

ness against her testified that he was under the influence of liquor from the time he left Salt Lake, while Green was in good health, until after the funeral, so that his testimony amounts to little. There may be some further developments before the trial comes off.

NEWS NOTES.

Farmers in Sherman county, Or., are said to be hauling seed wheat from the railroad to their farms, they having sold too much last fall, not leaving themselves enough for seed.

Some time ago a petition signed by the leading citizens of Fairhaven, Wash., was forwarded to the treasury department requesting that that city be made a sub-customs port.

It is claimed by the Mexican authorities that the Apaches, presumably renegades from San Carlos, Arizona, have crossed the line into Sonora and are giving considerable trouble.

The young people of San Diego, Cal., have taken up a plan to establish a permanent temperance coffee saloon in a central location in the city. The young folks are very enthusiastic over the project.

A pocket of rich ore was struck in the old Tom Payne mine, in the Pocatello district, in eastern Oregon, last Thursday. About ten years ago a pocket was found in the mine from which \$12,000 was taken in one week.

While filling the teeth of a horse in Fossil, Or., the other day, George Metteer lost his hold on the file, and it went down the animal's throat. At last accounts the horse was getting along nicely, says the Fossil Journal.

All the logging camps of the Grand Ronde Lumber company up the river from La Grande, Ore., have been closed down. The river is gradually rising, and it is probable that the spring log drive will be commenced in a short time.

The Santa Ana Blade reports progress in the matter of reclaiming 8,000 acres of good farming lands in Orange county by means of a drainage ditch. County Surveyor Kellogg has estimated the cost of the ditch in round numbers at \$17,000.

The mineral output of Idaho for 1895 is officially reported as follows:

	Quantity.	Value.
Gold, fine ounces.....	125,517	\$ 2,694,686
Silver, fine ounces.....	4,030,180	6,214,498
Lead, pounds.....	65,752,187	2,301,321
Total.....		\$10,110,485

The directors of the Sacramento, Cal., Butler club have discovered that their trusted secretary, Frank J. Malory, who disappeared a few days ago, is an embezzler. The amount of his shortage is \$1,400. He left his wife and two weeks old baby unprovided for.

Owing to the outcry raised against the government's proposal to impose a tax of 2 per cent on the gross output of mines at Victoria, B. C., the government has decided to impose a tax on the output and allow \$3 1/2 per ton on the ore for expenses. This decision was arrived at after petitions had been received from Kootenai, Cariboo and other mining centers, as well as from boards of trade and other representative bodies in the cities.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Written for this paper.

NATIONAL BANK FRAUDS.

(Copyrighted by Frank G. Carpenter, 1896.)

WASHINGTON, March 4th, 1896.



WROTE today of the losses of millions. Our national banks are considered the safest of investments. Still, in their fortunes have been stolen, rich men have been made paupers, and the widow and the orphan have again and again lost their little all. Gigantic frauds have been perpetrated through them, and the stories of many of them are full of romance and adventure. During the past few weeks, with the assistance of Mr. James H. Eckels, the controller of the currency, I have looked into some of the biggest swindles perpetrated by dishonest persons who have got en control of national banks, and the matter which follows is, perhaps, the first true statement given as to the great failures of which it treats. It is made from notes for me by the receivers of the various banks, at the request of the controller, and it may be relied upon as authentic.

First, take the great swindle perpetrated through the name of General Grant by the firm of Grant & Ward. This is, perhaps, the most notorious bank failure of our history. It occurred on the 6th day of May, 1884. The bank was known as the Marine National Bank. It had a capital stock of \$400,000. On the day it failed it had debts amounting to more than five million dollars. The Marine Bank had been in existence for twenty years, but about the time General Grant came into it in 1883 it was reorganized, and the chief proprietors of the bank were then James D. Fish, Ferdinand Ward, General Grant and Ulysses S. Grant, Jr. Grant put \$100,000 into the bank. He got the money, it is said, from the sale of the house which the citizens of Philadelphia gave him after the war was over as a token of their love and esteem. Grant was then at the height of his fame. He had just returned from his trip around the world, and was talked of as the third-term candidate for the presidency. James D. Fish had long been the president of the bank. He was then sixty years old, and he was, it is believed, to a large extent innocent of fraud. The arch fiend of the conspiracy was Ferdinand D. Ward, who, at the time the bank was organized, was still under thirty.

He got acquainted with Fish by depositing in his bank, and also through his marriage with a daughter of one of Fish's friends. It was Ward who manipulated all the swindles. It was he who got Grant into the bank and made him believe that he could make a fortune in it. As soon as the bank was thoroughly organized Ward brought forward his celebrated scheme of "government contracts which never existed." He would pretend for instance that he had secured a contract calling for \$200,000, on which

there was a sure profit of from thirty to fifty per cent. He would take \$100,000 worth of the stock for Grant & Ward and would then bring in other capitalists to take the balance. Fish thought the contracts were genuine and he urged the other parties to go in. The money of the capitalists was paid into the Marine Bank, and Ward would give notes on the bank, indorsed by Fish, bearing the legal rate of interest, and also a separate guarantee for a certain amount of profit within a certain time. When the notes became due he would check against the account of Grant & Ward, and he kept up this scheme of organizing companies until the bank failed. His transactions lasted for a year and a half, and during this time he received and reinvested the enormous amount of \$35,000,000. When the bank's affairs were wound up it was found that Grant knew practically nothing of the working of the institution. He knew no more about the accounts than Ward did about military campaigns, and he was immensely tickled at the large showing of profits, which Ward placed to his credit. General Sheridan said that Grant used to poke him in the sides and say: "You thought I was a good general, but you never thought I could do this." When the bank failed Grant gave up everything he had. Popular sentiment for a time was against him, and he sunk under the storm and was attacked by a mortal disease. He then rallied and wrote his memoirs, out of which his family have already realized more than \$500,000. Fish was sent to the penitentiary for ten years, but was pardoned out after two years imprisonment by President Cleveland. Ward was also sent to prison for ten years, but he is again at large, and is, I am told, still living.

One of the biggest wheat corners of history was manipulated through a national bank. It burst, and both wheat and bank stock went sky high. This was the Fidelity National Bank of Cincinnati. It failed in 1887. The arch fiend of this swindle was a man named Harper, who has since served a term in the penitentiary, who was pardoned out, and who is now again acting as a broker in Cincinnati. Harper was one of the chief organizers of the bank. He was supposed to be worth about two million and a half dollars at the time the organization was effected, and he had interests in steel works and other things. The bank was founded in 1886. In 1887 it had \$3,000,000 in deposits, and of this \$1,800,000 was due to more than six hundred banks and bankers covering all parts of the United States. Harper was the vice-president of the bank, and he practically controlled everything. The directors were good men, but they had confidence in Harper, and they allowed him to do as he pleased. Within ten months after being made vice-president Harper had drawn out \$400,000 for his own use. He then got the idea of cornering wheat, and he began to buy in the Chicago market. He had a young lady clerk, a Miss Josie Holmes, in the bank, through whom he worked, and in connection with her, the paying teller and the exchange clerk he manipulated worthless checks to the amount of more than a million dollars. This money was also sent on to Chicago and invested in