

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Many acres of Egyptian corn have been planted in the Pecos valley in New Mexico.

At Aspen, Colo., on Wednesday, a disastrous fire took place which consumed an hotel, lodginghouse and livery stable, a short distance from the Midland depot.

Organization has been completed of the Portland, Vancouver and Northern Railway company, with a capital of \$3,000,000, to build a road from Portland to the Northern Pacific at North Yakima.

Lightning struck the steeple of the Methodist church at Leadville, Colo., on Monday night and badly damaged it. Several other buildings in the town were also struck.

The firemen of the city, remarks the Cheyenne, Wyo., *Tribune*, are meeting with great success in securing subscriptions of money for the next tournament to be held in this city next August.

Mary Farrell, eighteen years old, of Vallejo, Cal., has committed suicide by drinking two ounces of carbolic acid. Despondency over the loss of her lover was the cause.

Otto Mathiason, an apprentice at the Rawlins, (Wyo.) *Journal*, while out hunting recently accidentally shot himself in the left breast. The ball entered the left nipple, skipping the lung, and lodged in the left arm pit.

L. M. Earl, of Salt Lake, is in the city, says the Boise (Idaho) *Statesman*. He has been making a tour of this part of the state looking into the financial condition of counties to determine the desirability of their warrants as an investment.

An electric yacht is almost ready to be launched on Lake Minnetonka at Pueblo. The yacht is thirty feet long and will be run by electricity by a storage battery. It will take thirty passengers and will make the round trip of the lake in twenty minutes.

It is quite the fashion, says the Dillon (Mont.) *Tribune*, for the trainmen who have to lay over at Silver Bow, to put in their time panning for sapphires in the old placer diggings at that place. Several of the boys have found stones of good size and flawless.

The cattlemen of Grant county, New Mexico, are hurrying their cattle out of that section, the most of them going to the sunflower kingdom. These cattle are mostly young steers and it is calculated to keep them on grass till fall, when they will be taken to the market if in beef condition or sold on the range as feeders according to their condition.

W. L. Andrews, for the last ten years assayer in the United States mint at San Francisco, has handed in his resignation and on June 1st will leave for the East. Mr. Andrews has inherited a valuable estate in South Carolina and intends making that place his future home, where he will be close to his relatives. He is the son of the late Mrs. General La Grange and nephew of Mrs. Judge Lamar.

While hunting in the gulch on the Alum Rock road, near San Jose, on Wednesday morning, Ray Hawley, the

youngest son of Major W. G. Hawley, was shot and almost instantly killed. The little fellow was not quite 14 years of age. He was accompanied by a comrade of about the same age. While sitting on a stump he drew his rifle toward him and it was discharged, the ball entering his breast.

The river continues to rise, threatening to overflow the headgates of the large canals above here, says the Idaho Falls *Times*. The water washed around one side of the headgate of the Idaho canal, filling it with water. Mr. Clark, the engineer, was obliged to cut the canal on the lower side to prevent the flooding of the country adjacent. It is reported that the difficulty is being overcome.

C. Mathews, who lives near the Pacific beach racetrack, San Diego, Cal., was digging treeholes Monday when he was attracted by a yellow glitter on some of the pebbles he threw out. Closer examination showed that the pebbles contained free gold in sufficient quantity to make them valuable as specimens. The stones were worn smooth and were probably pieces of float washed down from the mountains.

Mrs. Palmer, the wife of H. N. Palmer, a well known Pacific coast mining man, committed suicide Monday night at Prescott, Arizona, by drinking a cupful of carbolic acid during a fit of despondency and mental aberration. About two and a half years ago she accidentally shot and killed her ten year old son, since which time she has been despondent at times, which has been aggravated by sickness.

Three men broke into and went through five or six cars on a freight train between Carlin and Winnemucca the other night, says the Winnemucca *Silver State*. They burst open cases containing ladies' hosiery and silk mitts, and also secured a large quantity of tobacco. The car thieves went around Battle Mountain claiming to be peddlers, and sold considerable of the stuff when they were arrested and locked up. Shortly afterwards they escaped and up to latest accounts they had not been recaptured.

It is expected that the Burlington will be completed to a connection with the Northern Pacific at Billings by October 15. Commencing at Alger, Wyo., eight miles beyond Sheridan, the builders have begun track laying, and having about twenty miles of road bed that was graded last year to begin with, will make rapid progress. A large part of the line from that point on to Billings is being graded, and subcontractors are stringing out their men along the route. They have about 1,400 men now.

The Rawlins (Wyo.) *Republican* learns that Cosgriff Bros., of Fort Steele, who are among the most extensive wool growers of the Rocky mountain country, intend to investigate the wool scouring business with a view of putting in a plant, if practicable, on the Platte. These gentlemen are in position to take hold of the matter and push it to a successful

issue if they see fit. They have about 25,000 head of sheep at present, 17,000 of which are breeding ewes, which will give them close to 40,000 head after lambing.

The work of demolishing the iron and heavy oaken doors that guard the entrance to the gambling games in Chinatown still goes on, says the San Francisco *Chronicle*. In many cases the doors are removed altogether and carted off to the old city hall. This, of course, sadly annoys the gamblers, who now do not dare to open a gambling place in any room in the first or second stories of the buildings. On the whole there has been but little gambling carried on anywhere in the Chinese quarter since the recent police scandal.

At a meeting of the Committee of One Hundred, held at Los Angeles, Cal, Monday night, the postal primary plan was adopted by a majority vote and will be submitted to the central committees of the several political parties for approval. If approved by one or all of them the plan will be given a practical trial at the coming fall primary election. The plan is looked upon with favor by citizens in the state desiring electoral reform. The plan provides that primary elections are to be carried on through the mails, ballots being sent to each voter.

A cave occurred on Monday night on the Woodbridge Irrigation company's works, two miles northwest of Lodi, Cal., by which three men narrowly escaped death. P. F. Scott and three others were engaged in an excavation for a siphon under a bridge, when the trench, eight feet deep, caved, and two laborers named Lund and Carey were buried up to their chins, and Vickery and Scott barely escaped a like fate. Lund was taken out more dead than alive, blood flowing in a stream from his nose and mouth. He has several ribs fractured and is injured internally. Carey was not seriously hurt.

The Hailey (Idaho) *Times* says that Sheriff Jackson has been requested to look into the disappearance and possible murder of a man who formerly lived in the Yager house, in Gimley, about six miles from Hailey. The request is made by Mrs. Leflange, who now lives in the house, and who says that there are spots of dry blood on the walls, and that a horrible stench issues from under the house. She wishes the place dug into and examined. The supposition is that a man who had money and disappeared, a couple of years ago, was murdered for his money and buried under the house. By whom this was done no one knows.

As the Cripple Creek, Colo., back was nearing Lawrence on Thursday morning on its down trip three men sprang out from the side of the road and ordered hands up. The driver obeyed by stopping, and replying to the question as to who he was, answered Cripple Creek and Canon mail. The men ordered the passengers out and proceeded to go through them, making a careful search for fire arms. None being found nothing was taken, and the party were ordered in the back and the driver told to move on. The whole affair consumed not more than five minutes, but everybody aboard was thoroughly scared. This is the