

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

The honey industry in the Salt River valley about Phoenix is said to be assuming a large importance, and buyers are there from California, purchasing for the London market.

Large prairie fires have been raging in Choteau county, Montana, and a vast amount of damage is done. Rain is badly needed there, as the grass is drying up rapidly.

A co-operative colony is to be established at Vancouver, B. C. A large number of persons have formed a club to start the colony, and the government promises assistance.

The body of the cowboy, John Strickland, drowned in the Platte, near Casper, Wyo., two months ago, has been found on a sandbank opposite Casper, just below the place of the accident.

John C. Hewitt, a California pioneer of 1852 and a veteran of the Mexican war, died at Fresno on Wednesday. He was a native of Atlanta, Ga., and left an estate valued at \$30,000.

The Mercur mine in Utah, says the *Denver Republican*, which was so nearly bought by Henry O. Wolcott and associates, earned over \$30,000 in July, the daily average tonnage being 168.

Wyoming stockmen are unanimous in the expression that cattle are fatter and in better condition now than at any time for seven years. Shipping will begin next week and the Wyoming range steer will bring the top prices.

U. S. Marshal Pinkham has, says the *Boise Statesman*, returned from north Idaho, where he paid off and discharged all of his deputies except ten at Hope. The marshal says the Coxeyite trouble in this state cost the government \$20,000.

Professor Aldrich, entomologist of the Agricultural Experiment station at Moscow, Idaho, has investigated the grain aphid, which is found all through that section. Professor Aldrich believes that the aphid will do no serious damage to crops.

Orrin Page was struck by lightning while riding the range opposite the Point of Rocks, says the *Helena (Mont.) Herald*. The bolt struck him on the side of the head, ran down the side of his body, bored a hole through the saddle and killed the horse instantly.

The prospects are that a silver camp will spring into existence south of the Winnemucca, Nevada, this fall, says the *Silver State*. Assays taken from ledges give over 100 ounces in silver and a few dollars in gold. An assay from Virginia City showed 176 ounces in silver and \$9 in gold.

The Halley (Idaho) *Times* reports the Shoshone snops were to resume work Monday. "This unlooked for resumption," it says, "is largely due to the excellent behavior of the men during the recent strike, when not a man struck nor was a cent's worth of damage done in Shoshone."

Sand from an artesian well in the rear of the Western hotel at Denver was found to contain gold last Satur-

day, and quite a thimblefull of it has since been collected. The well is 700 feet deep. The well is being pumped as it never was before and not a kick is heard at the sand, says the *Denver News*.

Some of the stockmen who reside in Uinta county, but whose cattle range in Fremont county, have refused to pay their taxes, remarks the *Laramie (Wyo.) Boomerang*. Treasurer Beason did not propose to be beaten, so he and Sheriff Stough secured a force of men and rounded up enough stock to indemnify Fremont county and brought them to Lander to be sold. The cattlemen propose to test the case.

The Laramie Creamery will suspend operations this week, says the *Republican* of that town. The venture has failed in consequence of the cream brought in by the ranchmen. It is claimed by the managers of the plant that most of the material reaches its destination in a partially soured condition, and thus the flavor of the butter is so injured as to demoralize the sale of the article.

The hop crop will soon be harvested in this county, says the *Caldwell, Idaho, Tribune*, although hop-raising in this section of the country is still in its infancy it has already attained considerable proportions. The quality is reputed excellent, and yield very large. Canyon county has proven her ability in raising hops, and in a very few years her hills and valleys will be covered with the vine.

Salmon City (Idaho) *Republic*: A man came in yesterday with the ends cut off all four fingers of his left hand. He was on the carriage at the Yellow Jacket saw mill, and losing his balance, put out his hand to save himself. Another man on the carriage caught him just in time to prevent his falling fairly on the saw. It seems almost a miracle that he escaped with so slight wounds as he did.

Sheriff Olney, of Graham county, Ariz., reports two men murdered. Captain Smith shot and killed Mose Slaughter on Eagle river. Both men were cattlemen and had trouble over the unlawful branding of cattle. At Safford, Charley Morris shot and killed Charley Adams. The two men killed were from Texas, and the two men that did the killing are from Missouri.

In the trial of a criminal case at Bellevue, Idaho, Senator Ruick, of Halley, drew a chair on Vic Bierbower and attempted to strike him. Bierbower wrenched the chair from Ruick's hands and knocked him down. Friends then interposed and dragged Ruick out of the court room. The case was then flushed and Bierbower won it. This is the same Senator Ruick who attacked Senator Brown last winter in the legislature.

The men employed at the Derbec drift gravel mine, near North Bloomfield, Nevada, quit work on Wednesday night because the management attempted to reduce wages from \$2.50 to \$2 a day. The wages in the county for gravel miners have long been \$2.50 and for quartz miners \$3, and although

repeated efforts have been made by some of the operators to reduce them they have in every instance been unsuccessful despite the fact that the miners have no union.

Manti, remarks the *Sentinel*, has another follower of Blackstone in the person of Joseph Harris. Mr. Harris is a native of Monroe and has just completed a course at Ann Arbor, Michigan, from which institution he graduated with the usual record of a Utah boy. Mr. Harris deserves and no doubt will receive the support of the people of Sanpete county, and we extend him a hearty welcome.

The Grand mesa in this county says the *Grand Junction, (Colo.) Star Times*, still maintains its reputation as the most popular resort on the western slope for canning, fishing or hunting parties. The sparkling streams are all alive with trout and the hunting is said to be as good as ever. Persons desiring to reach this pleasure ground which nature has furnished with so many attractions can outfit at this point and travel over good roads all the way.

Monte Blivens the well-known stockman of North park, recently had an exciting experience with an immense bear, known as "Old Josh," that had for some time done much damage to stock, and more than once attacked ranchmen and got away. Mr. Blivens came across the beast unawares, but fortunately found it lame, and was thus able, after a hard tussle, to club the brute to death. It is a great relief to the people of the park to have the animal disposed of.

Laramie Boomerang: S. P. Lidel, agent for the Lander Transportation company, informs the *Gazette* that his company has shipped from this country the past two months 800,000 pounds of wool. Of this amount 200,000 pounds was shipped from the Lost Cadin country and 600,000 pounds from the pens on the Sweetwater. In addition to this 43,000 pounds were shipped from Sweetwater country via Rawlins, making in all a total output for Fremont county of 843,000 pounds.

The Merchants' Protective association of Boise, Idaho, has sent circulars to all the leading merchants of the state urging them to endeavor to get an expression of opinion from the legislative candidates in their respective counties on the question of repeal of the merchants' license, which the association considers a most unjust tax. The association will endeavor to see that men are elected to the legislature who are in favor of repeal of the obnoxious law.

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A dispatch from Yuma, Ariz., says: There is no truth in the Washington report that Yuma Indians are leaving here and going into Mexico and causing trouble. About eighty Yumas have married Diegueno squaws and