Anderson, seamen, all of San Francisco. The overdue vessels are the Chilean ship Lake Lemon, 253 days from Guayaquil, and the Peruvian bark Santa Rosa, 270 days from Payta, Peru.

The First regiment, United States Infantry, comprising 500 men, left San Francisco for New Orleans over the Southern Pacific railroad Wednesday. The departure of the soldiers resulted in a popular demonstration such as was never before equaled there. At least 100,000 people assembled along the line of march from the Presidio to the ferry, and there was a continuous roar of cheers as the soldiers marched along. Intense enthusiasm was displayed throughout the city. Thousands of school children who had been granted a half holiday sang patriotic songs and waved small flags, while others strewed the path of the departing warriors with flowers. The

troops were escorted from the Presidio to the depot by the entire police force of the city and a troop of the United States cavalry.

Young Augustus C. Widber, the trusted and respected treasurer of San Francisco, Cal., and the son of a citizen and official whose name was synonymous with probity, stands confessed a thief and a defaulter. The discovery of Widber's crime was made public late Wednesday afternoon. Soon after dark he was arrested at Walnut creek. When confronted at the new city hall with the proofs of his guilt he admitted that he had stolen \$115,000 of the city's funds, and declared that he and he alone was responsible. There is reason to believe that the investigation will show that a still greater sum is missing, and that such facts will appear as will render a "shaking up" of the treasurer's office an imperative necessity. Whiskey, loose women, race horses, gambling and the other elements of tenderloin life that make criminals of honest men are the causes assigned for the young official's downfall.

"We are prepared today to capture or destroy any force that Spain could possibly send against the Pacific Coast," said Rear Admiral Kirkland of the Mare Island navy yard, Cal. "In the first place, the Spanish government has no vessels in the Pacific waters nearer than the Philippines. We have a greater force there than Spain, and can easily take care of the opposing fleet. The next possibility lies in sending a fleet through the straits of Magellan. Even if Spain had the ships they would be practically useless after they got into the Pacific through lack of coal. We have two monitors, the Monadnock and the Monterey, that are more than a match for any vessel in the Spanish navy. Besides these two we have the Bennington and Mohican, which are now en route from the Hawaiian Islands. The Charleston will be in commission by May 1st, and if it were necessary we could have the Yorktown and Philadelphia in fighting trim by the 1st of June. What I rely upon largely to complete our coast defenses are the ten vessels recently acquired. Another valuable adjunct to our Pacific coast defense is the three torpedo boats now nearing completion in the Sound. This number can be increased materially, if the necessity presents, since each requires only sixty days for building."

After making every effort to conceal his identity, N. R. Bagley of St. Paul, Minn., who has been spending the winter in California for his health, made a successful attempt upon his life Sunday morning in the Crellin Hotel in Oakland. Before taking the poison that ended his existence he had endeavored to remove from his person and effects every mark and distinctive article that might prove to the world his true name, and for several hours the Oakland authorities were baffled in their efforts to establish his identity. A note left by his bedside contained the confession that the name written on the hotel register was designed to deceive, and expressed the hope that he might die unknown. Signing himself N. O. Randall the suicide left this note: "After a fruitless chase of a year and a half after health, which is constantly failing, my funds are exhausted, so I take the only course left me and put an end to an existence which is only a burden to me without hope for the future. I shall taken ten grains of morphine. I am a Mason, Knight Templar, Shriner and Elk, and by notifying them they will probably see that I am properly started on my journey to that house not built with hands, where the fare is plain but wholesome —oasis toward which I am traveling. I