NEWS OF THE WEST.

A Montana Murderer, Caught in California, Makes a Confession.

WEDDING GUESTS POISONED.

Cruelty of School Teachers Towards a Pupil—A Dishonest Postmaster.

A new school house, costing $1,000, has just been completed at Alma, Colo.

It is stated that Phoenix, A. T., will soon enjoy the luxury of eating home grown oranges.

A company with a capital of $300,000 is being organized to control the shingle trade of the state of Washington.

Another new paper has been issued in Montana. It is named the *Jefferson Valley Zephyr*, and is published at Whitehall.

The Prairie Cattle company of Colorado shipped sixteen carloads of cattle from Las Animas to Kansas City last week.

The Cheyenne papers say that the building of a road from Chamberlain, S. D., to the Shell Creek, Wyo., coal mines is now a certainty.

The Union Pacific has decided to lay a pipe line from Hanna to Carissa, Wyo., for the purpose of furnishing the latter place with wholesome water.

F. W. Mead, formerly postmaster at Leadville, a small village near Aspen, Colo., is on trial in the United States district court, at Denver, charged with abstracting $25 from a registered letter.

J. J. Cooper has received and stored in Lamar, Colo., 2,500 bushels of wheat, 2,500 bushels of oats and a carload of alfalfa seed brought in from the lands of the Colorado Farm and Irrigation company in Prowers county.

The commissioners of Fremont county, Wyoming, have brought suit in the supreme court of the state to test the constitutionality of the bill creating the county of Big Horn, which is taken from the northern part of Fremont county and a portion of Johnson.

A Leadville (Colo.) boy named Samuel Billings, it is claimed, was cruelly beaten by teachers last week. There has been a great deal of talk about the matter, and it culminated with the arrest of Mr. C. C. Coulter and Miss Laura Fowler, both charged with assault.

The business men of Sheridan, Wyo., have forwarded a petition to Washington requesting the department to improve the mail service between Sheridan and Billings, by running the mail car through to the end of the line instead of cutting it off at Sheridan.

Guy, the Montana murderer captured in California, has made a full confession. Deputy Sheriff Keys knew the prisoner twelve years ago in the Black Hills country when he was worth over half a million. To him Guy said he never intended to be taken alive and was completely taken by surprise when captured.

There was a wedding at First and Market streets, Denver, on Wednesday evening, and many of the guests claim to have been poisoned by eating diseased meats. At 2 o'clock next morning Mr. and Mrs. Schneiderman, who live on Curtis avenue, summoned a doctor to attend them. They were in terrible agony, and emetics were promptly administered.

The report of Warden Campbell, of the Idaho penitentiary, for November, shows there were 195 convicts in the prison on November 1st and 199 on November 30th. Of those who are undergoing life sentences, 2 are in for 30 years, 1 for 23 years, 1 for 21 years, 1 for 18 years, 5 for 15 years, 4 for 12 years and the remainder for from 1 to 10 years.

The South Yuba Water company, of Sacramento, Cal., has applied to the trustees for a franchise to bring in electric energy for power, light and heat into Sacramento city. They would bring it from the power site at Newcastle, thirty miles distant. This company is now installing plants for lighting Auburn, Roseville, Newcastle and Penryn with electricity and claims to be able to furnish 4,000 horse-power for Sacramento.

It has developed that John H. Colbeck, the warden of the Washington state penitentiary who committed suicide to escape prosecution, was known as Peter Morrison Moody in Orleans, Neb., where he was agent of the Buckeye Machine company. He married a school teacher there and had three children. One of his sureties was found dead in a field there, and it is supposed that he killed him, but it was not proved. He left Orleans in 1879 and was found a detective of the Buckeye company to a large amount. Later developments showed that he had left a wife in Ohio.

A CAT'S FALL.

French Scientists Gravely Inquire Why Puss Always Lands on Her Feet.

The French Academy of Sciences spent almost an entire day last week profoundly discussing the question, Why do cats fall on their feet? M. Marey read a paper and submitted 60 photographs depicting puss in various attitudes while falling about five feet. The first showed the cat with feet in air making a series of desperate appeals for succor; then a somersault was turned with more or less grace; finally the feline reached the ground on its four paws, and then, with tail aloft, bolted into a safe retreat.

There was a great deal of learned discussion as to the cause of the phenomenon. M. Marey thought the problem had been triumphantly solved by puss in the first three feet of the descent. M. Milne Edwards, M. Berthelot and others maintained that the cat saw the hard or other objects coming the fall as a leverage for turning round, but this did not agree with the early photographs, in which there is no sign of rotation. M. Manuel Dupont suggested that unusual movements might account for the phenomenon. M. Marey promised to continue his experiments and to prove the possibility of leverage by trying the cat and then letting puzzy drop.—Paris Correspondent.

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