

## WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

The entire National Guard of Oregon, numbering about 400, will be in Portland today.

To fuse or not to fuse is a question being considered by the Democratic state committee of Idaho, now in session at Boise.

Michael Leland and an unknown man were drowned in the Spokane river, at Spokane, Wash., before the eyes of hundreds of spectators. Their bodies were swept over the falls and have not been recovered.

John McNeill and others of Colorado are reported to have purchased for \$100,000 the Deer Creek Coal company's mines at Gen Rock, Wyo. The output of the property is 75,000 tons annually.

Two thousand steers will be driven over the Dalton trail to Dawson, starting from Pyramid Harbor in June. C. W. Thebe, representing Butte City men, has purchased 1,300 head and Jack Dalton is gathering 700 more for the same purpose.

Roderick McNeill, a coal passer on the steamer Pomona, died Sunday from burns received Saturday evening. As the vessel was going into the harbor at San Diego, Cal., a flue blew out and McNeill was scalded by the steam. He leaves a widow and several children in San Francisco.

The pay roll of the construction and repair departments for labor during the first half of April amounted to \$63,000 and during the three months ending March 31, Paymaster Barry has disbursed to the employees of all the departments of the Mare Island navy yard \$332,000.

Forty-six stalwart young men have departed from Phoenix, Ariz., for Whipple barracks, at Prescott, to be mustered into the regiment of cavalry that will have as its colonel Dr. Wood and as its lieutenant colonel Theodore Roosevelt. The volunteers were reviewed by Governor McCord, who gave them a patriotic, manly talk.

Thursday night, in compliance with instructions from Gov. Budd, of California, companies C and F, N. G. C., met in Armory hall at Fresno, and muster rolls were opened for volunteers. Sixty-seven volunteered in companies F and C. Capt. G. W. Jones of company F, and Capt. G. O. Duncan of company C and their lieutenants will apply for commissions.

Miss Nellie Smith, the fourteen-year-old daughter of John Smith, whose home is in 1668 William street, in West Oakland, Cal., fell down a flight of stairs Sunday morning as the result of a misstep, and died a few minutes later. The accident was an unusual one, and it will require an examination of physicians to ascertain just what injuries caused the young girl's death.

The Austrian Military and Benevolent association of San Francisco has adopted a series of resolutions expressing the utmost loyalty to the United States. The resolutions also disclaim sympathy with Spain. Many of the association members are ex-soldiers of the Austrian army. They say that they are ready and anxious to serve under the Stars and Stripes if there is need of their services.

Denver, Colo., April 28.—Two troops of the Ninth cavalry from Fort Washackie, Wyo., which were delayed in coming by the breaking down of a car containing rations, arrived in Denver today and departed immediately for the East over the Kansas Pacific railroad. Orders have been received from Washington to rush these troops through

to Chickamauga, and the two special trains carrying them have been given the right of way over all other trains.

The unsavory neighborhood of Third and I streets, San Diego, Cal., was the scene of a double tragedy Tuesday morning at 8:30 o'clock, Jesse Daley, employed in a saloon, shooting Ida Tracy four times with a 45-caliber revolver and using the fifth and last bullet to end his own life. Daley was a mulatto and his victim was a half-breed Indian woman of the Chinook tribe. Both proved fatal.

Following the call for volunteers, about forty students of the Stanford, Cal., University have enlisted in company K, First infantry, of San Francisco, and will go to the city on Monday prepared to go to the front and preferring that location where the charge is thickest. President David Starr Jordan has promised all students enlisting now their full credits for the present semester. Nearly half of the members of the foot ball team are among the recruits.

After having been missed for about ten days, Henry Schoenberger was found dead in the attic of his house at Sixth and E streets, Sacramento, Cal. He had hanged himself, but after death the rope broke and the body fell to the floor. Schoenberger had a wife and four children. He was very abusive to them and some time ago they left him. He had been drinking hard for more than a year and last December made an attempt to shoot his wife and oldest son.

When the United States recruiting office at San Francisco closed Thursday, 232 able-bodied men had made application for places in the heavy artillery volunteer service. One noticeable feature of the day's enlistment was the increased number of men of experience and a goodly showing from among the membership of the League of the Cross and the Boys' Brigade organizations. Candidates for cavalry service were numerous and could not be induced to enlist for any other branch.

