

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

The Southern Pacific company has contracted for 700 ventilated fruit cars for use next season. They will not require the use of ice.

A pack of large gray wolves are said to be creating havoc among the calves belonging to settlers along Red Lodge creek, Park county, Mont. Many of the ranchers have lost nearly all of their young stock.

George A. Flower, one of the earliest residents of San Diego, Cal., but for the past twenty-two years a resident of Lower California, has just died. Mr. Flower was a distant relative of ex-Governor Flower, of New York.

Louisa Matson, the woman who for sixteen years masqueraded as a man, celebrated her release from jail by going on a big spree at Los Gatos, N. M. She says she has received several handsome offers from dime museum men to exhibit herself.

Great Falls (Mont.) *Leader*: A number of men at the B. & M. smelter were laid off yesterday on account of sleeping when they should have been at work. They were at work at night, and thought it was easier lying in their bunks than staying up.

Malad (Idaho) *Enterprise*: A resolution was passed by the county commissioners remonstrating against any division of the county on the grounds that the people are not able to maintain them. The remonstrance will be forwarded to Boise in a few days.

At the fish hatchery, says the Laramie *Boomerang*, they have just received 25,000 rainbow trout eggs from the government hatchery at Neosho, Missouri, and 22,000 more will be shipped from the same place on the 7th and 22,000 on the 9th.

George L. Lapp is Butte's new fire chief, and John Flannery, assistant. The chief will be allowed to employ two or three extra men temporarily, or until the new force has been trained up to the standard of the force which was wiped out last month.

Boise (Idaho) *Statesman*: Representative McMillan received a telegram yesterday announcing that Ed Buford, a young man employed in herding sheep for Mr. McMillan, had accidentally shot and killed himself at Big Butte, Elmore county.

The new city hall at Rock Springs, Wyo., has been accepted from the contractor by the city council, and as soon as the furniture arrives the officers will move into the building. It is a two-story stone structure and cost \$25,000.

The Butte *Inter-Mountain* says: A warrant for the arrest of a man in the northwestern portion of the state on the charge of impersonating a United States deputy marshal was issued by Marshal McDermott yesterday, and an officer left at once to make the arrest.

A dispatch from San Jose, Cal., says that Louisa Matson, who for sixteen years masqueraded as a man, left Los Gatos for San Francisco on Wednesday morning, dressed in her best suit of male clothes. It is probable that she will pose in a museum.

A report that Sheriff Bogard of Te-

hama county, Cal., has unearthed \$3,700 near Redding and other developments have revived stories of the robbery of the Redding stage in 1892 by the Ruggles brothers and the killing of "Buck" Montgomery, the shotgun messenger.

District Judge C. O. Stockslager and wife arrived home yesterday from Salt Lake City, where the judge has been, says the Halley (Idaho) *News-Miner*, under treatment of an oculist. Judge Stockslager says his visit in Salt Lake has been very beneficial and satisfactory to him.

A swindler has been working the merchants of the western part of Wyoming for some weeks. He has been in the habit of putting up at some hotel says the Cheyenne *Sun*, and then offering a check or order on Miss Reel or Auditor Owen, and receiving the change in cash, when he would disappear.

Grand Junction (Col.) *News*: Grand Junction will be strictly in it this year. With the building of the Colorado, Wyoming and Great Northern railway, the mountain waterworks and the thousands of new settlers who are coming in to the country and planting new orchards, we have abundant reason for believing that we shall have a very happy and prosperous year of it.

A probably fatal affray occurred on Tuesday afternoon between a lot of Italians at a notorious resort east of Los Angeles. Several shots were fired and Nicolo Ponzio was struck in the back and fatally injured. G. Digiovanni, who fired the fatal shot, gave himself up to the sheriff and is now in jail. A brother of Ponzio has also been arrested for participating in the fight.

RoKee Rankin's troop was stranded at Laramie, Wyo., last week. The *Republican* says he arrived there from the West absolutely penniless, and his Laramie performance failing to show a balance on the right side of the ledger, his baggage was attached by the Union Pacific. Rankin telegraphed east and succeeded in raising \$200.

The Evanston (Wyo.) *Herald* says: Sheriff John Ward is laboring under considerable distress of mind at present. On the night of the murder, which gave him plenty of care, he received a telegram from his mother, who resides near Aberdeen, S. D., announcing the serious and probable last illness of his aged father, and urging John to his bedside.

Says the Halley *News-Miner*: The survey of the Nez Perce Indian reservation, which is to be thrown open to settlement next May, is nearly finished, and the Indians have already picked out the land they are going to claim. The reservation contains 780,000 acres of land, over one-half of which is said to be good arable land, susceptible of a high state of cultivation.

The Salt River valley, says the Phoenix *Gazette*, has far greater inducements to offer to the men seeking fruit and farming lands than any other section of country in the great

west. We have, in fact, more land, more valuable productive land, and a far greater supply of water than any four counties in southern California, and a climate unexcelled by any of the boasted resorts of America.

George Van Horn, fireman on third freight train No. 28, says the Laramie *Boomerang*, was thrown from the top of the tank at Copper Lake tank Thursday morning and his shoulder was dislocated and his face considerably scratched. The accident was the result of the train breaking in two and running together at the tank, the impact throwing Van Horn from the engine.

A remarkable case is being tried in Pendleton, says the Idaho *Democrat*. West-Scott, an Indian, got drunk, and was tried in the Indian court on the reservation. The sentence was that he be shorn of his raven locks, the loss of which a true brave regards with as much sorrow as a Chinaman experiences in the loss of his queue. West-Scott now sues those responsible for the indignity to recover \$300 damages for the loss of tribal caste he has sustained.

Fred Engels, postmaster at Pismo, Cal., was on Tuesday evening shot and probably fatally wounded by William Price, another resident of that place. It appears that in the afternoon the wife of Price had been ejected by Engels from the postoffice. Price armed himself and about 8 o'clock met Engels and shot at him three times, one shot taking effect in his face, inflicting a wound which is expected to prove fatal.

Box 72, near the Montana Central station, says the Butte *Miner*, the one from which the alarm of fire beckoned so many people to their death on the night of January 15th, called the department out again at 4:55 yesterday afternoon, but fortunately no explosion followed, but for some reason the spectators did their speculating from a distance they considered safe until after the fire had been extinguished; then they crowded up.

The Casper (Wyo.) *Derrick* says: The first carload of a substance which, for want of a better name, has been called "natural soap," is being loaded here and will be shipped to Chicago tomorrow. The parties who own the claim, near Alcova, from which the soap was taken, will not yet reveal the purpose for which it will be used nor the price received. But it is known that some of it will go to New York, and it is very valuable.

The Colorado Springs *Gazette* states that the police have arrested Agnes Costelli for securing money under false pretenses. She went to one of the express offices and drew \$5 which her mother had sent her from Denver as a present. A few days later she came again and declared that she had never drawn the money but that some one had signed her name. She was permitted to sign for the second \$5 and was immediately arrested.

There is a probability of a strike at Leithbridge, Mont., among the coal miners, says the Choteau *Montanan*, and if there is there will be a boycott put on the coal on this side of the line. If these things transpire, we understand that it was decided at a meeting of the directors held at Great Falls on the 21st ult., and at which Mr. Galt