

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Martha Wren Gill, wife of E. S. Gill, district clerk at Phoenix, Ariz., is dead. Mrs. Gill was formerly a Miss Wren, an actress of prominence on the eastern stage.

In the case of George Nagle vs W. A. Robins, his guardian, the court has taken the matter under advisement. This case has been on trial before Judge Stolls at Cheyenne, Wyo., for the past ten days.

At the Union Pacific shops, Cheyenne, Wyo., thirty employes were laid off Friday on account of depressed business. A couple of tram crews on the Wyoming division were also served with a similar order.

At Fort Harrison, near Helena, Mont., Thursday, Private Alfred Kennedy of company C, Second U. S. Infantry, shot himself through the head with his rifle. Kennedy had been twelve years in the service of the U. S. army.

A man, who is unknown so far as his real name is concerned, is lying at the morgue at Martinez, Cal., awaiting identification. He was shot and killed at Port Costa Sunday evening at about 10 o'clock by Officer James Scott, while resisting arrest.

All the men that can conveniently work on the Japanese war vessel Chitos, now in course of construction at the Union Iron Works, San Francisco, are busy putting the finishing touches on her huge body. The vessel will be launched Feb. 20th.

August Neilson, an old fish peddler, was stripped of his clothing by a gang of drunken toughs at Pismo, Cal., Tuesday, and while naked they singed his body with burning papers in order to make him jump. He finally became unconscious and may not recover. Officers are now out hunting the guilty parties.

T. Estrada Palma of the Cuban junta, New York, writes to Robert C. Black, of Cascade Locks, Oregon, stating that "Captain" E. P. Mahoney, who was in Oregon a few days ago soliciting aid for the Cuban insurgents, has no connection with the junta and is not authorized to collect money for the insurgent cause.

Abraham Gear was prevented from drowning himself in the bay at Seattle, Wash., Wednesday night by a United States custom official. Gear, with his wife and five children, arrived there Tuesday from Japan. As they only had sixty dollars between them Collector of Customs Hustis refused them entrance and ordered them returned to Japan.

The board of directors of the chamber of commerce, Los Angeles, Cal., in common with similar organizations, passed resolutions extending to President McKinley an invitation to attend the Transmississippi Commercial Congress to be held at Wichita, Kansas, in the fall of 1898. Senators White and Perkins were appointed a committee to extend the invitation to the President in person.

Col. W. A. Thompson, manager of the Boston Lyric company, left Denver Thursday night for New York to arrange with Augustus Thomas, the well known author, to write the play in which Col. Thompson is to star J. K. Murray next season. Before leaving he signed a contract with Miss Clara Lane as Mr. Murray's principal support, and also W. H. Clarke, the well known basso.

President Burt of the Union Pacific, with General Manager Dickinson and other general officers of the company, spent a few hours in Cheyenne, Wyo.,

yesterday and after inspection of the shops and other company property proceeded to Laramie. Mr. Burt expressed himself as pleased with the physical condition of the road, and was confident that it would do a satisfactory amount of business.

At Boise, Ida., Wednesday, O. S. Herbert and William Dougherty were praded from the state prison. Herbert or "Tex" as he is known, was convicted at Blackfoot, January, 1892, for the murder of John Andrews, alias "Dutch John." He was serving a 35-year term. Dougherty was serving twelve years for the murder of Ed. Young, a saloon-keeper, who was sent up in 1891, from Shoshone.

Charles M. Copp, of 569 Fifth street, Oakland, Cal., while on his way home Tuesday night, was accosted by two footpads, who demanded his money. He had none and this seemed to infuriate the robbers. They set upon him with short clubs and beat him in a fearful manner about the head and shoulders, leaving him for dead upon the sidewalk at the corner of Eighth and Clay streets.

An unknown tramp, who at the point of a revolver robbed W. E. Myers, station agent of the Kansas Pacific railroad, at Weskan Thursday night, and subsequently set fire to the snow shed near Sharon Springs, was killed by Section Foreman Forseberg at Cheyenne Wells, Colo., Friday morning. The tramp refused to surrender and opened fire upon the section gang before he was shot down.

