

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Byron S. Ballard and his wife Eva woke early Tuesday morning at Oakland, Cal., to find their baby girl dead in bed. Whether the little one was smothered to death is not known. The bereaved parents can offer no explanation. They are nearly frantic with grief. The child was two months and fifteen days old.

Brief details have been received of a coal mine accident near Buffalo, Wyoming, in which Martin K. Hart and Mr. Bullock of Buffalo were killed. The accident was caused by the roof of the mine caving upon the men. Hart was the son of the late Col. Hart, United States army, and Mr. Bullock was a Johnson county stockman.

"Guilty of burglary in the first degree," was the verdict of the jury, on Tuesday, in the case of J. J. McCarthy, alleged to have been the chief engineer of the tunnel under the First National bank of Los Angeles, where by he and his pals expected to make away with a quarter of a million of dollars. It took the jury just thirty minutes to reach that decision.

Martin Anderson, a Norwegian carpenter, attempted suicide in San Francisco on Tuesday, by firing four shots at the side of his head, from a 44-caliber revolver. All the bullets flattened on his skull. The bullets lodged under his scalp and were removed by a surgeon. One of the balls had produced a slight fracture of the skull, but there was no serious injury.

Wm. Beckford, in the employ of Captain Marcus Harloe on the wharf at Pismo, Cal., went out on Monday in a small skiff from the wharf to unload a schooner from a buoy. Beckford released the schooner and started for return. The sea was rough and a big wave overturned Beckford's boat. He floundered around for some time and then sank. The body has not been recovered.

About a week ago the children of Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Schmidt were playing at their home at Tracy, Cal., when one little girl in play bit her sister Annie on the head with a stick, causing a big lump to rise. The next day the child was taken with hemorrhages from the nose. Physicians were called in, and everything was done to save her life, but she died Friday.

Henry Blaken, a San Francisco grocer, committed suicide yesterday afternoon by swallowing a large quantity of rat poison. He went into a saloon and called for a glass of water. When it was given him he dumped into it a whole box of rat poison and gulped down the dose. He was regurgitated at once to the receiving hospital, where he died at 6 o'clock. Blaken had been drinking heavily for some time, and had been away from home two days.

Boise, Idaho, Statesman: Traffic on the Short Line was stopped Sunday by damage to the bridges over the Payette and Weiser rivers. Temporary structures have been in use pending the building of the steel bridges, material for which has been delayed in

delivery. The sudden thaw sent vast ice floes down the streams with the result that the underpinning of both bridges was weakened and trains could not run for twenty-four hours. It was necessary to drive a lot of new piling before it was safe to cross.

Because she smoke cigarettes, Mary Giffney, aged 70, has been refused admission to the county infirmary at Oakland, California. She was in the infirmary for many years, but, in spite of all that could be done to correct the habit, insisted on smoking cigarettes in bed. She was quite feeble and it was feared that she would set fire to the building. The superintendent warned her repeatedly and then ordered her discharged. She appealed to the supervisors on Wednesday, but when they learned the facts they refused to let her return to the infirmary.

T. O. Griffiths of Wardner, Idaho, has received a letter from a solicitor in London informing him that he had fallen heir to the snug sum of \$20,000 or thereabouts, in round numbers, says the Wardner News. It seems that they have been trying to find him for several months past and have only just succeeded. This money has been left him by an uncle who died nine months ago. Mr. Griffiths has been working in the Bunker Hill for a number of months past, having come from Lead City, S. D., where the solicitor in question has been vainly trying to reach him.

Chris Uncken, a well known character of Sausalito, California, while gathering red berries between General Dickinson's residence and Lime point Thursday morning missed his footing and fell eighty feet into the bay. In the descent he struck several times on the rocks, which inflicted a severe scalp wound, broke his wrist and badly injured his hip. It is also believed that his spine is affected, as his lower limbs seem paralyzed. Uncken was rescued from the water by a man who saw him fall. He was taken to the county poor farm at San Rafael, from which place he probably never will return.

The Fishermen's union has been defeated in Tacoma, Wash. Last week it formed a union and advanced the price of fish one cent per pound, which the dealers paid without a protest. Monday they gave the dealers notice that they would have to go to Old Tacoma for their fish hereafter. Tuesday the fishermen shut the dealers off from fish, but Thursday they weakened and promised to deliver the fish as before at the railroad docks. A scarcity of fish caused the formation of the union and its attempt to force the dealers to go to Old Tacoma, where most of the fishermen live. The dealers won the day by threatening to man boats and catch their own fish.

In April last Sam A. Thing, brother of Deputy Sheriff Frank Thing of Potrero, Cal., on the Mexican line, shot and killed Santiago Socias, a Mexican desperado who was wanted

for murder in Orange county. The Thing brothers tried to arrest Socias and he stepped backward and reached for his hip pocket as if to draw a weapon. Sam Thing was behind his brother, who did not have his gun ready. Sam, fearing his brother was to be shot, fired and killed the Mexican. The coroner's jury exonerated Thing, but since then an investigation has been going on by the Mexicans at the instance of the relatives of the dead man. Correspondence upon the subject passed between the state department and the Mexican minister of foreign affairs. The result of the investigation was the arrest of Thing on Monday on a charge of murder. The complainant is Sacramento Martinez, a sister of the dead man. Thing's examination is set for December 22nd.

At Garfield, Wash., on Monday, 100 men and boys turned out to the coyote hunt. They walked from two to three miles apace, or an average of at least five miles, making a total of 750 miles that were trudged through the muddy stubble fields and summer fallow, and including the climbing of a butte nearly 1,000 feet high. And when the final round-up was made in the butte, and with bated breath, each member of the ever-narrowing circle drew closer to the patch of buck brush that formed the center, there was no evidence of the anticipated coyotes. Closer drew the circle, until the thicket was thoroughly beaten, resulting in the capture of one poor little white rabbit. The ridiculousness of the situation seems to have struck everybody and put them in a good humor. There was more than 100 men, nearly every one of whom was armed with a gun, and there was one miserable little rabbit as the only visible result of the day's hunt. However, there was one coyote killed soon after the hunters were first formed.

Mrs. Joseph Grismer (Phoebe Davies) had a narrow escape from death on Sunday night at the Columbia theater, Sacramento. In the play the villain, Richard Stockley, is caught by Mrs. Grismer strangling James Snillinglaw, played by Mr. Grismer. The villain drags Mrs. Grismer to the elevator, throws her under it, closes and locks the door so that she cannot escape, gives the signal for the elevator to descend and leaves her to be crushed to death. The elevator is lowered by means of a cable passed around a windlass which is turned by two men behind the scenes. There is no limitation about that elevator. It weighs 2,000 pounds. The actor who is to come to the rescue forgot his cue and the elevator was allowed to descend upon the prostrate woman, whose body was crushed, but no bones broken. She bravely insisted finishing the play, after reviving. The audience realized that Mr. Grismer was in real danger. Women fainted, men clambered on the stage and the whole house was in uproar.

The through freight from the east broke in two a few miles west of Auburn, Cal., Wednesday afternoon about 1:30 o'clock, causing the death of the conductor, Logan S. Shelton, and the serious injury of brakeman W. W. Lindley. Both men were standing on top of a box car, a few cars back from the engine, when the accident happened, and it was so sud-