

NEWS OF THE WEST.

Drunkard Who Took His Last Sleep on a Railway Track.

URGENT WANTS NO REPORTERS.

Justice's Courts in Bear Lake County, Idaho—No Juries—Heavy Damages Awarded—See C.P. Time Table.

The city of Tacoma, Wash., has been awarded a verdict of \$17,500 against the Tacoma Light and Water Company for alleged misrepresentation and fraud resulting in the city's purchase of the water and electric light plant in 1889 for \$1,750,000. The suit has been on trial since December 9th.

Alvin R. Austin, aged 25, living near South Riverdale, Cal., shot himself with a rifle Wednesday night with suicidal intent. He put the muzzle of the gun in his mouth and pulled the trigger, the discharge blowing the side of his head off. He was a well-to-do farmer, and recently came from Ohio. He leaves two sons.

A Moscow, Idaho, dispatch to the Spokane Spokesman-Review says: C. R. Durbin, committed suicide by shooting himself on U. S. Magistrate's ranch, about a mile from town, late Sunday afternoon. Full particulars have not been received but it is understood that Durbin, who has been away from town for some time, returned Sunday and went out to Maguire's to see his wife.

New York intoning the Boston Herald Boston has been killed J. H. Jones, a well known farmer at Newmarket, Cal. Jones was heard of hearing, and attempted to cross the track in front of the rapidly approaching engine, which does not stop at that station. He was thrown fifty feet and from the waist down was badly mangled, death being instantaneous. The deceased was fifty years old and a native of Missouri.

A shooting occurred near Elk Mountain, Wyoming, Monday, at the residence of the late Durbin, which resulted in the death of Richard Wilson, a young man who had been employed as a ranch hand at Durbin's, and who was well known in that portion of California. The shooting occurred twenty-three miles south of Carson. Wilson was shot by C. D. Peterson, the game warden of the county. Peterson claims the victim had a quarrel and that he shot Wilson in self defense.

John Swanson, a laborer, was run over and killed by a car on the West End Electric railroad at Seattle, Washington, on Wednesday night. Swanson was drunk and had fallen down to sleep on the track. A passenger car rolled over him, and during this time Swanson crawled back between the rails. The car was running rapidly and the motorman did not see Swanson until too late, and his life was crushed out.

Laramie, Wyoming: Another new time table is in process of preparation at Union Pacific headquarters, and it is reported that it will go into effect before the middle of the month. It is reported that the changes will be of a minor character, and that they will be principally regarding the overland lines. It has been suggested that the running time of the train to be business men better and consequently the time will be shortened on some of the divisions and lengthened on others. It is believed that the time on the sixth district will be shortened a little.

Theodore Durbin will spend at least fifteen more days in the county jail. According to the terms of his commitment he was to have been released to San Quentin Thursday, but Judge Murphy granted another stay of proceedings pending the decision of the supreme court concerning a new trial. Order was received at the county jail to keep Durbin in his old quarters until January 20th. The prisoner had expected to be released and was not at all worried over the prospect. He is growing irritable, and has hung out a sign before his window which reads: "Reprieve and non-official keep away."

Mountain Home, Idaho, Bulletin: Warren Johnson, ex-J. N. Johnson and one of the mail carriers between Rocky Bar and Atlanta, came near losing his life last Thursday by being caught in a snow slide. While rounding Bald mountain on snowshoes, a huge body of snow suddenly came down the mountain side, striking and covering the young man in an instant. Fortunately for the brave young mail carrier, two men were not far behind him, and when they reached the spot where the slide had crested the trail they observed a snow slide just below them protruding from the snow. The snow slide was six inches in width and from eight to twelve feet in length. The two men took to the situation immediately and forthwith commenced removing the snow as fast as they could without stopping. In about five minutes the body of young Johnson. Apparently he was alive, but by running and rolling the ice, he was brought to a dangerous place and destined to town by his two rescuers.

Hole, Idaho, Statesman, Jan. 2: Charles Huff, chairman of the board of commissioners of Bear Lake county, is in the city occupied by James J. Wells, editor of the Park Post. Mr. Huff's mission here is one in which all county officials and all the people have an interest. He has come to get advice from the attorney general relative to the abuse of the justice's courts in this county, as in so many others, the justice's courts are directed and the county is put to heavy expense for trivial proceedings that should never be entertained. Mr. Huff is satisfied that it is both the justice and the duty of county commissioners to refuse to allow claims arising in this class of cases. He feels that, if the justice is compelled to go into court to fight such claims, they will be defeated and that a useful reform will thus be brought about. In all legitimate cases he holds that justice should be promptly done; but in those which are plainly frivolous he believes in refusing to allow the justice's court to be used as a means to say whether the county shall be saddled with the expense. There are cases, he says, in his county that are absurd, but which the justice is proceeding to entertain, especially in an other purpose than to put up the fees. He has made up his mind that the way to deal with them is to refuse to pay them.

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