NEWS OF THE WEST.

An Old Man Walks Into a Shaft and Drowns.

CENTRAL PACIFIC LAND SALES.

Killed by an Express Wagon — Fined $5 000—Rise in the Price of Wheat.

At San Jose, Cal., Tuesday afternoon Judge Dook of San Mateo county sentenced Steven Wade to pay a fine of $5,000 for the seduction of Miss Zelpha Scott in April, 1894.

The San Francisco coroner's report for 1895 shows that the office handled 1,489 cases, among which were 141 suicides and thirty murders. The suicide record is the highest ever known in the city.

Isaac Gilmore fell over 400 feet Monday morning down the incline shaft at the Vulture mine, near Phoenix, Arizona. He is still alive and has a fair chance to recover, although severely injured.

The salmon pack for the Pacific coast in 1895 amounts to 2,084,877 cases, of which 177,500 were put up on the Columbia river, 105,500 cases on the Sound, 512,677 cases in British Columbia, and 637,000 in Alaska.

Charles Dougherty, a sailor, about thirty-five years of age, was crushed between the cars of the Belt railroad in San Francisco, Wednesday evening. He was conveyed to the receiving hospital in an unconscious condition and died there within two hours after the accident.

George W. Cook, an aged Oakland chemist, was run over by an express wagon driven by Charles Hook, Monday night, and died of his injuries at the receiving hospital Wednesday morning. Hook was held by Judge Law on a charge of manslaughter, and his bail was fixed at $2,000.

The Washington state chapter of architects will endeavor to have a bill passed by Congress providing an appropriation of $40,000 for native American timber. Not less than 20 per cent should be devoted to the testing of the timbers of the Pacific coast, particularly Washington fir.

The Alaska Searchlight says if Juneau merchants were alive to their best interest they would take immediate steps to fit up a spending up a trail to the Yukon. In that case hundreds of miners would spend their winters in Juneau, and their expenditures would more than pay for the trail to secure such trade.

George Ellis, stock inspector of Umatilla county, Or., says all but 20,000 of the 240,000 sheep in that county have been officially inspected, and that only three bands were found to be infected with scab. Some of these have been dipped twice, and are out of danger. Mr. Ellis thinks the scab is practically under control, and apprehends no danger of the disease spreading.

Up to 5 o'clock Monday afternoon, the highest price offered for wheat in Pendleton, Oregon, was 38 cents per bushel. Between that hour and 6 o'clock nearly 200,000 bushels was sold at 40 cents net. Sales continued Tuesday, and, at the close of business, at least 400,000 bushels had been sold at 40 cents. Large sales were due to the fact that most of the wheat has passed from the hands of farmers to dealers, who wish to take advantage of the recent rise in price.

W. H. Mills, Southern Pacific land agent, reports large sales of timber lands by the land department of the Central Pacific railroad during the last year. The receipts from lands in the district of California north of Stockton were $9,000 in excess of double those of the preceding year, while the sales were $33,000 more than double those of the year before. None of them were large, the principal one being for $10,000 and the second for $7,000, and the remainder in small amounts.

Monday morning, Perley Brown, an old and respected resident of Hills Flat, Grass Valley, Cal., started from his home to do some work upon a mining claim near the residence of James Hammill, on the Nevada road, which Mr. Brown owned, with some other parties. He did not return to lunch, but nothing was thought of this. At supper time he had not returned, and his wife and family became worried about him. They informed the neighbors, and immediately a searching party was made up to hunt for the missing man. About midnight two of the party saw a hat lying on the surface of the water in a shaft of the Old Wheat Gimlet mine, near the Hammill residence. A rope was secured and a small boy lowered into the shaft. He brought up the hat, which was identified as belonging to Brown. About 1 o'clock this morning the body of the unfortunate man was found standing upright in the shaft. After much difficulty the corpse was brought to the surface. There was just enough water in the shaft, which was forty feet deep, to drown the old man. Mr. Brown was so nearly blind that he had to feel his way around the hills. He must have walked directly into the shaft, falling feet downward.

Costly Politeness.

At the battle of Fontenoy occurred a well-known instance of politeness on the part of the English and French guards, which, it is almost needless to say, could only have happened in those ceremonious times. The two battalions of opposing guards were about to join in conflict when the English commander advanced and saluting the French commander exclaimed, "Gentlemen of the French guards, fire!"

The French officer, not to be outdone in politeness, returned the salute and replied, "After you, gentlemen. The French guards never fire first!" Upon which the English gentleman, thinking further ceremony needless, fired, with such effect as to put nearly one of the French gentlemen hors de combat. Somewhat costly politeness for them.—Chambers' Journal.

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