

## WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

The New Mexico legislature has passed a law exempting sugar factories from taxation for a period of six years.

David Whitcomb, a young man living with his parents on Columbus creek, near Sheridan, Wyoming, met with death in a curious manner. A few days ago he was out sleigh riding when the sleigh tipped over. A gun which was on the seat was discharged by accident, the shot striking young Whitcomb and instantly killing him.

A surprise has been sprung on the political managers of the present campaign in Fresno, Cal., by the action of the Afro-American League, which has nominated Grant Nelson, colored, as candidate for trustee in the fifth ward in opposition to Joseph Spiney, the regular Republican candidate, who seeks re-election. There are now four candidates from that ward, which is usually strongly Republican.

Rook Springs, Wyo., Miner: For long and faithful services Mr. George Hunter, of the Beckwith Commercial company, has been granted a month's lay off, which he will enjoy in Utah. He will seek the recuperative powers of the hot baths and take a well deserved solid rest. When he returns we hope he will be as strong as we wish him to be.

The coroner at San Jose, Cal., received a telephone message from Gilroy Tuesday saying that a man had hung himself on the Millet ranch, about a mile and a half from there. He was found hanging to the limb of a tree, with his feet almost on the ground. He was a German, and only arrived there that morning from San Francisco to go to work on the ranch.

James Johnson, a contractor, was frightfully burned and disfigured at Salinas, Cal., Wednesday afternoon by the explosion of a keg of blasting powder. Johnson was pouring the powder down the hole he had drilled when the explosion occurred. The powder was ignited by heat in the rock which was caused by friction of the drill.

Colonel Thomas Slaughter, at Skyland, Cal., a few days ago met with a serious accident. While in the field he accidentally fell, when a bull made a rush for him. As the horns of the bull had been sawed off he was not gored, but was badly savaged by the infuriated animal. Two of his ribs were broken and he was considerably bruised. Serious results were feared, but he is now thought to be out of danger.

Denver Field and Farm: In many families cucumbers have been barred because of a belief that they are unwholesome. We do not believe that cucumbers are in the least unwholesome, but we do believe that as they are generally eaten, they are apt to prove trouble in delicate stomachs. To begin with they are generally liberally doled with salt and pepper and inundated with vinegar. It is mainly the vinegar that makes the

trouble. A little lemon juice will make them a delicacy indeed.

Thomas J. Burns was seriously hurt at Inkorn, Idaho, on Friday night, on the Oregon Short Line. He was stealing a ride on the top of a passenger coach, and claims the brakeman pulled him off while he was in the act of descending. He caught on the lever handle, which pierced his body about twelve inches. When he was liberated from that he says the brakeman kicked him off the train. He crawled 150 yards to a house, and the county physician took him in charge.

Mrs. George A. Clark of Pasco, Wash., says the News of that place, recently roasted her house cat in the oven of her cook stove while preparing dinner. Kitten had a habit of sleeping in the oven between meal hours, and was quietly reposing in the seemingly unfrequented spot when Mrs. Clark lighted the fire preparatory to cooking dinner. After the dinner had been all arranged, she sat down, waiting the arrival of her husband, when she missed puffy, and it occurred to her that perhaps she had closed the oven door on Kitten after lighting the fire. On opening the oven door she was horrified to learn she had roasted her poor cat alive.

Nebraska Farmer: Last November an Otoe county farmer held an invoice of his situation and found that all he had with which to provide winter supplies, clothing, food, etc., for his large family and to show for his summer's work was 4,000 bushels of corn. Two to 12 cents per bushel would not do for him, nor let him out. He went up to the South Omaha stock yard and presented his case so plainly that he was permitted to drive to his home 101 head of steers. These he cared for until the last of January when his 4,000 bushels of corn was gone. The steers in kind fat and a seek he shipped to Omaha and a good price paid for them. After paying first cost at Omaha, interest, and all other expenses, this man found that he had realized on his 4,000 bushels of corn 5½ cents net per bushel besides having on hand a car load of fat hogs and a lot of the richest kind of fertilizers to distribute over his farm.

An instance of remarkable affection by a brother for his unfortunate relative was brought to light Wednesday, at Stockton, Cal., when Milton Peterson was examined by the insanity commissioners. The family is fairly well to do in the Southern part of the state, but the father of the young man died in an asylum. A year ago Milton's mind gave way. His brother George at once took him and set out to travel hoping that the change of air and scene would remedy the malady. During all this time he testified that at the hotels or wherever they lodged, he chained his brother to him at night when they retired. The brother was generally docile, but occasionally became violent. When they retired, George would slip a handcuff arrangement on him and to himself, releasing it when they got up in the morning.

After coming to Stockton two weeks ago the insane man grew worse and the brother thought it was best to remove him to the asylum.

Mmanuel Cortez, one of the oldest residents of Monterey county, Cal., was drowned near Kings city, Cal., on Wednesday. Cortez had built his house on the bank of Lewis creek, near Kings city. It seems that during the recent storm the creek had risen so that it endangered Cortez's house. The other night the old man was awakened by the raging torrent, and he found that his house was about to float down stream. In an endeavor to save his property by throwing brush, etc., against the bank he missed his footing, and as the bank was already caving in he fell headlong into the stream and was drowned. His body was recovered. The drowned man was 86 years of age, and has been a resident of Monterey county for thirty years.

The other morning about 11 o'clock an accident occurred on the river about three miles east of town, says the Dalles, Oregon, Chronicle, resulting in the drowning of two Indians, John Williams and Jim Waters, who were engaged in sturgeon fishing by Jake Andrews. They, with an Indian boy about 9 years old, were taking up a sturgeon line, when in some manner the boat swung in the current and one or more of the hooks caught over the gunwale of the boat. A sturgeon on the line pulling hard and assisted by the current, turned the boat over throwing all the occupants out. The two Indians were carried down by the current and soon succumbed to the chill air and the whirling waters. The boy, more fortunate, managed to secure three cars which floated out of the boat, and with their aid reached the shore, and from him the particulars of the accident was learned. The boat was caught a short distance above town. Jake Andrews, for whom the men were working, offers a reward of \$20 for the recovery of each of the bodies.

There is no getting away from the fact that the western farmer must be distinctively a grower of good live stock, says the Nebraska Farmer. This fact was never more plainly told than through the experience of the past two or three years. The lack of stock in the country has made a pretty flat market for all kinds of grain and hay. The one phase in particular for the farmer to consider in the future in the building up of the live stock interest on the farm is the permanency. The fact that the farmer frequently has been compelled to sacrifice a large part of the value of his farm stock in times of drought because of his inability to carry them over has been one of the greatest hindrances this interest has had to contend against in the past. Since the growing of alfalfa, Kaffir corn, and root crops has been demonstrated to be a thing to be depended upon where proper methods are in vogue there is no longer any good reason generally speaking for being so without plenty of good, cheap feed. The resources of the country for a live stock point of view are being so thoroughly sounded and developed of late years that Nebraska may be pretty safely said to have