

tric railway company to compel it to take steps to prevent damage being done to the former's water pipes by electricity escaping from the rails. No similar case has been carried into the courts before. Supt. Borden of the water works, says that the escaping electricity so injures the pipes that they have to be replaced at short intervals.

Authorities of San Francisco have made a new departure in criminal procedure, which is expected to deter murderers from interposing the plea of insanity. Mrs. E. Papp-Wilson, who was accused of murdering her husband in that city on the 25th of September, 1894, was adjudged insane before her trial took place and she was sent to an asylum. After her recovery she was taken charge of by the authorities of the city and will be brought to trial on the murder charge in the superior court next week. District Attorney Barnes says this plan is to be adhered to in other similar cases.

Geo. A. King, author of a number of religious works, is dead at San Francisco. He was born in New Ipswich, N. H., 88 years ago and was at one time a prominent lawyer and capitalist in New York. For years he practiced law in Rochester, N. Y., and afterwards was a large operator in railroad stocks in New York, where he acquired a large fortune. He leaves besides his son Cameron H. King, who is a prominent attorney, several grandchildren and relatives in Boston, Mass., among whom is Miss Harriet H. King, his daughter, well known in Boston society. His funeral was conducted by his son Cameron, who delivered an address and read from his father's writings.

The Eta province of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon held its second annual convention at Denver Tuesday. The Eta consists of six branches, the universities of Texas, Colorado, Denver, Arkansas, California and Leland Stanford, Jr. Only three of these are represented in this convention. Colorado, Denver and Leland Stanford, Jr., but written reports were read from those not represented. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President B. M. Webster, Denver; vice president, Harry Douel, Leland C. P. Hiller, Denver. The next meeting of the society will be held in Denver in December, 1898. Tuesday's meeting closed with a banquet at the Albany hotel in the evening.

There was a murder in Chinatown, San Francisco, Wednesday afternoon. A Chinese known as Lee Fat cut the throat of Lee Long, a recent arrival from Merced county. The murderer was caught in the act by Policeman Magnin. The officer attempted to prevent the crime but did not reach the spot in time. The wounded man was taken to the receiving hospital where he died, the jugular vein having been severed. Lee Fat will make no statement regarding his crime, except to say that trouble over money matters caused the deed. He does not deny the crime. His murderous act was committed at the corner of Washington and Stockton streets, in full view of a number of people, including the passengers on a passing street car.

The attorneys for W. H. T. Durrant will make another attempt to gain time, and are at present engaged in perfecting another appeal to the supreme court of California. Should their efforts to save the convicted murderer from the gallows fail in this direction, an appeal will be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States. The new appeal that is to be filed in the state supreme court is based on the exceptions taken by Attorneys Boardman and Duprey before Superior Judge Bahrs when Durrant was sentenced the last time. Judge Bahrs last

Friday settled the bill of exceptions and the transcript is now in the hands of the printer. As soon as the document is ready it will be filed in the supreme court and an appeal taken.

The San Francisco Chronicle in its annual new year edition gives the following statistics regarding the principal natural products of California: Total production during 1897—Wine, 30,000,000 gallons; best sugar, 65,000,000 pounds; wheat, 18,000,000 centals; barley, 9,600,000 centals; wool, 22,000,000 pounds; lumber, \$10,600,000; hops, 50,000 bales; beans, 37,000,000 pounds; prunes, 82,500,000 pounds; raisins, 64,000,000 pounds; honey, 810 cars, 12 tons each; oranges, 10,250 cars, 320 boxes each; The exports of merchandise from San Francisco amounted to \$46,000,000, the largest in any year with the exception of 1891, when it was \$48,000,000. The imports for the year amounted to \$39,000,000.

J. A. Van Orsdal, who on Friday was appointed attorney general for Wyoming, was born in Pennsylvania in 1860. He graduated in Westminster college, New Wilmington, Pa., in 1885, and in 1888 moved to Nebraska, where he engaged in business for three years. In 1891 he moved to Wyoming and has since that time been engaged in the practice of law in Cheyenne. In 1892 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Laramie county, and in 1894 was elected to the lower house of the third state legislature. He was a member of the commission appointed by Gov. Richards in 1895 to revise the laws of the state. He is now the law partner of C. W. Burdick, the present secretary of state of Wyoming. His appointment is said to mean harmony.

