

met a sad death Saturday. The little one, with her brother, went to an old barn used for the storage of hay to play. The boy returned to the house and was sent back by his mother to get the young child. As the woman stepped to the door she saw the place in flames. The father and some ranch hands ran to the place at once. The hay was on fire, but after hard work the building was saved. The hunt for the child then began. At first she could not be found, and it was thought that she had escaped, but as she did not return to the house the search was renewed. A short time later the remains of the little one were found in the hay and burned beyond recognition. The right arm and leg were burned entirely off. The child, according to the boy, had taken some matches into the barn with her, and it is probable she accidentally fired the hay.

C. A. Campbell, the ex-city clerk of Stockton, Cal., whose mysterious disappearance was noted in the NEWS a few days ago, was found Monday morning in a demented condition in a box car on the Valley road, not far from the pumping station. He had been missing since Thursday, and his family was nearly frantic in consequence of his absence. In searching for him his sons found him in the car. He was lying flat on his back, and when his sons entered he did not move or give any signs of recognition. They spoke to him, but he did not answer. Then they raised him on his feet, and even then he gave no evidence of knowing them. His eyes were staring vacantly, and the young men soon saw that he was not in his right mind. He was taken to his home and put to bed. Campbell did not recognize any of the members of his family, and could not speak. All he did was to mutter and mumble to himself. Some quieting medicines were given him to induce sleep, and it is thought he may recover.

David Starr Jordan, president of Stanford university, is in receipt of a telegram from Charles F. Hamlin, acting secretary of the treasury, requesting him to accept the presidency of the Bering sea commission. In reply Professor Jordan has wired his acceptance of the appointment. Professor Jordan will have for his associates on the commission Dr. Stejneger and Lucas of the Smithsonian Institution. These gentlemen are expected to arrive from the east in a few days, and the party will then depart for the north. The commissioners will be gone about three months, and during that time will inquire carefully into the sealing industry and the wholesale destruction of seals now said to be going on in the northern waters. The methods of the seal hunters and the numbers and condition of the females and cubs are a few of the many details of the inquiry that will be conducted. Professor Jordan says the commission will give the sealing question careful study, and will endeavor to suggest restrictions under which seals can be hunted down without fear of their extermination.

News comes from the San Emigdio country, thirty-five miles south of Bakersfield, Cal., that an invasion of swarms of grasshoppers has come into the valley from the mountains. They came suddenly and almost without warning, and are many millions in number. They are greedy and voracious,

and, singularly enough, the first objects of their attack are fruit trees. They show a strong predilection for the orange, even gnawing the bark from the trees and consuming the young foliage. As there is a great stretch of barren territory there, the ranchers fear they will lose everything. A report came Monday afternoon that the advance guard of the grasshoppers had reached Lakeside ranch, about half way to Bakersfield. Prompt steps were taken to combat the pests. Trees have been sprayed with arsenic solution, while great sheet iron scoops, drawn by horses and lined with coal tar are being used to gather up the insects, which are then burned. Many of the ranchers have joined in the contest, but it will take the united efforts of the entire farming community to make any impression on them. Those who have visited the locality say the country literally swarms with the hoppers.

The preliminary examination of Otto Olsen, charged with causing the death of eight-year-old Minnie Carson by giving her whiskey, was concluded in the police court at Eureka, Cal., Friday and resulted in Olsen being held to answer for murder. Olsen's line of defense, as at first outlined, was to the effect that he had fallen asleep in a chair and the child had taken the flask from his pocket and had drunk of the contents unknown to him. At the examination, however, it developed from the testimony of the mother and another woman that the child, when informed by them that recovery was impossible, told them with her dying breath that Olsen had thrown her down and forced the whiskey down her throat and had made a second attempt afterward, which she frustrated by dashing the flask from Olsen's hand and breaking it. This latter statement of the dying child was corroborated by her nine-year-old brother, who testified to seeing the scuffle, in which the flask was broken. It was proved beyond a doubt that Olsen was at the house alone with the children and that he brought the whiskey there. Olsen undertook to make a statement in court, but while remembering many trivial incidents that occurred about the house that day, he professed to be unable to remember how the child obtained the liquor.

Two little girls were burned to death before their mother's eyes at Los Angeles, Cal., Friday afternoon. Three barns were also destroyed by fire with their contents. The children were Hazel and Viola, aged 4 and 7 years respectively, daughters of C. J. Bickford, a hay dealer. The little girls and their brother Frank went into the barn of George Shepard in the rear of the house to play. Hazel had a number of matches and climbed to the loft of the barn, while Frank and Viola remained downstairs. Hazel lighted some matches and dropped one of them on the floor, which was scattered over with wisps of hay. Instantly the inflammable stuff was ablaze and the little girl was enveloped in flames. Frank ran screaming to the house and told his mother. Mrs. Bickford ran hastily to the barn, but it was wrapped in flames. Viola had climbed into a buggy which was in the barn and was unable to get out of it. In her frantic efforts to save her

babies Mrs. Bickford rushed close to the burning building, but was repelled by the fierce flames. The despairing shrieks of the two doomed children echoed in the frenzied mother's ears and goaded her to desperation. Again and again she rushed toward the door of the barn and her face and arms were severely burned, but she could not get in to save the little ones. When the debris had cooled off sufficiently Chief Moore, aided by firemen, lifted the rubbish from the bodies of the children, picked them up and placed them in the wash-tub. The sickening spectacle was viewed by hundreds of people.

The quiet little village of Tipton, Cal., was horrified by the killing of Grant Smith, one of the well-known residents of that vicinity, Wednesday evening. Smith, who lived about two and a half miles from that place, was one of several persons who have recently become involved in disputes over the use of water for irrigation. Wednesday evening Ben Dice, one of the best known residents of the southern part of the county, drove to Smith's house with his wife, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Dice are sisters, and the Dice ranch is the property of Mrs. Dice. Dice had been cleaning his ditches preparatory to irrigating, and had been promised the use of the water for that purpose. Upon arrival at Smith's, Mrs. Dice got out of the buggy and with a shovel commenced to remove a small dam in a ditch that the water might run to their place. Smith came out of the house, and taking his sister-in-law by the arm, told her to go away. Smith claimed that he had done a good deal of work on the ditch that had not been paid for, and that he would not permit any water to run below his place. He told Mrs. Dice that the dam must not be broken. Smith had fastened a loaded gun to the top of a post near the dam with a string from the dam tied to the trigger, so that any interference would cause a discharge of the gun. During the dispute between Mrs. Dice and Smith Mr. Dice remained in the buggy. In attempting to force Mrs. Dice from the place a struggle ensued and the gun was discharged. Dice immediately jumped from his buggy and fired at Smith with a shotgun. The charge took effect in his left side. He dropped unconscious and died almost instantly. Dice says he thought Smith shot at him or his wife.

IDAHO WEATHER REPORT.

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho, June 9, 1898. —The weather of the week ending Monday, June 2, 1898, was generally clear and somewhat cooler than that of the preceding week, with light scattered showers, principally accompanied by thunderstorms; hailstorms also occurred in a few localities, doing some damage to tender vegetation.

Cool weather has checked the melting of snow in the mountains, and in consequence the streams which have been unusually high and dangerous in many places have begun to fall slowly. The surface soil is drier than last week, but still in good condition for working. Potato and garden planting is practically finished, and the two crops are coming up well.