

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

The Las Animas, Colo., *Leader* says that considerable building will be done in that town this season and calls for the establishment of a brickyard.

Spring has opened up in Grand valley, says the *Grand Junction News*, the frost is out of the ground, and general farm work is under way.

An election held at Santa Cruz, Cal., on the proposition to refund the city's debt has resulted in 537 in favor and 57 against it.

The man who accidentally caused the beginning of fire which swept Seattle, Wash., in 1889, was convicted last week of highway robbery.

The cost of feeding convicts at the New Mexico penitentiary is 11½ cents a day, and their food is said to be of good quality, wholesome and abundant.

Many Navajo Indians in New Mexico are said to be so near starvation that they are compelled to kill rangeland's stock as a matter of self-preservation.

Ensenada, Lower California, experienced the first snow fall in the history of the town during the storm that swept over the south a few days ago.

During the year ending March 5th there were more rainy days than clear ones at Seattle, Wash. Rain fell on 193 days, leaving 172 on which no rain fell.

An Oregon paper remarks that the heating apparatus used by Albany's street car system is so popular that people ride around to save burning fuel at home.

In the Lakeview land district, Oregon there are 2,221,000 acres of unsurveyed lands, not including Indian reservations—and 285,000 acres are in Lake county.

The February report of the De Lamar, Colo., Mining company, whose products is three-fourths gold, show a total production of \$82,336. The estimated profit is \$46,189.

Stockton, Cal., capitalists are seeking to organize a company to purchase and operate the combined harvester works which were recently sold under a mortgage.

The slimes of the Eureka and Morgan mills on Carson river, Nev., have been sold to a Chicago corporation. It is proposed to work them over by leaching.

Seven immigrants from Clay county, Nebraska, have arrived in Holyoke, Colo., with household goods, farm implements and stock. They have located northeast of the town in Phillips county.

It has been many winters since the snow was as heavy on the western slope as at the present time. Both the Rio Grande and Midland have experienced much difficulty in keeping their roads open.

The sheep men are beginning to realize that the Plateau valley in Mesa county is no place for them, says an exchange, and are fast withdrawing their flocks, while the settlers are organized against any new comers.

Albert Boyce, aged sixty years, has made an attempt to commit suicide at Stockton, Cal., by disemboweling himself with a dull case knife, but failed. He is thought to be insane on this subject, and was locked up for examination.

A New Mexico paper says: "Gerónimo, the Apache Indian chief, is now a justice of the peace. He probably takes as much pleasure in skinning litigants with his fee bill as he used to in scalping his adversaries with his knife."

August Johnson a demented Scandinavian, terrorized the people of one of Spokane's (Wash.) suburbs Tuesday afternoon by rushing up and down the prairie firing a revolver and yelling, "Look out for me. I am the Messiah." The police arrested the lunatic.

Noting the fact that Harvard university has located an astronomical observatory on an Arizona mountain 4,000 feet above sea level, the Helena, Montana, *Independent* teeters the use of Mount Helena to Yale college for a similar purpose.

Dr. N. S. Goodell, a prominent citizen of Arvada, Colo., dropped dead on Wednesday at the residence of Senator R. N. Brown, where he had gone to prescribe for the senator's wife. The doctor was an eclectic physician and had lived there for twenty years.

Work has begun on the great Rio Verde canal, near Phoenix, Ariz. The plans outlined for its construction provide for an expenditure of at least \$1,500,000, and the irrigation of several hundred thousand acres of the finest fruit lands of the southwest.

Montana is yet without a state flower, and a lady writing to the *Helena Independent* suggests the wild tulip or the cactus. The former blossom in May. The state, while rich in other directions, does not appear to have a large number of native flowers from which to make a selection.

At Spokane, Wash., a crusade has been started against the nude in art as exemplified by oil paintings in saloons which hang so as to be visible from the street. A committee of ladies called on the acting mayor recently with a protest and was referred to the chief of police.

Rio Arriba county, New Mexico, gold mines at camp of Good Hope report an abundance of \$10 to \$50 a ton ore. The camp is twenty miles west of Tres Piedras on the Denver and Rio Grande road and prospectors have assembled there in large numbers for spring operations.

A Salem, Or., paper comments on the fact that apples are bringing \$2 a bushel in the east, while in Salem 75 cents is considered a good price, and adds that there are practically none for shipment, as orchardists have for years neglected the apple for other fruit.

A fine marble quarry has been discovered in Arizona near the mouth of Verde river, some thirty miles from Phoenix. The ledge is well defined, about fifteen feet in width and lies between granite walls. The quality is

said to be excellent, with a fine grain, taking a high polish.]

Glanders has made its appearance among the horses of the Salt River valley, in Arizona. Several have been killed and many more are suffering with the disease. The chairman of the Live Stock Sanitary Commission has laid the matter before the Washington authorities.

The convicts at San Quentin, Cal., are to take up the study of theosophy. At least, permission has been granted to the theosophists of San Francisco to win converts to the faith and instill theosophical doctrines in the minds of those who might become susceptible to theosophical teachings.

Two chained raccoons in an Oakdale (Cal.) menagerie became engaged in a conflict and the chain that held one broke. The animal immediately began on the other inmates of the cage and in a short time had killed several fowls. It ate a wild goose and brought to its still chained companion a pet crow.

At old abandoned Fort Shaw, Cascade county, Montana, one year ago an Indian school was established, says an exchange. It is now in a flourishing condition, having 220 children under tuition. These children come from the Crows, Cheyennes, Sioux, Blackfeet and Assinaboines, and the progress of the pupils is somewhat remarkable.

There have been several snowslides near Sierra City and Downieville, Cal. One that occurred between those two places a few days ago carried large trees with it and filled up the river to a depth of a hundred feet. The residences in the upper part of Sierra City are deserted, as the inhabitants fear death in some of these slides.

Private Quirk disappeared from his regiment at Fort Apache, A. T., February 10th, after beating a sergeant and leaving him in a critical condition. He was not heard from again until arrested a few days ago. The cause of the trouble was an Apache girl, who had loved the private but had transferred her affections to the sergeant.

It is reported that citizens of Sweetwater county complain bitterly of the depredations of Utah sheep. They say that Utah sheepmen bring their herds into the county for the winter, eating out everything in the shape of vegetation and then move out in the spring before the assessor or tax collector can get around.

The farmers in the western part of Bent county, Colo., are already beginning to put in their crops, and everyone seems in good spirits over the prospects of a bounteous year. A large acreage of milo maize, Kaffir corn and Jerusalem corn will be planted, this being a very fine feed for hogs, poultry and dairy stock.

The fact has leaked out at a meeting of the California State Board of prison directors that at the previous meeting of the board, at Folsom, arrangements had been made with the Soterio company to supply the opium cure for fifty opium fiends at San Quentin, the board agreeing to recommend the bill to the next legislature for payment.

A girl named Task, aged about 17 years, died in Dayton, Washington, recently from a scare. She was returning home from an entertainment, when several boys who were behind a fence