

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Jefferson county, Colo., has become the owner, by tax sales, of about 12,000 lots in additions adjoining Denver.

Colorado wheat fed hogs this winter has realized the farmers 80 cents a bushel in the eastern portion of the state.

In Las Animas county, Colo., Mrs. Dr. Beshear enjoys the honor of being the first lady voter to register in that county.

In Jefferson county, Colorado, some of the farmers on the Church ditch have to haul their water for domestic use a distance of six miles.

Wheat sowing has been going on all winter in Kit Carson county. The weather has been as mild as September on the plains this winter.

The Cache county court has appropriated \$500 for the purpose of making a display of Cache county products at the Midwinter Fair.

Nevada is turning its attention largely to hop culture in the valleys. The soil and climate is exactly suitable to the perfection of hops, says an exchange, which do not do well in a wet climate.

The Chinese consul at San Francisco has sent a communication to the board of health stating that he had issued an official notice commanding all Chinese to thoroughly overhaul and cleanse their houses.

Lon Hartigan, captain of Company K, Colorado national guards, and city editor of the *Durango Herald* has just died of pneumonia. He was a graduate of West Point and a man of fine natural abilities.

Philip O. Kounce, the 18-year-old boy who pleaded guilty to the charge of robbing the mails on the Hailey-Corral route, Idaho, has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the Ada county jail.

Trinidad (Colo.) children contributed enough food, fuel and clothing for the helpless poor of that city to last all winter. About ten wagons of stuff was gathered together, among which was 1350 pounds of flour.

The Montezuma hotel at Las Vegas is said to have been purchased by Wilson Waddingham, who intends converting the place into an American Monte Carlo. A spacious casino is to be added to the hotel.

The firm of Walker & Sons, who have an extensive dry goods concern at Kearney, Nebraska, and who had branches at Cheyenne and other places, have failed with liabilities amounting to \$95,000.

A gymnasium has been established in connection with the public schools in Trinidad, Colo. Regular drills and a half hour devoted to physical culture will be among the daily routine of the Trinidad schools hereafter.

In Centennial valley, Montana, and near the town of Lima, a dam, tunnel and canal are being constructed this winter which will bring 80,000 acres of land into cultivation. The canal will extend to Dillon, Montana.

Jefferson county, Colorado, promises

to become the greatest poultry producing section of the state. Mr. John Nichols, near Golden, is introducing steam incubators and employing a poultry expert from the East to manage them.

"Nevada doesn't want to be annexed to Utah or vice versa," remarks the *Carson Appeal*, and then goes on to say that Nevada may be down now but is on a sound financial basis, and is content to hoe its own row and paddle its own canoe.

The Bessemer colony people, who recently located homesteads on the Divide, not far from Colorado Springs, are enthusiastic over their selections. The new settlement promises to become a notable potato-growing community.

In Garfield county, Colorado, the railroads are the heaviest taxpayers. The Rio Grande is taxed \$14,418, the Midland \$10,588 and the Rio Grande Junction \$5,475. This is merely the straight county tax, exclusive of township and school district taxation.

Laramie, Wyo., will share in the benefits derived from the contract awarded to the Pueblo rolling mill by the Union Pacific for 30,000 tons of steel rails. The Laramie mill will furnish the iron angle bars, which will keep the mill running for five months.

John Pechiorich, a Slavonian carpenter employed at the Midwinter Fair grounds, fell into the hands of two footpads on Wednesday evening. He was quietly wending his way to a meeting of the Slavonian club when the assault occurred.

The San Francisco board of education, which has been prolific of more than its share of scandals during the past few months, as the *San Francisco Chronicle*, is now laboring with what gives every promise of developing into a fair-sized sensation.

On the South Mosquito mountain, near Fairplay, Colo., two miners named McCaul and Lamb observed an avalanche start to move above them. They had just time to run a few hundred feet when an avalanche of snow swept down behind them, right over the spot they had recently stood upon.

The survey of the Coalville Indian reservation, opposite Kille Falls, Wash., having been completed, and the government inspector having finished his duties of the inspection of the lines, there is a prospect that the reservation will be speedily opened to settlers.

The State University at Reno, Nev., has closed the last season of the old year, and will re-open on January 4th. The *Journal* says that the present session has been the most important in the history of the institution in point of numbers and the general excellence of the work done. About 175 students have been in attendance.

In the Shoshone mountains, Wyoming, fifteen miles from Cera postoffice, the Cheyenne papers report that a monster has been discovered in a mountain cave. It is said to be sixty feet long and as big around as a horse, and belonging to the prehistoric

palaeozoic age. The whisky sold in that neighborhood is awful.

James P. Bushee of Portland, Or., Masonic grand lecturer of Oregon, fell from a Union Pacific train on Christmas day, and was instantly killed. The deceased was returning to spend Christmas with his family, and when the train was within the city limits he slipped on the icy platform and fell, striking on his head.

J. F. Payne, the Chicago *Tribune* man, who is attempting the 8,000 mile journey in 100 days on a one cent capital, met with a misfortune between here and Denver, says the *Cheyenne Leader*. He was sound asleep in the caboose of a train when some person unscrewed a valuable diamond from his scarf and got away with it safely.

There are fully 540,000 acres of land tributary to Mesa City which are unsurpassed for fertility, yet subject to entry by actual settlers. The water problem is the only thing now to be settled in order to transform this vast area into beautiful and profitable farms.

The water problem will be settled ere long.—*Albuquerque Citizen*.

For a year past the Stockton, Cal., steamers carried passengers both ways over a ninety-mile course for the modest sum of twenty-five cents. This was the price of a first-class passage. Berths were only twenty-five cents each and meals fifty cents under the competitive rates. On the 1st of January, so report says, the rate of fare will be raised to \$1.

William T. Roberts, late of Denver, but at present serving a term of twelve years in the Canon City (Colo.) penitentiary for murder, is the latest applicant for pardon. He says the court was prejudiced against him, the prosecuting attorney intimidated a witness, and the wife of the petitioner was allowed to testify, which, he claims, she did falsely.

Naturalists say that the largest serpent of which accurate measurements have been taken in modern times was an anaconda which Dr. Gardner found dead and suspended in the forks of a tree in Mexico. It was dragged out into open ground by two horses and a careful measurement with a tape line proved that it was thirty-seven feet in length.

Cattle on the ranges never averaged better than now, says the *Virginia City (Nevada) Enterprise*. The stock is not fat, but average in very good condition, and a little later will be in prime order for the stock. The drought thinned the cattle on the ranges to a reasonable number. An estimate of the losses is one-third of the cattle—most of the dead being old stock.

Three indictments have been formed by the Ada county grand jury against Edward M. Goodrich, a young man who lives in Boise valley, each charging him with grand larceny. One indictment charges him with stealing a calf, another with stealing five calves and two steers, and the third for stealing two calves. Young Goodrich has always borne an excellent reputation. He says he purchased the stock.

A Montana lumber dealer has offered to supply that city with 750,000 feet of lumber, sawed to order and delivered on the track at \$15 per 1,000 feet, contract to run six months.