

contest at the coming city election, with Sunday closing as the issue.

The cattlemen of Montana have had a very successful year, says the *Helena Independent*. While the prices received this year by the cattlemen were not altogether satisfactory, they were very much higher than last year. A careful estimate of the amount brought into the state this year from the sale of cattle alone places it in the neighborhood of \$9,000,000. This enormous amount is distributed to more people than the total for any previous year.

A very painful accident happened to Charles Tourville on Sunday afternoon at Pandu, a lumber camp several miles from Red Cliff, Colorado. He was repairing an old house and held a red hot bolt with a pair of tongs. When he struck the iron with the hammer, the bolt glanced off striking him on the ball of the left eye, from the effect of which he will lose the sight entirely. He was taken to Leadville to an oculist, who will try to save the sight of the other eye.

The patrol system of caring for the public streets is to be introduced into the city of Oakland, Cal. It is favored by the council and superintendent of streets. Under this system a man is given a certain number of blocks which he is required to sweep and keep in good order. It is also probable that the council will authorize the superintendent of streets to employ 200 men to give the public thoroughfares a general overhauling and at the same time relieve the distress which prevails among the laboring men and enable them to obtain their Christmas dinners.

Last Friday night, Deputy Sheriff O'Neill heard a noise like the gnawing of a rat in the county jail at Sacramento, Cal. In the morning an investigation was made, and under the false floor of the cell of Chio Han and Hoey Yen Sing, condemned Chinese murderers who are awaiting the result of an appeal, were found half a dozen fine steel saws and a case knife made into a saw. The Chio men claim that the saws were passed to them by one of the Strybe brothers, to be kept till he asked for them again. The Strybes deny all knowledge of the saws.

Word has been received from Bowie, Ariz., that the robbery of the stage near there, which occurred last Thursday night, was committed by the driver of the stage that was held up. He was all alone on the stage with the mail, and after cutting open the mail sacks and rifling their contents he hatched up a story about having been held up and expected that it would be believed, because that country is infested with hold-ups and hard characters. He was suspected however, and on being arrested some of the stolen mail was found on his person. He was sent to Tucson for trial.

The Oregon Improvement company has decided to abandon its mine at Newcastle, which took fire on Monday, and will open up a new slope at another point of the vein. This action is the result of an inspection of the burning mine. All the vents and openings have been tightly closed, and the mine will be left to itself, there being now no fear that the fire will eat its way to the surface again. The loss to the company is placed by the general

manager at less than \$100,000, including the loss in pumping machinery, mules, harness, etc. Most of the 250 miners will be thrown out of employment temporarily. Work night and day on the new slope is to be pushed.

A miner at Rico, Col., named John Woolcock, died on Thursday from the effects of a blow over the head in a saloon altercation. He had been drinking about a saloon for several days, when in the midst of a dispute he struck a man in the face with his coat. Something hard in the pocket cut the man's face and he retaliated by picking up a tobacco cutler and struck Woolcock a blow over the head. The skull was depressed for several inches, out the outside skin was not broken. This happened a week ago Sunday. He lay around the saloon till Thursday. He then went up to his mine, and on Sunday became insane.

Cazadero, a little town about thirty miles from Santa Rosa, Cal., is considerably stirred up over the mysterious disappearance of John Cook, a cripple, who owned and ran a small saloon not far from town. He disappeared about a week ago and no trace has been found of him. A bullet hole found in the wall over his bed and one through the door, show that there has been some shooting, and the finding of Cook's hat and coat indicates that he was murdered. It was while he was working about the house. There was considerable money in his house. Part of this has been found. The neighbors believe that the man has been murdered and the body concealed, and have been searching the woods.

On Wednesday evening the wife of P. C. Miller, a workman engaged on the water ditches, left her husband and one little girl aged twelve years, and skipped for San Diego with a tramp named Joe McCarthy. The woman carried off all the cash she could get hold of, amounting to \$180. She also had a diamond ring worth \$200, and a gold watch. She also took a gold watch belonging to her little girl. She kissed her husband affectionately when he left her to go to work in the morning, but when she took her departure for San Diego she did not even give her little girl a parting kiss. A warrant has been sworn out charging McCarthy with grand larceny. The faithless pair have been arrested at San Diego.

Probably one of the briefest matrimonial experiences on record occurred at Sacramento, Cal., on Wednesday night. About 10 o'clock a young man, Nathan Gebhardt, and a young lady named Nellie Howard appeared before a justice of the peace and asked him to unite them in wedlock. The ceremony was performed, and as the couple left the scene they were met by a young man who, it seems, was an old-time lover of the bride. Words passed between the groom and the old-time lover which ultimately ended in blows, the intruder being the victor. The end of the story is that the old-time lover disappeared with the bride and the bridegroom hastened to the police station to procure a warrant for the man with whom his three-minute bride had eloped.

On Saturday night a hunter named Broyles, living at Sacramento, Cal., put six pounds of powder which had become damp to dry in the stove oven,

after the fire had gone out, and neglected to notify his brothers. Next morning his brother Charles built a fire in the stove and missing the powder asked what had become of it. Being told that it was in the oven he opened the door to take it out and it exploded, burning him severely about the head and neck, setting his clothes on fire and burning his hands and arms up to the elbows. Another brother who was in the room was hurled against the opposite side of the room and badly burned about the face. The stove was wrecked, the windows blown out and three doors blown from their hinges.

The San Francisco *Chronicle* states that Charles A. Allen, of Sacramento, had removed by the surgeon's knife the arches of three of his lower vertebrae, and that he is now rapidly recovering. The history of the case is interesting. About ten years ago, Allen, while working as a brakeman, slipped from the front roof of a box-car and fell, in a sitting posture, astride of a rail. As a direct result his legs were paralyzed, and gradually they began to waste away. At first Allen thought little of his injury, and it was years before the full effects began to be felt. Any attempt to straighten out his legs caused the sufferer intense agony. From the time of the accident until relief was afforded by the surgeon's knife, the sufferer was not free from pain a single minute, day or night.

While plowing on Boies Chico ranch, about eight miles from Santa Ana, Cal., on Monday, a farmer was horrified by turning up a human skull. Stopping to investigate, the raucher, after some hesitation, dug around with his hand in the sunbaked soil a few inches below the surface and unearthed the right arm of a skeleton. The investigation was continued and the limbs and trunk were unearthed, all the ligaments being intact, the only parts which had crumbled to dust being the lower joints of the fingers and toes. The teeth were perfect and to all appearances were those of a person not very far along in years. The find has created a great sensation in the neighborhood, and already there are stories of mysterious disappearances of several persons in the last five years in that neighborhood. The skeleton is in a remarkably good state of preservation.

General Taylor Smith, an orchardist near Campbell, Cal., took a dose of strychnine on Sunday evening and died. He was about 45 years of age, and was born in Utah, while his parents were on the way to California with ox teams. Smith had been in an insane asylum several times and dread of being again committed caused his act. Mayfield Smith, a brother of the suicide, was in the city at the time the poison was taken. When he returned the general was in convulsions in the yard. He asked the cause of his illness, and the general replied that he had taken strychnine. A doctor was summoned from Campbell, but the man died shortly after his arrival. Smith on several occasions had declared that he would rather be dead than again become an inmate of an insane asylum, and after taking the poison explained that he felt he was insane and preferred to kill himself to being incarcerated among lunatics.