

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

rapidly. Another use of this is that the coyotes, hawks, owls and rattle snakes which once sought subsistence at the dog towns have been quite ruthlessly destroyed. The owl used to wait at the mouth of the hole and pounce upon the dogs, large or small, as they came out. A hawk would swoop down on them as he would on chickens. The rattle-snake went into the holes, swallowed the young and would come out with two or three great lumps to show where the little dogs were. But the prairie dog must go. He causes many accidents to riders. He eats the feed of horses, cattle and sheep. He devastates towns by taking the farmers' crops. All men are his enemies and his extinction is resolved upon and its accomplishment is a problem that territorial legislators know that they must solve.

ST. JOHNS.

This is the county seat of Apache county and flattering as are the prospects of Springerville, St. Johns has an outlook better than it has ever had before. St. Johns was originally purchased by the Mormon settlers from Mexican holders. But the land purchased has been growing more mineral and the crops have become lighter each year. Springerville and a multitude of farms have appropriated the water of the little Colorado and the farmers here have been left short. But this has done good. It is far cheaper to build reservoirs than to get the water past all the farms and since the people have found this out they have gone earnestly to work. A nine hundred foot dam across the little Colorado banks water over six hundred acres of land in the Salado valley. But a better site for a reservoir is just below. A dam one hundred and fifty feet across and forty-five feet high to be built one hundred and fifty feet thick will bank the water over seventeen hundred acres of land and irrigate an estimated area of fifteen thousand acres. But the better land of St. Johns is not now under cultivation. On the beach south and east of town lie twenty thousand acres of sandy land, while in the lower valley that is now cultivated the land is heavy clay. A ditch from the mouth of the intended reservoir running with a moderate fall would cover seventeen thousand acres. This, with the sheep and cattle interests that center in St. Johns, would make the town capable of supporting a population of five thousand people. The drawback of good culinary water has made St. Johns a poor place of residence. There is a spring of water four miles from town which the town bought for \$1,000. that could be brought to town at a cost of \$3,000. not counting separating pipes. So the future of St. Johns never appeared better than now. The people are ready to build the new dam and canal and with them an abundance of non-mineral water will be supplied to the warm sandy land and St. Johns will quickly double its population.

GEORGE H. CROSBY, JR.

IT MAY be pleasant for the proteges of a chronic anti-Mormon paper, when they make a bad break in their public harangues, to be told by their solicitous protector that they did not mean what they say but something they do not say, provided they command no more intelligence than said anti-Mormon publication.

Omaha Stockman, Feb. 8: Bownell & Y., of Brigham City, Utah, marketed two cars of range cattle.

Little Frank Rigney, who lives at Oakland, Cal., was shockingly cut about the hands by handling a hay cutter Tuesday night.

The San Francisco Chronicle published an excellent portrait of Hon. Jos. L. Rawlins the morning after the latter was elected senator.

August Baltz, driver of a brewery wagon in Seattle, Wash., fell from his wagon through a hole in a wharf at the water front Monday and drowned before he could be rescued.

Joseph Abrams, a quarryman, was crushed to death Thursday afternoon under a block of stone at the new Dominion government buildings now in course of erection at Victoria, B. C.

Phoenix's (Arizona) station agent for the S. F. P. and P., wants some one to take a box of live rattlesnakes and Gila monsters off his hands. It came from Kansas in October and no one claims it.

Mateo Sablan, a Mexican barber, committed suicide Monday night, at Fresno, Cal., by swallowing carbolic acid. Whiskey and trouble with his wife caused him to commit the act.

On Monday John Borotra Jr., a boy about 14 years of age, was found dead about four miles from Gazadero, Cal., with a rifle and cartridge belt lying near him. It is supposed that he accidentally shot himself.

Phillip Roberts left Ukiah, Cal., a week ago to visit Eight-mile valley, a settlement east of the town. He has not been heard of since, and his friends think that he has been drowned in one of the streams necessary to be crossed on the road to his destination.

Benjamin Henderson, a wealthy citizen of Ukiah, Cal., and an old pioneer of that state, was stabbed to death Thursday morning at his residence, by a Spaniard named King, who was in the employ of Henderson as a woodchopper. The cause of the murder is unknown.

A justice of the peace in Colfax, Wash., was called upon last week to perform a marriage ceremony in German. He at once recited an instructor, and in an hour he memorized in that tongue the American marriage ceremony, with which he joined the lives of Christian Kiewend and Anna M. Paffenroth.

Some days ago the body of a man was found near the railroad 28 miles from Fresno, Cal. The body has been identified as that of G. H. Keel, whose parents live in Kansas City. Keel had come from San Francisco, where he failed to find work. He died from want and exposure. His remains were forwarded to Kansas City.

Tom Chase, a noted bear hunter and vaquero of Northern Mendocino, Cal., was thrown from a horse Sunday afternoon on the Eden Valley ranch and fatally injured. Chase was an old-time companion of "Grizzly Pete," one of the most famous bear hunters of northern California, and was one of

the most celebrated mountaineers of the state.

The San Bernardino county, Cal., horticultural commission has recommended the amendment to the postal laws in such a way as to permit postmasters to notify the various commissioners when seeds and bulbs are received from other sections, that they can be examined for fruit pests before being turned over to the persons to whom addressed.

J. N. McCormick of Forest Hill and T. H. Sharrett of Iowa Hill quarreled in a saloon at Colfax, Cal., Monday afternoon. During the struggle McCormick stabbed Sharrett in the left side over the kidneys. The wound is an ugly one, and may prove fatal. McCormick has been arrested, and will be held to await the result of Sharrett's injuries. Both men were under the influence of liquor.

A peculiar fatality occurred Monday night at the city water tunnel, in Cold Spring canyon, Santa Barbara, Cal. Lang Ong, the Chinese cook of the working force, was asleep in his tent when a rock weighing several tons came rolling down the mountain side. The sleeping Mongolian was in the track of the huge boulder, and a coroner's jury rendered a verdict of accidental death.

The body of a poorly dressed man, who had been dead at least a week, was found on top of a haystack at Puente, Cal., Monday, by some boys who were hunting for owls. At his side was an empty whisky bottle and a bottle which had contained morphine. On the sweatband of his hat was written the name Wenrath, and this is the only thing found which would serve to identify the remains.

Mrs. Angus McMillan, who with her husband lived on the Peter McCoy place, Eureka, Cal., was burned to death Wednesday afternoon. She was partially paralyzed, and while sitting with her back to the stove alone her clothes caught fire. She hurried outside, which fanned the flames into a blaze and she was burned so badly that she died soon after. Her husband was at work some distance away and did not discover the terrible accident until his return in the evening.

H. L. Blanchard, a printer, well known among the craft all over the state, was fatally injured while attempting to steal a ride on the Southern Pacific at Burbank, Cal., Thursday. Blanchard was beating his way to his home in Los Angeles from San Francisco. At Burbank he tried to get on the front platform of the baggage car. He missed his footing and fell under the wheels. His left leg was so badly crushed that it was found necessary to amputate it. He was also injured internally.

An effort is being made to change the name of Stinkingwater river in Wyoming, to Coulter river, says the Cheyenne Sun, as the former name is wholly inappropriate to that stream and offensive to good taste. The name of Coulter was suggested, as he was a member of the famous Lewis and