

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Montana has established a reform school at Miles City.

There are four cases of scarlet fever in the Virginia (Nev.) jail.

The loss of cattle about Saratoga, Wyo., is reported as very small.

Large flocks of wild geese and ducks are reported about Saratoga, Wyo.

Six carloads of sheep and lambs were shipped from Fort Collins, Colo., last week to Chicago.

Electric signals are being put up by the railroads at the street crossings in San Jose, Cal.

The Eel River valley, Humboldt county, is having an epidemic of diphtheria and scarlet fever.

A great big building boom is developing at La Plata City, the new gold camp near Durango.

The construction of new cattle feeding yards at Grand Junction, Cal., is regarded as a practical certainty.

The salmon season which will open April 10th promises to be more than usually active on the Columbia river.

It is reported that the largest crop of fruit in the history of the Salt river valley in Arizona is expected this year.

Seattle, Wash., police a few days ago arrested a man having in his possession some \$300 worth of sealskin wraps.

A new Methodist church has just been completed at Cheyenne, Wyo., and the dedication will occur on Easter Sunday.

Drilling has been resumed in the celebrated Grand Junction (Colo.) gas well and will be continued until granite is reached.

The Rocky Mountain *Husbandman* predicts that the raising of fine mutton sheep in Montana will soon be a profitable industry.

A Socorro, N. M., merchant proposes to build the much needed bridge over the Rio Grande at that point if the city will raise \$3,000.

Men and teams are at work on the stage-road into Yosemite valley and it is hoped that travel to the valley can be commenced this week.

The Phoenix and Prescott railway is expected to reach Phoenix next August. It is said to be opening up a rich mining country along its route.

The coal output of Montana in 1898 was 500,000 tons, the principal producers being the Rocky Fork, Helena and Livingston, Sand Coulee and Timberline mines.

Capitalists have a scheme to furnish electricity to Stockton for manufacturing purposes. It is proposed to generate the power in the Stanislaus river above Knight's Ferry.

The altar in the Catholic cathedral at Los Angeles, Cal., is made of marble and onyx and cost nearly \$9,000. It was the gift of several wealthy members of the congregation.

The owner of a telephone line at Missoula, Mont., says an exchange, rented the use of the wire to two Chinese, and the talk was so fast that

he now says he will have to increase rates for celestials.

At Covelo, Wash., says an exchange, they are drinking "Democratic coffee." It is made of a mixture of browned wheat, rye and barley, with a trifle of the genuine berry for Sunday.

Terrill Thompson was badly hurt at Santa Barbara, Cal., by the bursting of a carboy of sulphuric acid that he was handling. The fluid was thrown over his face and neck, causing severe burns.

The Yakima Indian reservation, state of Washington, contains some 600,000 acres and the Indians number about 2,000, about half as many as there were forty years ago, when they were given the reservation.

Seven cows have been found in Alameda, Cal., that were afflicted with tuberculosis. Many persons sold their cows before the inspectors reached them, so it is not known how many are actually diseased.

A novel contract was made at Tulare, Cal., a few days ago by which Frank Baker agrees to produce four inches of rain on the ranch of R. Linder. If he succeeds he is to receive \$1,000, but the water must come in three months.

Now that Spokane, Wash., has a new jail, new rules have been made for prisoners. One of these is that each must take a bath twice a week. Another provides that no knives or forks shall be allowed.

Reports from the west side of the San Joaquin valley say that the sheep men in that section are confronted by ruin because of long continued drouth. There is almost no food, and many of the lambs have died.

While excavating in the Courthouse square at Redding, Cal., workmen have uncovered four human skulls and one skeleton. There were also Indian beads and shells. The site was formerly covered by an Indian villa e.

A snowslide carried away part of the People's Electric Light company's flume at Aspen, Colo., leaving the west half of the town in darkness. Travel is said to be becoming dangerous in the mountains.

Thomas Megner, a Montana cowboy, went into a Great Falls pawnshop, pointed a gun at the proprietor's head, and was in the act of robbing the place when a police officer entered behind him and ordered him to surrender. Megner did so at once.

Woodland's city jail, Cal., is a unique affair. It is a building rented for the purpose at \$5 a month. A paper of that city says that recently four tramps were confined in a pen in this jail, which is 6x8 feet, and were kept there two days and a night.

Otto, the 12-year-old son of A. C. Hansen, of Laramie, Wyo., fell from the bars in the gymnasium on Wednesday and was killed. He lived an hour and a half, but never regained consciousness. A brother recently died as the result of a fall.

The will of Francis Briel was filed for probate at San Francisco on Tuesday. His estate is valued at \$3,500. He

bequeathed to his son, Gustave August Briel, "\$2 and no more." The residue he devised in equal shares to his two sons and his niece.

On account of the terrible depression in the sheep business, says an exchange, the wool-growers of Wyoming will ask the state board of equalization, which meets next month, to place a lower valuation on sheep than they have been assessed heretofore.

A cut in wages has been made by the Seattle Coal and Iron company. The reduction amounts to 12 per cent, and 350 men were involved. Much complaint is made against the company because of the rule compelling employees to buy at the company's store.

The run of grass cattle to market from Texas will be about 40 per cent less this season than last. More cattle have been fed this year than last in Texas, and more would have been had it not been for last season's drouth. The fed cattle will be shipped out by April 1.

The Los Angeles grand jury was accused of negligence and bias in returning indictments by the attorney for Deputy Assessor Cobler, indicted for embezzlement. Each member of that body was summoned into court and sharply questioned as to their methods.

Artesian water has been struck in Cochise county, Arizona, by a man named McRae. The flow is 21,000 gallons in twenty-four hours. In addition to the value of the water, McRae will get \$2,000 reward offered by the supervisors for a running well not more than 500 feet deep.

Diphtheria is very prevalent at Freeport, a little town near Sacramento, Cal. The spread of the disease is due largely to the fact that the Portuguese residence of the locality make a funeral a sort of celebration, which is largely attended. Measures have been taken to stop this practice.

Stockton, Cal., comes to the front once more with a haunted house. This domicile is frequented with ghostly forms at night, according to the stories of neighbors. The chief ghost is a woman, who sometimes has her head with her but more often leaves it behind when she begins her rambles.

Uinta county, remarks the Evanston (Wyo.) *News-Register*, has the most economically managed schools in the state. The annual statement of the state superintendent shows that our pupils cost an average of \$2.80 per month each, and the expense in other counties runs all the way to \$5.28.

The big mill at the rolling mill has been shut down at Laramie, says the *Boomerang*, and it is understood that a number of the men connected with its operation were discharged, some iron having been spoiled during the day. New men will be secured, it is understood, from the East before work is resumed.

The loss in cattle in this county, says the Saratoga (Wyo.) *Sun*, has been small up to date, when the state of the range is taken into consideration. There will be more cattle die after green grass comes than before. Green grass seems to weaken range cattle when they begin to feed on it in the spring.

The outlook for cattle in Arizona this