

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

A bunch of seven or eight skunks, three of them of the hydrophobia species, were killed near Cedar ranch, Arizona, one day last week.

The unusual occurrence of a train on fire was seen in Cle-Elum, Washington, recently. A spark from the engine dropped among the hay of a carload of sheep and was soon blown into a blaze, and the car was soon in flames. One hundred and twenty-five sheep were burned to death. A carload of horses belonging to Robert Alverson of Ellensburg, en route for Dyea, was next to the sheep car, and was badly scorched.

Lewis Rosencranz, a pipemaker, was severely injured Saturday while trying to board a car in San Francisco. The car was moving and Rosencranz's foot slipped. He struck his head on the ground and was dragged several feet before the car stopped. He was removed to the hospital, where it was found that he had sustained several severe abrasions of scalp and ear, a badly contused back and possibly some internal injuries.

Sheriff W. D. Bradford, of Washington county, Oregon, has arrested Gus Wachline, wanted for murder. Wachline was caught Saturday at a little place called Ione, in Morrow county. He was passing under the name of A. H. Brown at the time. At the time of the murder Wachline bore a bad reputation in the community, having returned from the penitentiary a short time before, where he had served one year for stealing a cow.

Charles Corcoran, a man over 50 years of age, was struck by a train at Onava, New Mexico, Sunday forenoon and an arm and several ribs were broken. He died early next morning at the county jail. During all this time he was without medical attention. Among his effects was a deed from George E. Curry of Boston to some city lots. Also tax receipts for some land in Berkeley, Cal. The body was buried in the potter's field.

Mrs. Evan David crossed the race course while several wheelmen were training for a fifty-mile relay with a Reno team at Carson, Nev., Saturday evening and was run into by Dr. Pieper. Her collar-bone and nose were broken and her face cut open to the bone. Her lungs were bruised by a fracture of the collar-bone, and she is in a very precarious condition. Pieper is suffering from many severe bruises and his head is badly cut.

A dirty and disreputable appearing individual, who gave his name as James Johnson, was taken into custody Sunday morning at Oakland, Cal. Johnson had offered a worn Confederate \$50 bill to P. Johnson, proprietor of the Three-mile house. Upon discovering the swindle, Johnson detained his namesake until he could send for the constables. Johnson the prisoner took his arrest very coolly, asserting that in trying to pass a worthless bit of paper he had committed no offense.

Evanston, Wyoming, News-Register: Thus far this season eighty-three double-deck cars of sheep have been loaded at Hillard, and it is expected that 150 cars will make up the year's shipments from that point. As the average capacity of each car is 225 sheep, it will be seen that the calculation will bring the number up to 33,750 head. Hillard being the most central point of exit in this county, it will gradually improve as a shipping point for sheepmen.

Payment of the Arizona reward of \$300 offered for the apprehension of

Mouse, the Plute murderer, has been refused by Governor McCord on the advice of Attorney General Fraser. The terms of the proclamation do not allow for a payment for a dead man, and it did not appear that the Indian pursuers had any intention of capturing Mouse alive. The claim was presented by Sheriff Freudenthal of Lincoln county, Nev., who had himself offered \$150 reward for Mouse, dead or alive.

Thomas Gough was cut across the face at Oakland, Cal., Sunday afternoon by his brother-in-law, Thomas Powers. The wound extended from the left side of the mouth to the back of the neck. Gough went to Powers's house while drunk and quarreled with Mrs. Powers, finally knocking her down. Powers jumped up from a sick bed, grabbed a butcher knife and slashed Gough. He then went back to bed, but later dressed and, with his wife, went away. Gough was treated at the hospital, where thirty stitches were taken in the wound.

Early Tuesday morning an infant girl was found in a basket near one of the gates of the Rose Dale trotting farm, near Santa Rosa, Cal. The child was only a few hours old, and was found by one of the employees of the farm who was on his way to the field to work. The little one was almost dead from exposure when discovered. It is now being cared for in the home of Joseph Gauldin, superintendent of the farm. No clue has yet been found that indicates the parentage of the child.

David Davidson, who murdered his wife, Emily Davidson, at Randsburg, Cal., May 19, 1897, was brought up from Bakersfield Saturday for his preliminary hearing. Eight witnesses were examined, and defendant's attorney moved that he be discharged on account of the insufficiency of the complaint inasmuch as it did not state that Emily Davidson was a "human being." There had been some apprehension of mob violence, but the trial passed off quietly and the prisoner was taken back to Bakersfield on the evening train.