Sourwine and Geyser Jack are having a preliminary examination at Pocatello, Ida., on the charge of assaulting Frank McKeon, who was so roughly dealt with in his cabin about two weeks ago. Twenty-four witnesses have been already examined and the evidence adduced has tended strongly to show the guilt of the defendants. Mr. McKeon has recovered sufficiently to be in the court room, but he is still in a feeble condition.

J. A. McRae, of Vancouver, B. C., has just received a letter from his brother, Archie McRae, at Dawson City, in which he states that he refused \$1,500 for 200 pounds of supplies. Flour will probably be scarce before spring, but fresh meat is plentiful at \$1 per pound. He reports that claims worth working are selling for \$5,000 for twenty square feet. In one day three men shoveled into the sluice boxes of a claim on Bonanza creek \$20,000.

Andrew Jacobson and Harry Christensen, two sailors, stowed away on the steamship Umatilla shortly before she left Seattle. In the attempt to make their hiding a complete success they got into an apartment in the lower hold used for cold storage and baggage. The hatch over their place of refuge was battened down and sealed by customs officials at Port Townsend. The stowaways, without food or water and not too much air, remained in their prison for exactly sixty hours, when their cries and hammerings being heard, they were rescued.

Not a little anxiety is being felt for the safety of a number of coasting vessels that should have arrived at San Francisco from Puget Sound some days ago. Those arriving in the past few days report terrible weather all along the coast, and while it is not thought that any of the missing vessels have gone down, their continued absence is worrying owners and the relatives of those on board. Among those overdue is the bark Gatherer, now nineteen days out from Tacoma, the ship Yosemite, twenty days out from the same

port and the ship Harry Morse, twenty-four days out from Seattle.

The new Randsburg railway, running from Kramer, Cal., on the line of the Santa Fe Pacific railroad to Johannesburg, in the heart of the new mining district in the Mojave desert, is completed and in operation, and the Southern Pacific company has joined with the new line and the Santa Fe in a joint freight tariff. The opening of the road has caused the abandonment of the stage lines from Kramer and Mojave, by which all supplies have been carried to the new mining district since the gold excitement started a little over a year ago.

The state executive committee of the Populist party of Colorado at a special meeting held at Denver, adopted a resolution to the effect that after advising with the leading Populists of the state, they are of the opinion that the call for a meeting of the so-called reorganization committee to meet in St. Louis January 12, 1898, and the objects thereof, are illegal and absolutely unnecessary, and they refuse to recognize said so-called reorganization committee. The resolution declares the intention of the executive committee to use every effort to retain the party intact as an independent organization.

After having eluded the police for more than a week, George Tauchi, the Japanese accused of the murder of Mary Castillo, a Spanish woman, was taken from the house of a fellow-countryman at 321 O'Farrell street, San Francisco, Tuesday evening, by Detectives Gibson and Wren and Policemen L. C. Clarke and P. A. Peshon. He is now booked at the city prison for murder. He denies that he intended to kill the woman. Tauchi was found by the officers in a little stuffy pantry barely large enough to accommodate his body. He was closely wrapped in a heavy blanket, with a candle at his head and a pitcher of water by his side. When dragged into the light, Tauchi, according to Detective Gibson, admitted his identity, and said that he had killed the Castillo woman because she had sought the company of other men.

D. Alexander, a merchant of Watsonville, Cal., was surprised a few days ago when notified by the Bank of Watsonville that it had drafts aggregating several hundred dollars, which had been sent from New York for collection. Not having authorized any one to draw upon him, Alexander declined to honor the drafts. Upon investigation he learned that a youth, who had represented himself to be his son traveling through the Eastern states upon a bridal tour, had drawn the drafts and purchased a large stock of goods, which had been shipped to Alexander. It is presumed that upon the strength of this order he drew various sums of money in Alexander's name from the wholesale merchants of whom he purchased the goods. Upon the arrival of the goods Alexander will ship them back to New York. The exact amount drawn upon the Watsonville merchant by his unknown representative has not yet been ascertained.

A communication has been received at headquarters of the department of Colorado, Denver, from General Miles, requesting information in regard to the needs of the miners in mining regions. In pursuance of an act of Congress, approved December 18, 1897, General Miles has begun the work of preparing a relief force to be sent into the mining regions of Alaska. The troops detailed on this duty will take a plentiful supply of provisions, clothing and all articles needed by the miners. General Otis, department commander, will gather and send to Washington the information desired. It is probable that some of the posts in that depart-