NEWS OF THE WEST.

"Jack the Measurer" Doing Strange Work in California.

AN INTERESTING LEGAL BATTLE.

A Peculiar Writ of Habeas Corpus—Attempted Suicide—Niagara Jottings.

Canton, N. M., built over 100 residential houses during the past year.

Butte, Mont., merchants report a better holiday trade than they had one year ago.

The Rio Grande Southern railroad has reduced passenger rates from 10 cents to 5 cents per mile.

Deep snow in the South park of Colorado insures abundance of water for irrigation in the Platte valley next summer.

Greeley, Colo., reports assessors a plentiful fall of snow along the headwaters of the Cache la Poudre. Water will be plentiful.

New Mexico college of agriculture at Las Cruces has issued a valuable pamphlet on forest pests of the Rocky Mountain region.

At Estancia, N. M., the great dam which was washed out last August, causing a loss of $125,000, has been rebuilt.

Golden, Colo., clays have recently been tested in eastern glass and pottery works and pronounced to be the finest and purest known for making glass and pottery.

The Helena land office has received from the surveyor general plats of recently surveyed lands located in Custer and Meagher counties. The land will be open to entry February 2d.

Eddy county, N. M., is illegally denied that miners are starving or that hard times prevail there. The Colorado papers are requested to revise their statements accordingly.

Maricopa county, Arizona, schools cost $60,000 last year, $35,000 of which went to improvements and new school houses. This is a significant and favorable sign in the coming new state.

Sheridan, Wyo., has just finished a handsome new brick city hall. It contains a fire department, mayor's office and council chamber. It is said to be the finest municipal building in Wyoming.

In White Oaks, N. M., last week artesian water was struck at a depth of 11 feet. The water immediately rose 30 feet to the level. The water problem has been solved in White Oaks.

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Las Vegas, N.M., has enjoyed summerlike weather this winter while her sister Green Street Dickens Dick seven or eight miles away. The Las Vegas hot drop will be a very valuable one this year.

At Cheyenne, Wyo., there is a magnificent display of native grasses an exhibition in the state capitol. There are 100 varieties, and among them blue stem grass five feet long and buffalo grass half that length.

A Missoula, Mont., man has perfected a plan for "corralling an avalanche." He has found an immense gorge of snow which never melts, and he proposes to excavate it and use it for cold storage for dressed meat for shipment east.

A thousand-pound meteorite found in the mouth of the Wind river region of Wyoming is on exhibition at Philadelphia. It is said to be the first of loaded antiquity, to shoot the size of a bell and from about 500,000 years ago, more or less. It is valued at $10,000.

Montrose, Colo., is determined to have a creamery in operation through 1894. A meeting was held last week and a committee appointed to canvass among the farmers and formulate a plan for a permanent butter manufactory at Montrose.

Governor Hughes and Territorial Secretary Bruce have been to Yuma, Arizona, in connection with the authorities in regard to the San Diego, Yuma and Pima ck railroad, the great desert route in California and the improvement of the Colorado river, matters of great interest to southwestern Arizona.

There is destined to be an interesting legal battle over the new charter at Gunnison, Colo. A number of officials who failed of reelection last November claim that the instrument is not worth the paper it is written on, and are determined not to surrender their offices to the successful candidates until the rights of this charter is passed upon by the supreme court.

Simon H. Douglas has procured from Judge Hunsaker, at San Francisco, a writ of habeas corpus, by which she seeks to gain the custody of her nine-year-old son, Dudley Douglas. The boy's father is dead and he has been living with his grandfather, who has refused to surrender the child, the claim that the mother married her husband six years ago and has since paid but little attention to its welfare. The mother is a newspaper, now, as the grandfather claims, she has not sufficient means to support her child.

A young man by the name of Thomas McDonald on attempt to "commit the unpardonable sin" last evening by the side of a parkside. It seems that he had taken a young lady to the Catholic ball at the opera house on New Years night, and after escorting her home he learned that she rightfully belonged to another young man with more favor than he had been shown him. Yesterday afternoon he worked upon his feelings that he threatened to kill himself right there and there, and in order to carry out his threat he took out his pocket knife and jabbed it into the right side of his neck, inflicting a very severe wound. Fortunately no artery was cut, and he will recover.

The committee appointed by the water right owners under the Grand Valley canal has been in session with J. P. Rockway for the purpose of endeavoring to arrange for a sale of the ditch to water right holders. Mr. Rockway demands $25,000 and states that he offer will remain open for three weeks. The committee reports the price as too high, and the negotiations have been accomplished. The water right owners are determined in purchasing and making the improvements which are eligible of the last two years, but do not wish to pay more than the ditch is worth. The matter seems to hang in abeyance.

Jack the Measurer is the latest addition to the tribe of villains who have so long harassed the southwestern portion of the state. He is now operating in San Bernardino and the Colorado, with one of the most unique schemes on record. His plan is to go around and measure the heights of a great large number of the Milwaukee Fair. The Fair officials have not authorized any such measuring, nor have they heard of Jack the Measurer, but that energetic individual is busy with the measure just the same. There is no law against measuring the Milwaukee Fair, but the committee would prefer that somebody should do the job. There is a mystery about