The steamer Umatilla left Wednesday for Puget Sound ports. She had on board 152 passengers, ten of whom were bound for Alaska. Captain A. F. Rogers and James Evans of the treasury department of Washington, went north on the steamer and will proceed with all possible haste to Dyea and Skaguay. They are armed with full power by the secretary of the treasury to do all that is possible to relieve the blockade existing at those points, and to prevent famine, which it is feared will break out this winter.

Harry Maguire Taylor, about 30 years of age, employed in the Union Iron Works at San Francisco, made two attempts to kill himself Thursday night. He boarded the 10 o'clock train at Lorin, bound for the mole, and while it was running at full speed jumped to the ground. He was uninjured, and then made an attempt to dash his brains out by butting his head against a stone wall. Health Officer H. N. Rowell was called. He administered an hypodermic injection of morphine and gave the young man into the custody of the police. No cause for Taylor's action is known beyond the fact that he had been drinking heavily of late.

Friday the body of Herbert Dickinson, aged 17 years, was brought from Fish Camp, Mariposa county, Cal., where he accidentally shot himself

Thursday. Young Dickinson, whose father is a prominent rancher and an old resident of Plainsburg, was on his way to Yosemite valley with several other Plainsburg people, including his parents. He tried to shoot some 38-caliber cartridges in a 45-caliber revolver, but could not make them explode, and finally pointed the pistol at his forehead, just for fun, and playfully saying: "Good bye" to his companions, pulled the trigger. He died almost instantly.

This is the most prosperous season known in Pomona valley, Cal., since 1890. The Pomona fruit cannery is running night and day to fill orders for canned fruit at highly remunerative prices, while all the fruit-drying establishments never employed so many workers before. Boarding-houses are full of men, women and children who have come to Pomona to work in handling the Pomona valley fruit crops, and streets and stores here have not been so active with business for many years. There has been a dearth of workers, and fruit driers and canners have been at their wits' end to find sufficient help.

The state board of equalization failing in an attempt to raise the assessment of San Francisco, Thursday voted to reduce the rolls of no less than thirty-six counties. The reductions are in no case less than ten per cent, and in most cases fifteen per cent. The total amount thus stricken from the general property roll of the state is \$81,448,170, and the result will be to raise the rate of tax levy to fifty cents and a fraction. The burden of this increase in the rate of tax levy will fall on San Francisco, whose assessment is nearly one-third as great as the entire property roll of the state.

Denver Field and Farm: J. M. Jensen & Sons of Brigham City, Utah, are doing an immense business in the sheep line this summer. They lately made several large shipments to the Chicago markets and are making arrangements for other big shipments. They shipped 1,200 head from Opal, Wyoming, 3,000 from Park city and vicinity, 6,200 from Logan and this week they sent 5,000 from Soda Springs, Idaho, to the Chicago markets. The firm will handle 24,000 sheep this year, which at the low average of \$2 a head, will amount to \$48,000. J. M. Jensen Jr. says they have been paying from \$2.50 to \$3.10 a head for sheep, \$1.60 to \$1.85 for lambs.

The sugar-laden bark Ceylon, twenty-eight days from Honolulu, had a narrow escape from being wrecked Wednesday morning. Captain Calhoun was bringing his vessel in on the flood tide between eight and nine o'clock, when she was carried on to Arch rock, San Francisco. There was little wind at the time, and though she got clear of the rock, she was carried by the tide with heavy force on to the rock a second time. The government quarantine tug George M. Sternberg, which was close at hand, pulled the Ceylon from her dangerous position, and she proceeded up the bay. She will be put on the dry dock as soon as she unloads her cargo consisting of 14,445 bags of sugar.

Dick Bell, a Round Valley, Cal., Indian, has been found guilty of manslaughter and will be sentenced in San Francisco on Monday. Bell's crime was committed on February 7th, of this year. In Reed's house near Covello, on the Round Valley Agency. He and Tom Steele, another Indian, had a quarrel over some grain Bell accused Steele of stealing. The quarrel amounted to violence, and according to Bell's testimony, he retreated as far as he could, but when he could retreat no further, knowing that Steele was