NEWS OF THE WEST.

An Opium Fiend Tries to Suicide Through Despondency.

A JAIL OVERRUN WITH TRAMPS.

Nearly Sanguinary Encounter Through a Can of Oysters—A Prisoner's "Celebration."

The man who is responsible for the crime of fire in Utah, Cal., has confessed and will serve his sentence. Luther Wilson is terrified to silence, is in fear in Sacramento. He has seen a full confession.

George A. Flower, one of the earliest residents of Tuba Dorch, Cal., died a few days ago. Twenty-five years a resident of Lower California, has just died. Mr. Flower was a distant relative of ex-Governor Flower, of New York.

Louisa Matson, the woman who for sixteen years imprisoned as a slave, celebrated her release from jail by going on a big spree at Los Gatos, N. M. She says she has received several handsome offers from dime museums to exhibit herself.

Great Falls (Mont.) Leader: A number of men at the H. & M. smelter were laid off yesterday on account of sleeping. Men who should have been at work. They were at work at night, and thought it was easier lying in their bunks than staying up.

Moscow (Idaho) Enterprise: A resolution was passed by the county commissioners recommending a great reduction of the county on the ground that the people are not able to make ends meet. The reduction will be increased to 30 per cent in a few days.

Grand Junction (Colo.) Sun: Grand Junction will be strictly in it this year. With the building of the Colorado, Wyoming and Great Northern railway, the mountain waterworks and the thousands of new settlers who are coming to the country and planting new orchards, we have abundant reason for believing that we shall have a very happy and prosperous year of it.

The Lemhi (Idaho) Republic says that the sale of a large portion of the placer on Bohannon Bar is now an assured fact. Mr. Hazlett, who represents a wealthy Boston company, has just made a small payment on the bond to each of the twelve owners amounting to some $500 each. We understand that the new company will immediately proceed to put in a large ditch from Wimpey creek, and this with the Bohannon creek will give sufficient water to work the ground on an extensive scale.

On Sunday night John McDermott, better known as "The Spider," attempted to commit suicide in the county jail at San Jose, Cal. He is a confirmed opium fiend, and is serving out a six months' sentence for vagrancy. Every day his dose has been gradually decreased, and Sunday the jailer refused to give him any of the drug. McDermott grew very despondent, and just before the time for locking up the "Spider" climbed on top of the cage, and pulling the lid from a gas jet put his mouth over the jet and turned on the gas. He was so found by a trusty and immediately removed to an upper cell.

A dispatch from Buffalo to the Cheyenne Leader says: The price of a can of oysters almost resulted in a killing today. Sylvester Shaw, of the grocery firm of Metcalf & Shaw, is express agent for Hopkins's Clearmont stage line. Chas. Reynolds, proprietor of the City meat market, received a case of oysters this morning by express, which was one can short, and he demanded payment for the same from Shaw. Upon refusal by Shaw to comply he decided to take it out of the agent's hide and was getting heavily fully behind when he drew a revolver and pulled down upon Shaw, but was disarmed by customers just entering. No arrests were made.

J. F. Crossman was out in the hills east of the city a few days ago after wood in company with Josh Miller, the well known woodsman, says the Laramie Boomerang. Mr. Crossman was on top of a load driving down a hill. His horse refused to work and the wagon was soon tearing down the hill at a startling velocity. The team became frightened and started to run away. At the foot of the hill was an immense boulder which the wagon struck and Mr. Crossman and the wood were shot into the air as though they had been projected from a spring gun. Mr. Crossman came down first and the wood upon him. Mr. Miller dug him out faint and bruised. It was a narrow escape.

According to the statement of the superintendent of the branch county jail, commonly called the House of Correction, at San Francisco, there are more prisoners in that institution at the present time than ever before in the history of the city. In round numbers there are 400. Since the early part of the winter, says the Chronicle, the increase has been remarkable, and when the new sheriff took charge of his office on January 7th, the register recorded 300, thus showing 100 prisoners in that month. The large majority of these are serving sentences of from sixty days to six months for begging, disorderly conduct and vagrancy. The superintendent believes that the prospect of hard work on the roads will have the effect of checking the alarming increase of souls in the lawless and vicious elements, preferring to leave town rather than run the risk of arrest and conviction.

Grind the Grain Fine.

The best authorities claim that practical feeding tests with corn, wheat, rye, barley and oats are proof enough that the best results cannot be had unless they are run through the farm mill. Many tests have been made of feeding wheat soaked in water, as well as whole, with the result of their passing with poor digestion.

Many experiments with ground feed across at the same conclusion—with that the most number of pounds of grain fed in meal have uniformly made more pounds of flesh and fat than when fed whole. It is reasonable, says Professor Arnsby, that if the digestive organs are taxed to perform the work of the mill in crushing the hard grain and separating the nutrients from the woody fiber there must be so much waste of food items and where of grain as well, which is often seen undigested in the excrement of the animal. There are various forms of machinery on the market, designed to overcome this waste by shelling, splitting and grinding.

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