

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

how crops can be advantageously disposed of in the future. The variety of California fruit is also wonderfully great, as it includes oranges, lemons, pears, peaches, apricots and grapes. In 1885 the entire output of California fresh or green fruits was less than 25,000,000 pounds. The output this year will probably be about 200,000,000 pounds. Besides the fresh fruit output, there is the dried and canned product, which will not be less than 350,000,000 and may reach 400,000,000 pounds.

"It is commonly supposed that the canning and drying of fruits is the best way of disposing of the immense crops, but while it is an effective factor it is not everything. California canned fruits are delicious, but the mass of the people cannot afford to consume them extensively. As the product increases, however, the cost may be reduced so as to bring the articles within the reach of most consumers.

"California fruits are distributed throughout this country in refrigerator cars, each of which carries from 20,000 to 25,000 pounds. The fruits that come to New York are usually about ten days on the road. When the season is at its height the weekly receipts in this city amount to from 90 to 100 carloads. Special trains are sometimes run to carry fruit designed for export. These trains are so timed that they will arrive here just before the sailing of transatlantic steamships. The American and White Star steamship lines have incurred great expense in providing refrigerating compartments for the transportation of California fruits, but up to the present time the business has been unprofitable to the shippers. Determined men with practically unlimited capital are behind the export business, however, and they appear to feel confident that ultimately it will be made profitable despite the prolific transatlantic fruit crops with which they have to compete.

"There are from 450,000 to 500,000 acres of land under fruit cultivation in California. About two-thirds of the trees are in bearing. Other trees are constantly being planted and, of course, the number of bearing trees is steadily increasing. The product is increasing faster than the population of the country, but the consumption of fruit is becoming more general; and when it is cheap and times are good the demand will probably more closely approximate the supply.

"The growers must rely upon a wider distribution of their crops in home markets. In order to make such distribution single carloads of fruit must be sent to small cities and large towns where the use of fruit from elsewhere has been limited. In this way consumption can be greatly stimulated."

John W. Allen of Marysville, Montana, on Thursday morning began whipping his 14-year-old son for something the boy had done. This threw Mrs. Allen into a passion and she seized a rifle and began shooting at her husband. The first two shots missed him, the third struck the boy in the left groin, going clear through his body and killing him in twenty minutes, and the fourth bullet went through Mr. Allen's arm and into his skull, over the left eye. He will probably die.

D. B. Rowland, a farmer and cattle raiser living on Elder creek, eleven miles from Red Bluff, Cal., was found dead on the road about three miles from Red Bluff Tuesday morning. The coroner's jury brought in a verdict of death by exposure. He was frozen to death during the heavy storm of Monday night. He was a native of Washington, aged 47 years.

James Kelly, formerly of Park City, Utah, and later of Butte, Montana, quarreled at the latter place on Thursday afternoon with his sweetheart, Jessie Hill, of whom he was jealous. The girl taunted him, whereupon he drew a revolver, shot her in the head, and then turned the weapon to his own head, killing himself instantly. The girl may recover.

Professor Cornelius Bradley of the University of California, has posted a notice requesting all members of the university interested in reservation from private ownership of those portions on the high Sierra which still remain a part of the public domain, especially in the region about Mount Talia and Pyramid peak and the sources of the Rubicon and American rivers, to sign a petition.

Isaac Bastion registered in North Yakima, Washington, last week, says the Yakima Sentinel. Mr. Bastion is 98 years of age, and has been in the Northwest eight years. In addition to having lived in the territory of Washington the full three score and ten years allotted by the psalmist to man, Mr. Bastion has appeared eight times before hymen's altar—most of his matrimonial experiences having been with Indian women. Mr. Bastion's experience ought to demonstrate whether marriage is a failure or not.

Crazed with drink, George Vining, a woodsman, shot James Jones at Shelton, Washington, Thursday morning, attempted to kill another man and then ended his own life. Vining had quarreled with two men from Seattle, and one bit his lip. The three men had apparently forgotten the quarrel, and sat in a saloon until two o'clock in the morning, when Vining coolly remarked that he guessed he would kill a couple of people, and went to his cabin at the edge of town and returned with a rifle. He looked into the saloon, but not seeing the two men with whom he quarreled took up his station across the street. About an hour elapsed when one of the men, named McIntyre, stepped out and Vining fired. The bullet shattered his arm, necessitating amputation. The lights in the saloon were extinguished and the men scattered. Vining waited for the other victim, and fired at the next man to leave. He proved to be James Jones, aged 33, and a particular friend of Vining's. When his mistake was discovered Vining turned the rifle against his own abdomen, fired and dropped dead.

News has been received from Randsburg, the new mining camp on the Southern California desert, over a hundred miles from Bakersfield, that

a desperate shooting affray took place there Monday night, in which one man was instantly killed and two others were fatally wounded. There being no telegraphic communication nearer than fifty miles, details are hard to get. The sheriff, coroner and district attorney were telegraphed for and left for the scene of the tragedy. The affray occurred in a saloon kept by one Thompson at Fiddler's Gulch, near Randsburg. A quarrel arose between two gamblers named Wooster and Brewster over a poker game, and they began shooting at each other. Ault, the man killed, was a spectator, and had no part in the affray. After he was killed the shooting became general, and some fifty shots were fired. Finally both men who started the fight were rendered helpless from wounds, whether fired by each other or not is not known, and the shooting stopped. Both gamblers are seriously wounded, but were put under arrest. It is not expected that they will live.

Nebraska Farmer: A large element of success in farming consists in growing those grain, grass and forage crops that are exactly adapted to the farmer's particular locality and soil conditions. It frequently happens that more or less extended experimentation is necessary in order to determine in a thoroughly satisfactory way just what is the best thing suited to one's surroundings. We have always held to the belief that it is a part of the regular business of the farm to experiment upon a small scale with the view of widening the farmer's knowledge upon the subject of growing different crops. This sort of work, if intelligently carried out, not only results in an increased stock of useful information along the line of what crops to grow, but it leads to new ideas on the subject of crop rotation, methods of seeding and cultivating, and it stimulates thinking and acting in a great variety of ways. If the young farmer of today will only make up his mind to know something of the how and the why as he goes along he will be vastly better off for such a spirit of investigation. Such a man will always be found well in advance in the growing of improved varieties of grains and the right kind of live stock to consume them.

Mr. E. Sowers, who in the North American Review urges a wider field for the beet sugar industry in America, tells how it stands now in the United States. In 1891 the production here was 12,004,838 pounds; in 1892 it was 27,003,322 pounds; in 1893 it was 44,836,527 pounds. He has no figures for 1894 and 1895, but if the increase has continued at anything like the rate just noted the product by this time must be very large. Parts of Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas, California and Utah have already been devoted to sugar beet culture, with most promising results. The rich soils and warm and even climate of California and Utah, especially when aided by irrigation, are suited to an abundant and excellent yield. In 1892 California alone produced about 20,000,000 of beet sugar. Nebraska and the Dakotas add