NEWS OF THE WEST.

Woman Fatally Burned by a Gasoline Stove Explosion.

UNKNOWN MAN KILLED BY A TRAIN

Rancher Murdered for Money—A Police Clerk Absconder—Want Robbies Punished.

Oakland, Cal., is having an epidemic of burglaries.

The total membership of the present Colorado legislature is only 100, while the number of employes now engaged is 120.

California orchardists are trying to secure a law to prevent the killing of robins, claiming that the birds destroy numerous insects and worms which are injurious to fruit trees.

At Santa Cruz, Cal., on Saturday evening, Mrs. Rodriguez was severely burned by the explosion of a coal oil lamp. Her father had his hands burned while trying to extinguish the flames.

Thomas Thompson, foreman of a ranch near Los Gatos, California, was assaulted a few days ago by a tenant named Greaves, whom he ordered to do some work. Thompson received several dangerous stabs but will probably recover.

Mrs. Boyd was fatally burned by a gasoline explosion at Los Angeles, Cal., on Tuesday. She was preparing dinner in the kitchen when the stove exploded, and she was enveloped in flames. Neighbors ran to her and extinguished the flames, but not before she was badly burned.

The grand jury experts, who have been working on the books of William Everett, the absconding police court clerk of Los Angeles, Cal., completed their labors Tuesday. They report a shortage in his accounts of $2,857. Everett's whereabouts are unknown, although he went north in March.

A report from Missoula, Mont., says: "Not in ten years have the cattle on the ranges been in such good condition as they are this winter. The open weather, following the heavy snow of the early part of the season, has made the feed as good as it is in early spring, and there is green grass all over the range. It would be possible now to find good beef cattle for shipment and the season is now so far along that it will not be necessary to do much feeding, even if the snow should cover the range deep in the next six weeks. The cattle are all so fat that they are in shape to stand a good hard storm without suffering and the ranchers will be able to save most of their hay. There are cows on the range that have raised calves this year, and they are now so fat that they would do for beef shipment. The situation is better now than I have ever known it before."

On Saturday afternoon an unknown man was killed by a train at Port Costa, Cal. The body was that of a young man aged apparently 22 or 23 years, with black curly hair and black sandy mustache, gray eyes and good teeth. He was dressed in a black diagonal suit, with black alpaca overshirt and gaiter shoes. The only thing found on the body was an old physician's notebook of the year 1873. In this book were several entries, apparently of a physician's practice. Inside the front cover was written: Mrs Sarah Underhill N. J. 8, Charles Wagner 9, 12; Mrs Eliza Williams ex miles from Flora. In the book was written in pencil in several places the name George Jones, Los Angeles, Cal. The man took dinner at Crockett Saturday, and said he was going to a place about sixty miles above Sacramento. He said he had come from Oakland. Coroner Cluff has postponed the inquest until Thursday next in hopes of discovering the identity of the deceased.

Kendrick, Ida., stands in the Tacoma, Wash., News: Cattle buyers have been so numerous in the Palouse for the last three months that there is no longer any surplus, only enough to supply the home demand. The advance in the price of wheat checked to a considerable extent hog raising so about six car loads have been driven out. Frank Johnson of Ritzville, Wash., a cattle buyer for an eastern firm passed through here recently from a trip to the Salmon river country, where he purchased about 1,000 head and on the Nez Perces reservation managed to pick up about 1,500 head more. On the Lewiston and Salmon river Mr. Johnson reports finding a number of herds of cattle that had excellent grazing while the snow is deep in the mountains. The large bunch of cattle that once led along the Salmon river are rapidly disappearing with the new settlements that are springing up. Some of these settlers are loath to sell, believing that the number of buyers that are going through the country is an indication of the scarcity of cattle, which will naturally cause an advance in the price of cattle in the near future.

Private advices have been received in San Francisco, says the Call, United States of Commerce, telling of the arrival on November 27th last by two young Americans—H. S. Spring, and C. W. Nelson—who are said to be their home in Southern California, on a charge of murdering J. C. Hubbard, also an American. From the sensation received there was no doubt of the guilt for suspicion against either of the accused. Spring and Nelson were apprehended in a dangerous fever twenty days, and were then released on bail through the intercession of George C. Hall, an American resident of Gan, who heard of the unfortunate predicament of his countrymen and became thoroughly convinced not only of their entire innocence of the charge alleged against them, but also that they were the victims of a conspiracy. During his imprisonment young Spring was taken ill with fever, and had to be released from the prison, where he died in prison. According to a letter written by Nelson to the editor of Hilliss, was resident at Gan, the United States consul took no official interest in the arrest of his countrymen. Hall, who was a stranger in the country, worked without pecuniary reward to secure their release, and was specially put before the subject matter of Gan's at a month's remission.

Wm. Hoage, who lived on a dry ranch seven miles northeast of Los Angeles, Cal., came to Long Beach (Cal.) to meet his son-in-law, who was to come on the afternoon train from San Pedro. Hoage expected his son-in-law to bring him a large sum of money, with which to buy trees for his ranch. The young man missed the train, and so did not fall to appear as he was expected. Hoage then started to drive home, but when he reached Long Beach he was robbed. At 10 o'clock his horse came home, and to-day was the horse of Hoage. The sheriff was early notified, and he and his deputy found Hoage in the cabin of a large hack, a short distance from the place where he was robbed. There was also another man with the right eye and a number of scratches upon the forehead and cheeks. The latter resembled Hoage in stature, but, they have learned, he is a stranger in the place. Within the cabin there were evidences of a struggle, and the floor was covered with the blood of Hoage