

## WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Ben E. Rich, editor of the Rexburg (Idaho) *Silver Hammer*, is said to be contemplating moving his plant to St. Anthony.

J. A. Huntoon, treasurer of Lyon county, Nevada, committed suicide on Monday night at his home in Dayton, by shooting himself through the head. He was short over \$5,000 of county money, but A. O. U. W. money left to his care is all right. He left letters explaining his action.

The fall run of salmon according to the Lewiston (Idaho) *Teller*, has now started, and the Indian fishermen are bringing quite a number to market. It is about six weeks early for the salmon's semi-annual journey, and this fact is looked upon by the Indians as a sure sign of an open winter.

At the Yellow Jacket mine, seventy miles north of Challis, Idaho, a forty stamp mill is building. The ore is free milling and averages \$12 to the ton. The Columbia Hill company is also doing considerable preparatory work. It is thought that the 300 men now there will be increased to nearly 1,000 next spring.

Christopher Charles Whelan has commenced suit in a justice's court of San Francisco against the Madera county division committee for \$55 which he claims is still owing him for services rendered in his capacity as chief bottle-opener and cork collector at the committee's headquarters at Sacramento.

A passenger fell off the east-bound train Tuesday fifty miles west of Laramie, Wyo., and was picked up by a passing freight and taken to Laramie. He died in a few hours, his head being terribly cut and one arm torn off. He never recovered consciousness. No name was found, but a ticket from San Francisco to New York and London were in the clothes.

According to the Prescott, Arizona, *Mining Journal*, 100 carloads of steel are en route between Chicago and Prescott, 50 of them being reported at Ash Fork yesterday. Of these 100 cars, 50 are new cars of the S. F. P. & P. railway, being the first invoice of the new equipment for the road, except the engines.

From a conversation with Mr. W. J. Boulton, says the *Beautiful Clapper*, we learned that the North Canyon Irrigation company is figuring on extending their flume about a mile further up the canyon. He estimates the land owners saved enough the first year to pay for all the lumber and material in the flume. It is made of inch lumber and buried in the ground.

About two weeks ago says the Mount Pleasant *Pyramid*, James Conner, of Ephraim, and Mrs. Serena Neilson, of Moroni, were arrested on a charge of adultery. The case was brought up before Commissioner Zabriskie, and was continued at the request of the defendant's attorney. The hearing has been postponed for forty days, and in the meantime a suit for divorce is pending, the woman having sued for a separation from her husband.

Captain J. A. Mellon is having two

boats built in San Francisco, which he will take by rail to Green River, Wyo., in April, and assisted by five river men, will descend the Colorado river to Yuma and the gulf. Captain Mellon has been running steamers on the river for thirty-two years, and proposes to make this trip of 3,000 miles in seventeen days. Colonel Robert Stanton and Major Powell and their parties are the only ones who have made the dangerous trip.

A clever woman thief, who embezzled \$10,000 in diamonds which she had been hired to smuggle into the United States by New York importers, has been arrested in Santa Rosa, Cal. She was captured by a Mrs. M. E. Darragh, who claims to be a detective and searcher in the New York custom office. Mrs. Darragh says she will get \$5,000 as the reward for her services. The prisoner registered at Santa Rosa as Mrs. Reincke and had a male companion, whose name is not known.

William Heller, a miner in the Carlton shaft of the Morning Star property at Leadville, Colo., was seriously but not fatally injured on New Year's day as the result of an explosion. Several drill holes had been charged and fired and Heller returned to work. He began digging the loose rock out when another hole went off. His hands and face were terribly lacerated, a quantity of pulverized rock entered his right eye and he will probably lose the sight of that member.

At a meeting of Colorado Springs citizens, held to consider the advisability of boring for oil and gas, a committee of nine was appointed to investigate the matter. L. C. Justus, an Indiana oil man, and Superintendent McVey of the Colorado City Oil company, were present and presented the results of observations gained while drilling wells now flowing in Colorado City. The indications are said to be that a company will be formed in Colorado Springs to prospect the region south and west of Colorado Springs.

It is reported, says the *Cheyenne Sun*, that western Nebraska has ascertained that irrigation of large tracts of land is possible by the sinking of wells and that the expense of a well suitable to irrigate will be about \$350. This opens up grand possibilities for that state and there exists no good reason why this plan cannot be extended all over the arid region and thus become a great benefit to this state. It has been estimated that it would cost \$10 an acre to redeem land by ditching, so the well plan is only a little more expensive.

Grangeville (Idaho) *Free Press*: Mr. Glatigny informs us of the drowning of an unknown man in Snake river, just above the mouth of the Innaba, on December 22nd. The man had just purchased his winter's supplies in Grangeville, and was proceeding up the river to spend the winter trapping, hunting and prospecting, when the boat capsized and the man was drowned. No trace of the body, but of supplies has been found, and there seems to be no clue to identify the man.

A gas well, said to be the wonder of

the Florence oil field, was struck on Wednesday by the United Oil company three miles south of Florence, Colo. Oil men say it is not a Colorado well, or like those heretofore obtained here, but more like an eastern gas well, as the quantity and pressure are so great. It is claimed this well is producing sufficient gas to heat a city the size of Pueblo. The roaring of the gas when confined to a three-inch pipe may be heard a quarter of a mile from the well.

There is a good deal of local interest aroused in the proposed extension of the Cheyenne & Northern P. Casper in the spring, says the *Cheyenne Sun*. The extension would be of great benefit to this city as well as to Casper. As it is now communication with the region about Casper must be made over two railroads and to have the communication opened direct will be of material benefit. This would naturally be followed by the rebuilding of the old Colorado Central, which would also be of great benefit to this city.

Gunder Peterson and Joseph Johnson came down from Thistle valley, Tuesday, says the Mount Pleasant *Pyramid*, bringing with them a sample from the new coal discovery recently made near Thistle. The sample is of a brownish color, but is apparently free from rosin, is brittle and burns readily. The vein on the surface, from where the sample was taken, is about three feet thick, and it is the opinion of an expert who has examined the property, that this will increase to ten or twelve feet, and the quality become of the very best.

There now seems to be no doubt but that oil from the vicinity of Casper will make its appearance on the market in large quantities in the near future, says the *Cheyenne Sun*. The Pennsylvania company has made all the arrangements looking to the building of a refinery in Casper, and the product will be shipped to the East via Cheyenne and thus find its way to the great markets. From these oil fields Wyoming is bound to receive great benefit. There are now nearly a hundred men employed in and about Casper by the Pennsylvania company and the number will be increased as time progresses.

As Charles Scales was climbing up the lonely trail that leads from the Morgan miles to Hot Springs, about forty miles north of Pocatello, says the *Pocatello Gazette*, he found in the trail the body of one of his oldest friends, Jake Ralph. With the corpse, carefully watching to drive away the vultures and coyotes, was the faithful dog of the dead man, the animal almost famished from what must have been a vigil of days. Ralph was lying at length, a small pool of blood at the head, giving reason for the belief that he had been foully dealt with. The temperature upon the hills is very low, so the body was not in the least decomposed.

A nice body of ore has been met with in the Sanbo shaft, a claim located west of the Little Junny near Leadville, Colo. The assay shows 12 ounces gold and 5 ounces silver. The find was made at a depth of 175 feet. The shaft has gone through four feet of ore and no bottom in sight. This location was made in 1889 by T. C. S. subina and a shaft sunk 150 feet and then