

WESTERN NOTES.

California Legislature is after squirrels and gopher-holes.

Nine men were burned by an explosion of coal dust in a coal mine at Nortonville, Cal., lately.

Snow in the Yosemite Valley is five feet deep, so says William Stegman, of Mariposa.

Judge Archibald Garrison Stokes, of Stanislaus Co., Cal., was thrown from his buggy recently and his neck was broken.

The total cost of fences in California is \$29,000,000. Annual cost of same, including repairs and interest, \$8,000,000.

Petitions to the State Legislature and National Congress for the passage of a local option liquor law, are being signed in Sacramento.

The new water reservoir at Virginia, Nevada, is completed. It is three hundred feet square and twelve feet deep.

They are going to have a regular old fashioned fox hunt at North San Juan, Cal. All the young people in the neighborhood have been invited.

One thousand dollars has been offered and refused for the two palm trees in front of Mr. Porter's residence, San Jose, Cal.

A new vein of coal, seven feet in thickness, was discovered last week at the Brentwood mine, on the Marsh grant, Contra Costa county, Cal.

About 1,000 head of cattle were killed by the settlers down about the lakes of Kern county, Cal., during the past season, in defense of their crops.

Santa Cruz county claims the honor of having the oldest inhabitant on the earth. His name is Justiniano Roxas, and he is said to be one hundred and twenty-one years old.

Three quartz lodes are now being worked in Alaska, with good results. Gold is plainly visible throughout the quartz in all of them. Specimens of the ore assay all the way from \$200 to \$7,500 per ton. The lodes are from three to six feet in width.

The owner of the steamer *Truckee*, on Lake Tahoe, intends to take out the old machinery in his steamer in the Spring and replace it with new. The boat is also to be lengthened and improved so as to carry passengers and make fast time.

In 1858 a Sacramentan pawned a silver watch for \$5, and though he has never at any time had a sufficient sum wherewith to redeem it, he has regularly paid the monthly interest of 50 cents thereon, and finds that he has now in this way paid over \$90.

Steamship figures from San Francisco are: To Honolulu, first-class, second-class and steerage, \$75, \$50 and \$40, respectively; to Fiji Islands, \$150, \$125 and \$90; to Auckland, \$160, \$135 and \$90; to Sydney, \$200, \$150, and \$100; to Melbourne, \$220, \$160 and \$110.

The Oakland News says: "The Sacramento Record wants the Legislature to pass a law compelling writers for the newspapers to sign their names to their articles. 'That is for the purpose of giving the Record a chance to abuse them.'—*Sacramento Union*."

A man named Edward Ryan, who has been working in a quicksilver mine near Knoxville, Napa, Cal., committed an outrage on a Spanish woman about eighty years of age, and broke one of her ribs. He was arrested but escaped from the constable with his handcuffs on. The woman is not likely to recover.

Recently an infant son of John and Ida Allen, of Union Township, Colusa County, Cal., received a scald from which he died in about thirty hours. The mother was getting breakfast, and not noticing that the child had crawled into the kitchen, set a boiler of coffee on the floor. The child crawled up to it and pulled it over on itself.

The people of Arizona are bitterly complaining over the length of time which they have to wait for the disbursement of funds from the Quartermaster's Department. It appears that the funds are not sent to Arizona for several months after the month due, which often occasions serious annoyances and even losses to the business men. The hard times also affect the Indians. One horse will now purchase two Apache women, and the owner of the women will throw in a dog or two rather than spoil a trade.

—Two clergymen of DeKalb County, who have been keeping accurate account of the expenses of their tables, with a view to ascertain the exact amount required to supply an ordinary eater, with good, plain food, find they differ ten cents per week in the amount. One puts it at ninety cents and the other at one dollar a week. So says the Sycamore (Ill.) Republican.

—Our fair and brilliant cotemporary, Miss Lagrange, of the Santa Barbara Press, makes the following observation: "Our modest metaphorical allusion to our 'shrinking figure,' which we thought very pretty at the time, (the allusion) has brought us several sympathies from brother editors. We regret having said it now, for we don't shrink any more, and we don't like to see so much good sympathy wasted." We had supposed that physiological phenomenon would naturally cease, after a while.—*Oakland Transcript*.

—Boston lawyers are trying to "opinion" out of their positions those ladies who have been elected on the school committee in that city. Public opinion is the best criterion in such cases; and as a legislative judiciary committee has already declared that there is no law preventing the election of women to such places, the elect will probably be able to hold on to the end of the birch.—*N. Y. Herald*.

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