

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Omaha Stockman, Dec. 29; J. C. Carroll and J. O. Murdock of Park City, Utah, brought in two cars of cattle each.

Butte (Montana) Inter Mountain: When Con Lowney returned home this morning from his work at one of the mines of the Anaconda company, he found his wife cold in the embrace of death. The only occupants of the house last night were the mother and her little boy. The mother had retired last night, and according to the little fellow's statement was in her usual good health.

Joseph Obele died suddenly in Laramie, Wyo., Dec. 29. Ten years ago he became afflicted with consumption, and lost the power of speech; for four years his vocal chords would give forth only a delicate whisper, which required the closest attention to understand. Six years ago his power of speech suddenly returned. He has been under the Koch treatment for some time. Tuesday he was taken suddenly ill and died in a few hours.

Frank Darrigue died at Livermore, Cal., on Monday, presumably from the effects of a severe beating received on Christmas day at the hands of Louis Pettifoe. The latter, who had been in custody since Saturday, will be charged with murder. Both men were employed at the Paris vineyard, three miles south of Livermore, and quarreled during dinner on Christmas. Darrigue was shockingly beaten about the head and was badly cut up, although as far as known Pettifoe only used his fists. There were no witnesses and the cause of the fight is not known.

Rawlins, Wyo., Journal says: Some of the railroad boys running west from here, state that Schlatter, the healer, who caused such a sensation in Denver some time ago, is tramping eastward on the roadbed of the Union Pacific. He has been seen two or three times, and the boys claim they are not mistaken as they saw him in Denver and recognized him coming this way. He carries a large bundle and is making about four miles a day. He seems to avoid the towns or passes through them at night.

Don Sinclair, a young man who had been living with his widowed mother in Oakland, California, is missing. He has been in the employ of the Sloane Furniture company in San Francisco for some time past, but was released there recently by the management and has since had despondent spells. Several days ago he borrowed all the money he could secure from friends and this, together with \$30 which was paid him at the time of his discharge, he took with him. His aged mother, whom he leaves entirely dependent and with nothing to live upon, is about distracted over his sudden disappearance.

A disaster has befallen the famous Thistle Shaft mine, near Gibsonville, Cal., similar to that which has caused the great Allison Ranch mine, near Grass Valley, to its idle twenty-eight years. A vein of water was struck by

the miners, and this flowed in so rapidly that the big pumps could not make any impression upon it. The men had to run for their lives and the water began washing around the bottom of the shaft, causing the timbers to fall so that two or three men had difficulty in getting out. This mine for many years past has given employment to an average of 100 men. It is owned by a Scotch company and is valued at millions.

Clara Dolores Brown, a 3-year-old child of H. P. Brown of Alameda, Cal., had a very narrow escape from death Wednesday afternoon. The little one's clothes caught fire and she came near being burned to death. The child was playing in front of an open fireplace in the dining-room and amused herself by throwing slips of paper into the fire. While thus engaged her clothes caught fire. The little girl's mother heard her utter a cry and not hearing any reply when she called out, hastened into the room where she found the child wrapped in flames. She picked up a large rug and smothered the blazing clothes, but not before the fire had done cruel work. The little one's cheeks and hands were terribly burned, and her body blistered. Her ears were scorched and her hair on one side of her head slugged. The little girl had her hands over her eyes, saving them from injury.

San Francisco Chronicle: Railroad men place no credence in the telegraphed report that Donald McLean has obtained \$32,000,000 from the English capitalists and is about to build the Sioux City, O'Neill and Western railway from O'Neill to San Francisco. The road was built by Richard Boge and the two Hedge Brothers from Sioux City, Ia., to O'Neill, Neb., a distance of 200 miles, and they ruined themselves in the enterprise. Even now the line is in the hands of a receiver. The times are not regarded as propitious, and the statement that \$32,000,000 has been obtained to carry out the project is received with a smile of incredulity. In the opinion of Vice President Crocker of the Southern Pacific there is no basis for the report, as he says, "It would not be a wise business move to parallel the lines now running to this coast from the Missouri river in any case. Secondly, I do not believe this man McLean, of whom I never heard until today, could get capital to the amount of \$32,000,000 to engage in the enterprise. In the third place, the government is about to foreclose its claim on the Union Pacific system, in which case the road must be sold. Under such circumstances foreign capital could not be induced to invest in such a gigantic enterprise."

Mrs. Margaret M. Booth was found dead on Monday, at her home in Oakland, California. Dr. J. J. Medros was called as soon as her body was discovered, but the woman had been dead for some time. Heart disease was the cause of death. Mrs. Margaret Booth's life was one of romance and tragedy. She was the daughter of Sir

James Montgomery of Ross and Montgomerie castles, a baronet of Scotland. Her father left Scotland in 1812 and came to the United States. It was here that his daughter was born and married. With her husband, a man of means, she settled in Sierra county. Following the death of her husband came a series of bereavements. An infant son was poisoned through the error of a physician; a son was drowned; another was stabbed by a robber, and a third, in a clerical capacity in Alameda county, was attacked with pneumonia and died within twenty-four hours. The woman met and loved a man, whose name she kept secret from her friends, and accepted his offer of marriage. Business called him away from California. Their wedding was fixed for the date of his return. From the hour of his farewell she never heard from him, and the mystery of his failure to return was never explained until the death, some years after, of her daughter, who was Mrs. Dr. Fonda. Mrs. Fonda called her mother to her deathbed and confessed that in her girlhood she had conceived a dislike for the man Mrs. Booth had promised to marry, and bent on preventing the marriage, she had intercepted the letters that had been written to her mother and had produced an estrangement. It had been the secret of her life, and with her dying breath she asked for the pardon of the one she had wronged. The hour for explanations had gone, and Mrs. Booth had never, to the day of her death, heard of the man she promised to marry. Year by year Mrs. Booth's property dwindled, until she was forced to commence the sale of her personal effects and the heirlooms of her family. Some of them were very rare, and found ready sale among the wealthy people. Recently she has had to depend upon the charity of the supervisors of Alameda county and such assistance as a few friends could give her.

Captain George Caleb, a mariner who was the hero of many hairbreadth escapes on land and sea, died at the county poor farm at San Diego, Cal., on Wednesday. In his time he was the owner of vessels and traded along the Pacific coast, but he lost all he had and finally became a county charge. Caleb was a native of Connecticut, 66 years of age. He came to California in 1850. When the war broke out he went East, and was three years master of a supply boat in Farragut's fleet. He was present at the battle of Mobile, where a shell tore off the fingers of his left hand. He came to California again soon after the war and bought the bark Clara R. Sutil. Caleb was the Captain of his bark, and while off the coast she foundered in a furious gale. The crew took to the boats. There were five men in the boat that Caleb commanded. They were at sea for many days without seeing a sail, and all their food gave out. The men rowed until starvation left them shadows. Caleb was very strong, and fared better than his men. The water lasted longer than the food, but it eventually gave out also. The crew became insane, one after another, and two of them jumped overboard. The other succumbed to a horrible death, leaving Captain Caleb alone. He