NEWS OF THE WEST.

A Montana Police Officer Cruelly Murdered by Burglars.

SUICIDE OF A WEALTHY RANCHMAN

A California Bank Victimized.—Fruit, the Bicycle Thief.—A Murderer Pardoned.

Fruit trees are said to be blooming in the valleys of the Uncompahgre and the Gunn.

About fifty carloads of fruit trees are being delivered at Delta, Colo., for spring planting.

The fruit growers of De Beque, Colo., have purchased 12,000 trees for planting out this spring.

An enterprising farmer near Montrose, Colo., is preparing to go into the sweet potato business this fall.

The Provo telephone exchange, which is ranked by Provo's electric light people, is about to commence service with twenty-five subscribers.

As the snows melt from the San Juan mountains the prospector with their picks are crowding in, says the Durango News.

The Grand Junction, Colo., News predicts an unprecedented fruit crop in the Grand valley this season. The fruit trees are all loaded with blossoms.

The Hot Springs, Wyo., city council has advertised for bids for the erection of a city hall and jail to cost $10,000. The contract will be awarded on the 19th inst.

A Southern California judge has sentenced a tramp to twenty years in San Quentin. He valued a hour, and was compelling the lady to cook supper for him, robbed her.

A young man giving the name of J. H. Marsh has committed suicide at Fresno, Calif., in the county jail by hanging. He was put in jail Saturday night for drunkenness.

Jeremiah Brunmore, an attorney, has sued Boise city for $10,000 damages for digging a ditch through a street in its addition for the purpose of carrying off the muddy waters of Hull's gulch.

Drawn to Riverton over the lighting plant, Vallejo, Calif., is in total darkness. The plant which was to furnish Riverton by the church, for the endless space for the installation of the ram.

Portland, Wash., police officers have a young tramp in custody. His name is Daniel Boyle, aged 15 years, and he has been on the road for more than three years. He intends to live in a small town in eastern Oregon.

S. M. Folsom, late president of the defunct Albuquerque National bank, indicted for embezzling and making false entries, has been convicted on seven counts. Five years is the sentence for each charge.

Citizens of El Paso are again negotiating with the officials of the Texas Pacific for the construction of the White Oaks, which would open to Eddy the trade of a most wonderful mineral region.

Thomas H. Tod, who killed Pat Donnelly at Ogden, Utah, a few years ago, is now doing time in the state of Utah penitentiary at Canyon City, Colo. After serving four years in prison in Utah for shooting Donnelly, he killed a fellow in Denver and received a sentence of eight years at Canyon.

It is learned at Albuquerque, N. M., that Wellington Rhodes, a wealthy gentleman at Green Springs, committed suicide the other day. He had been in a protracted spree, and after writing a note that he would not come to life, ended the misery of a cowboy to his ranch, pulled his trigger with his left hand and the contents almost blew the top of his head off. He leaves a wife and four children.

Herman Rode, who shot and killed his wife in Fremont county, Colo., in 1901, has been pardoned by Governor Peabody on the recommendation of the prosecuting attorney and several jurors in the case. The man was found a sentimental one, but Rode always claimed that it was a pure accident. There were no witnesses, and on February 3, 1902, Judge Healey sentenced him to a life sentence (a mistake, say). In other Rode had made a good record, and he is now 52 years of age.

The Bank of California has been an enjoyed and several tradesmen have been victimized by a clever polite swindler. The man, says the Chronicle, whose name is unknown, was successful in getting about $200 from a score of storekeepers, about four months ago. The time he has cleared up at least $100. The man escaped Saturday afternoon and night and through the differ work and then flies to parts unknown. His plan is to enter a store, make a purchase amounting to $2 or so, and give a check on the Bank of California for $5 as security. He then asks for a few dollars in change, the difference between the $2 purchase and $10 so as to have money to lent him until Monday. He promises to call on Monday to redeem the check. The check is hardly every instance is made out to Wetzel or Weiler and endorsed by some of merchants.

Officer John W. Flynn, one of the oldest and bravest officers on the police force in Helena, Mont., was murdered by burglars between 4 and 5 o'clock on Wednesday morning in the Northern Pacific depot. The crime was not discovered for an hour or more, and the assassin had an hour or two in which to escape. The indications are that they had almost completed their work preparatory to blowing open the office safe when Flynn came in, suspicious as usual. The two men in question were Chicago men, and they in jaded sensation. Four shots were fired into the body from a 45-caliber revolver. One of them went straight through the lungs of his head and must have caused instant death. Two other shots took effect in his body, while the fourth went through an clothing. The burglars left their tools, which had all been stolen from an adjoining blacksmith shop with one or two exceptions. They are in jail, as they are not complicated with all of the murder of the officer.

T. E. Prouty was arrested by Deputy United Marshal yesterday morning, on a charge of stealing two bicycles in Salt Lake City, says the Idaho Falls Times of the 12th inst. It appears as though the young man and his accomplice, who signed his name as Richard Drew, stole two bicycles in Salt Lake City and packed them together with some other things in a large box, and then in the Union Pacific depot, intending to ship them to Idaho Falls and sell them. Prouty came here on the train as passenger. Before the box was shipped, however, the theft was discovered, the owners proved the property, took the bicycles out, and allowed the box to be shipped through as a trap to catch the thieves, and it worked admirably. In the meantime Assist. Chief of Police and Deputy Sheriff Greenwood had received communication from Salt Lake City, and were in readiness for their man when he first entered the box. Prouty had arrived on Saturday night in the north end of town, hired a drayman to haul his box to the depot, as he called it, thereto. When he appeared at the depot and had signed the express bill, Greenwood arrested him. He was completely paralyzed, and afterwards said he was acting as agent for someone else.

When Cora Belle Fellows was wedded to Chaska and came with her young bride home to Nebraska, says the Nebraska State Journal, the news occasioned laughter with a mixture of curiosity and the little jug but caused a pause in Cora. Hostile passes and a silent glow stole the features in the form of a square, and those in the "plains." Her eyes were so dark, so the chaste breastplate, and her hair was as straight as a bee rather. The stoic heart of Chaska succumbed to her charms, for an Indian knows what an elegant face is, and they met when the moon the cold, almost pure moonlight cast on the features of Cora Belle Fellows. One night when the curtain hung the usual couple found the Chaska put on his red clothes and mocked away to the north, with his squaw, not leaving his to be and her Minnehaha footsteps were muffled. And Cora the waters and here the shows and hoped she'd return to the wife and pappoose, but weeks rolled by till the hope of her husband vanished but weep of Old Mother Hubbard. Then Cora, disconsolated, disgusted and crushed, covered the home that her Chaska once tenanted, and in rolled nine moons with her friends, Mother Hubbard, and Cora and Chaska followed six years.

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