As the result of a Christmas debauch, Lagora Molina, a Chilean wood chopper, met a terrible death. Molina, who was employed on a ranch near Los Gatos, Cal., drank deeply Saturday evening, and with three other laborers caoused in his cabin until far into night. After three members of the quartet had fallen to the floor in a drunken stupor, Molina took a lighted lamp and went out into the yard. He stumbled and fell, the lamp exploded and the burning oil ignited his clothing. Being unable to arise, he lay there until burned to death. No one saw the accident, and Molina's tragic fate was not known until Sunday morning, when the body, with the chest and lower limbs blackened and charred, was found a short distance from his cabin.

The overturning of a lamp for heating glue in Whitney's planing mill, San Bernardino, Cal., started a fire late Wednesday afternoon which destroyed property valued at \$100,000 and threatened to wipe out the city. Fourteen residences, an Episcopal church, a skating rink and hardware store were burned, and the fire was only got under control when needed help arrived from the adjacent town. A peculiarity of the fire was the fact that it sometimes jumped the entire block in its devastating path. One of the greatest personal losses suffered by an individual was that of W. G. Wright, who has devoted his life to natural history collections, which were in some features rare and known to scientists throughout the country. These collections had a market value of \$15,000 or \$20,000.

The Lewiston-Mt. Idaho stage was held up at 9 o'clock Tuesday night by two highwaymen, one mile from Grangeville, Ida. Two persons were relieved of about \$60, and the robbers secured the contents of two mail sacks, but missed the one containing registered money packages. After the robbery the driver was instructed to turn the stage back toward Cottonwood, the robbers following a short distance. When the robbers disappeared the driver resumed his journey to Grangeville. At Grangeville there is great ex-

citement and a vigilance committee has been organized. Tuesday night's robbery is supposed to be the work of the same element who have made two attempts within the past week to destroy the town by fire, and the citizens of that place are determined to use every means of protection.

Monday a cattle deal involving about \$175,000 was closed in Denver, says the Laramie Boomerang. Clint Anderson of Wyoming purchased about 8,000 steers from the Western Union Beef company, the terms of the sale being private, but the total being in the neighborhood of the sum named. The steers purchased are mostly 2-year-olds, with some yearlings in the bunch. They are on the Texas breeding ranges and will be delivered in May at Denver, where they will be branded and shipped into northern Wyoming to Mr. Anderson's range. Mr. Anderson is one of the big range men of Wyoming and the Western Beef company is one of the largest cattle companies in the west. This is the largest deal in stock cattle closed this winter, but there are said to be a number of others pending.

Corroborative information has been obtained regarding the establishment of a line of steamers between Valparaiso, Chile, and San Francisco, as reported by Consul Wilson of Santiago at the state department. The companies interested are the Compania Sub-Americano de Vapores, of Chile, and the Pacific Steam Navigation company of Liverpool, England, which at present operate only to the south of Panama. The opportunity for invading the north Pacific is afforded by the expiration of an agreement with the Pacific Mail, by which the business north and south of Panama was divided. The vessels of the Chilean line are prepared to carry guns in case of war, and on that account receive a subsidy from the government, while the English company is in receipt of a postal subsidy from both Chile and Peru. The vessels to be placed on the Valparaiso and San Francisco route will probably be the Chile, Peru, Santiago and Arequipa of the Pacific Steam Navigation company and the Loa, Palena, Imperiale and Aconcagua of the Compania Sub-Americano de Vapores.

Additional particulars were received at Winnemucca, Nev., Tuesday, by messenger, of the murder of Peter French, the largest landholder and cattle-owner of eastern Oregon, who was shot and killed on his ranch in Harney county, 225 miles north of there last Sunday afternoon. David Crow is the messenger who arrived, having been in the saddle forty-eight hours with nine changes of horses. Crow left the scene immediately after the homicide. He says French and a party of vaqueros had rounded up a band of cattle and were about to drive them into a field on his ranch. French went ahead on horseback to open the gate, and having done so, started back to the cattle. A man on horseback intercepted him, and then engaged in a dispute lasting several minutes. French started to ride away, but got only a few feet when the other drew a pistol and shot him. French fell to the ground with a bullet in his brain. The murderer rode away, and French's men, being unarmed, made no attempt to capture him. Notice was at once sent to the officers at Burns's, forty-six miles from the scene of the tragedy. French's men were too far away at the time of the killing to recognize the murderer, but it is thought he is one of a band of squatters who have been annoying French, and against whom he had a number of lawsuits pending. French was 48 years of age, and one of the best known cattlemen on the Pacific coast.