A dispatch from Astoria, Ore., says that the pilot boat San Jose reports having spoken to the sealing schooner Doris, off Vancouver. The Doris recently lost most of her men. While hunting they were blown away from the vessel and were unable to again reach her. The Doris had 330 skins, and reported that the other sealers along the coast were doing equally well. On Wednesday the San Jose sighted a British flag ship, northward bound, about twenty-five miles off the river. It was impossible to make out her name.

Charles H. Walker, an Indian, committed suicide in the county jail at Redding, Cal., Saturday by hanging himself. Walker, who was arrested for brutally beating an Indian boy to death, was to have had his preliminary examination Monday morning. When his jailers went to give him his breakfast they found him hanging to the window bars of his cell. He had torn his overalls into strips and with them made the noose. To make death doubly certain he fastened his hands behind him by means of a slip noose.

News has just reached San Francisco of a terrible explosion of powder that was being carried by pack train to Col. Dan Burns Candelaria mine in Mexico. The explosion took place on the road near San Viconito, state of Sinaloa, on April 4th last. The pack train was unusually large. It consisted of over 110 mules, and the attendants numbered

some forty Mexicans. A part of the freight consisted of ammunition, caps and boxes of powder. It is reported that 218 boxes of powder and 20,000 caps exploded with such force that fifteen men and sixty mules were killed.

The cruiser Charleston, at Vallejo, Cal., is nearly ready to receive her men and go into commission. Orders have not yet been received from Washington to this effect, but it is believed she will be ready for sea and service in a few days. She has been painted the usual dark war color. Work on the Yorktown and Philadelphia is being expedited. The number of men employed at Mare Island navy yard during the present rush is 1,766. The training ship Adams went out of commission today (Friday). Her officers and men will go to the Charleston.

Edward J. Brown, of the University of California, was suspended indefinitely from the inter-collegiate amateur athletic association Tuesday night. Several months ago Mr. Brown visited the eastern colleges as the representative of the University of California. On his return to California he criticised the standing of the eastern athletics and in general made a number of statements that were not at all to the liking of the inter-collegiate association. At the annual meeting of the association, recently held his case was taken up and Mr. Brown was invited to recall his statements. He refused to do so and has been suspended as a consequence.

In a little more than a month there will be ready for service with the United States warships in Pacific waters a small but formidable vessel—the 30 knot torpedo boat Farragut, now on the ways at the Union Iron Works, San Francisco. Contrary to the custom of shipbuilders the Farragut's engines and machinery will all be in place when she slides off the ways. The Farragut is designed for a speed of 30 knots an hour. Her dimensions are: Length, 210 feet; beam, 20 feet, 4 inches; maximum draft with the ship ready for sea and bunkers full 6 feet. Her displacement will be 273 tons and her engines will indicate a maximum of 5,600 horsepower.

The San Francisco Call says: There is not the slightest doubt that plans of the works commanding the harbor of San Francisco are in the possession of the Spanish military and naval authorities. Capt. Casa, military attaché of the Spanish legation at Washington, was in the city last winter for several weeks, the guest of the Spanish consul, and while he was here had ample opportunity to stroll about the batteries, as no orders to the contrary had then been issued. Since he left, however, the defenses have been materially strengthened by the addition of rapid-fire guns. The Lime Point position has been made exceedingly formidable in many ways during the past month.

Claus Spreckels, the well known capitalist, is lying at his home on Van Ness avenue, San Francisco, recovering from the effects of an operation rendered necessary by a carbuncle on his back. His friends express anxiety as to his condition. About a fortnight ago Mr. Spreckels caught cold and went to his ranch to recuperate. While there he learned that the growth on his back was a carbuncle and he hastened to the city to receive medical attention. Dr. L. C. Lane performed the operation and under his care Mr. Spreckels has been slowly mending. The physicians now pronounce him out of danger. The fact that Mr. Spreckels has diabetes has been generally known, and when it was stated that he had had a carbuncle removed, rumors became current that he was nearing his end.