NEWS OF THE WEST.

A Servant Girl Asphyxiated by Gas While Asleep.

CONTRACT FOR A NEW RAILROAD.

The Slot Machine Condemned as Illegal—Indians on the March, Etc.

According to the Petaluma, Cal., Daily Courier, the Winegrape growers in Sonoma County are well pleased with the prospect of forming a syndicate to dispose of their crop. They believe there will be few sales independent of the organization in a short time.

The slot machines have been condemned in Oakland, Cal., that a complaint has been entered against their use where money is the stake. The matter was called to the attention of the city council and the chief of police will probably be instructed to stop the gambling.

Hon. Chas. S. Hamlin, assistant secretary of the treasury department, is in San Francisco in the interests of the customs districts of the West. He will next go to Portland, says the Chronicle, in order to be present at the trial of the ring of smugglers, whose depredations have drawn so much attention to the northern district of late. Mr. Hamlin will also visit San Diego, Alaska and the Pribyloff islands.

A band of forty-seven Indians and their families under the leadership of Red Cloud, passed through Casper, Wyo., recently on their way from Pine Ridge agency to visit their "Father" at the Arapahoe agency. The Journal says it was soon learned that they were killing antelope by the wholesale near Oil mountain, and Red Cloud was arrested and Road, the Sun being suspended on his promise to do better.

A sad accident occurred during Saturday night through which Julia Conway, a 15 year old nurse girl, lost her life. She had retired to her room as usual on Saturday evening. Next morning her employer discovered the room filled with escaping gas in the house and on investigation of the cause led him to the nurse girl's room. The door was broken in and the dead body of the girl was found in her bed. She had left the key of the gas jet in the room turned on and had been asphyxiated while asleep. The boy was somewhat frightened and in his excitement unconsciously moved it after shutting off the light.

Grasshoppers have appeared in large numbers in the south and east of Granada, Cal. Reports from Bates county say that the hoppers are destroying everything in that county, especially in the north. Southern Prowers and a strip about five miles southeast of here are literally covered with young hoppers. Those who have been near Wide, Granada county, report entire destruction of crops and range, but this occurs only in streaks. Outside these places there is not a hopper to be seen. It is thought that they will not reach Granada valley until too late to do much damage.

The contract for the construction of the first forty-six miles of the Mojave and Fresno, (Cal.) railroad has been let for $252,000. This will build the road to Hoboser, from which point it will be run across the mountain into the valley beyond. The San Francisco Chronicle says that the contractor agrees to build and complete the road in ten months from the time of breaking ground, which important event will occur July 4th, and will be celebrated by the people of central California with appropriate exercises in conjunction with Independence day festivities in San Francisco. The purchasers of the road have floated $2,000,000 bonds in New York city with which to build and equip the new road.

BONDS IN BIRMINGHAM.

The Spirit of Destruction Makes Itself Felt Even in the Scrap Pile.

Anybody desiring an exciting occupation could not do better than to obtain a job at one of the numerous metal collectories in Birmingham. In addition to the usual rules in such business the workmen daily experience the danger of being blown up by bombs. A good deal of scrap metal bought for the melting pots comes from the battlefield, where, it seems, carelessness has almost reached the rank of a virtue. It is a common thing to find loaded military bombs among the scrap. The workmen must always be on the lookout for them.

For the second time within a week one firm has providentially escaped being blown sky high. First it was an old grapeshot shell, probably found on some battlefield. Then caution was given to the entertainment by the arrival of a more scientific and up to date bomb which came in a consignment of scrap iron, and the workman just missed shoveling it into the furnace. It only weighed two pounds, but it would have done damage altogether disproportionate to its size, for on being unkindly disturbed in the firm's laboratory the little stranger was found to contain a quarter of a pint of nitroglycerin.—London Letter.

Our Literary Conquest in England.

A little book is to be published here on "First Editions of American Authors." From this one may fairly assume that the popularity of transatlantic writers in England is now considerable. Not very many years ago Longfellow, Poe, Emerson, Hawthorne, Lowell, Mark Twain, Artemus Ward and Josh Billings were almost all the American authors in whom the British public took any interest. How different is the situation now! American books stream in our library markets, and their authors, like so many Englishmen and women, have a reputation on both sides of the Atlantic. Every day the rapprochement between the two great literatures and the two great reading publics grows closer and closer.—London Figaro.

The Four Horse Hansom.

One of the crucial results of the World's fair is that it demoted the number of horse in Chicago. These poor creatures are now starting because the cab and delivery men who rushed to the Windy City to make a fortune cannot now earn enough to support themselves or their beasts. The fear that many of them can do is to turn their attention to the streets for the police to pick up.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

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